

GOOD MORNING

• Digital Edition

VOICE • VALUES • VISION

84 Years On, Quit India Heroes Continue to Inspire: PM Modi



New Delhi (Agency): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday remembered those who participated in the historic Quit India Movement, saying their courage and determination would continue to inspire every Indian. August 9, 2026, marks the 84th anniversary of the movement, which was launched under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi in 1942 and became a defining chapter in India's struggle for

independence. "Remembering all those who participated in the historic Quit India Movement. Their courage will always remain an inspiration for every Indian," Modi said in a post on X. The Prime Minister said the movement's clarion call infused new energy into the freedom struggle and reflected the unwavering determination of Indians to break free from colonial rule. The Quit India

Movement was formally launched after the All India Congress Committee passed the Quit India resolution in Bombay on August 8, 1942. The following day, Gandhi gave his historic call of "Do or Die", urging Indians to intensify the campaign for independence. The British government moved swiftly to suppress the movement. Gandhi, along with several other senior Congress leaders, was arrested soon

after the campaign began. Despite the arrests and a crackdown by the colonial administration, protests and demonstrations spread across several parts of the country. The movement also saw participation from students, workers, farmers and ordinary citizens, making it one of the largest mass mobilisations of India's freedom struggle. Strikes, demonstrations and acts of resistance were reported across the country, while underground

networks continued to organise activities after the arrest of prominent leaders. Although the British authorities managed to suppress the immediate uprising through arrests and force, the movement marked a significant shift in the freedom struggle. It demonstrated the growing demand for complete independence and put further pressure on the colonial administration. The Quit India Movement came at a critical point

during World War II, when Britain was facing major military challenges. The Congress leadership had opposed India's automatic involvement in the war without consultation with Indian representatives and demanded an immediate end to British rule. The movement is remembered every year on August 9, with political leaders paying tribute to those who participated in the struggle and highlighting their sacrifices.

27 Locations Linked to Banned Jamaat-e-Islami Raided in J&K's Sopore



Srinagar (Agency): At least 26 locations were jointly raided by investigation agencies and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Sunday as part of a crackdown on a suspected terror-linked network. The coordinated searches were carried out across the city of Sopore. The raids came following a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI). The raids were aimed at uncovering the activities of an alleged underground

network associated with the banned outfit. Earlier this year, on May 25, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out a series of raids across the Kashmir Valley in connection with a terror-funding probe linked to JeI. Multiple educational institutions and the residence of a former chief of the proscribed outfit were searched back then. The May raids were conducted at three locations in Srinagar and Shopian districts, where investigators recovered several incriminating financial documents and electronic gadgets suspected to be linked to the activities of JeI and its associated trusts and organisations in Jammu and Kashmir. At the time, the anti-terror agency said its investigators had found that JeI was collecting funds domestically and internationally in the name of charitable and welfare activities, only to later divert them to terror outfits such as Hizbul Mujahideen to support violent and secessionist causes.

Trainer Aircraft Skids Off Baramati Runway, Pilot Safe



Pune (Agency): A trainer aircraft operated by a private company suffered major damage after skidding off the runway at Baramati airfield in Maharashtra's Pune district on Sunday, around 12.30 pm. The pilot escaped unhurt and no casualties were reported. According to the Pune Airport authority, the aircraft was conducting a training exercise. It first entered through Link Bravo and lined up at Runway 29, where it carried out a rejected take-off. It was then positioned at Runway 11 for another rejected take-off. During the exercise, the aircraft could not stop completely and continued beyond the Runway 29 threshold before veering right off the extended paved surface. The exact cause remains unclear.

NALSAR Students Say No to CJI as Chief Guest

New Delhi (Agency): A section of outgoing students at the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) University, Hyderabad, has opposed the invitation extended to Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant to preside over the university's 2026 convocation ceremony. More than 450 students from the Batch of 2026 have signed a representation addressed to the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, professors and other university authorities, urging them to reconsider the reported decision to invite the CJI as the chief guest. In their letter, the students raised concerns over recent judicial developments, particularly Justice Surya Kant's handling of a recent hearing concerning alleged police action against protesters during the Parliament march demonstration from Delhi's Jantar Mantar on July 20, 2026. According to the students' representation, during the hearing on July 23, the CJI reportedly declined to watch video evidence allegedly showing police excesses, saying, "We are not interested in videos; we don't have time to watch." The students also alleged that submissions by the petitioner's counsel were subsequently cut short. The representation referred to another petition filed before the CJI seeking an enquiry into the alleged police action.



"Could Have Died": Mamata Alleges Attack On Car Near Kolkata

Kolkata (Agency): Tensions flared in West Bengal's Halishahar on Sunday after former Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee's convoy was intercepted by a group of protesters while she was on her way to visit the family of a deceased party worker. According to reports, demonstrators surrounded Banerjee's vehicle and staged a protest, smearing the car with mud and hurling water bottles, shoes and other footwear at the convoy.

Police Intervened to Control the Situation

Police personnel rushed to the spot and intervened to bring the situation under control. Security officials escorted Banerjee's convoy out of the area to ensure her safety and prevent any further escalation. Speaking after the incident, Mamata Banerjee alleged that "anti-social elements" hurled large stones at her convoy in the presence of police personnel. "Large stones were hurled at my car by anti-social elements, right in front of the police. The attack on the vehicle was so severe that if the windows had been open, my head would have been split open."

Death of TMC Worker



The protest comes in the wake of the death of Birju Keot, a Trinamool Congress worker who died after falling ill while in police custody. Keot had been arrested on charges of corruption and extortion and was shifted to a hospital after his health reportedly deteriorated, where he was declared dead. While police have maintained that he suffered a heart attack, his wife has alleged that he was brutally tortured in custody, triggering demands for an independent investigation. The incident has sparked a political confrontation in West Bengal.

Meta Must Follow Indian Law, Not Just Global Rules: Govt

New Delhi (Agency): Meta's platforms must be governed by Indian law, not merely by the company's global policies, government sources clarified on Sunday. Sources noted that it would be factually inaccurate to say that the government had "directed Meta to completely overhaul its algorithm." While certain concerns remain, officials said the core intent of recent engagements with Meta is to ensure that the platform's guidelines and content policies are fully aligned with Indian law. Sources further pointed out that India's cultural context is often not fully understood by teams based outside the country, and that Meta needs greater local input, including a stronger grasp of Indian languages and cultural nuances, to moderate content effectively. On the issue of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), government sources were unequivocal, stating that there is zero tolerance and zero compromise on such content. Allowing such material to remain on the platform amounts to a serious violation of rules, they said, adding that Meta must adopt stronger, more proactive measures, with concrete action expected rather than assurances alone.



E20 Will Hurt India's Economy: Kejriwal

New Delhi (Agency): AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday stepped up his attack on the Centre's E20 petrol policy, warning that it could hurt the economy if concerns among car buyers continued to grow. Responding to a post on X claiming that inventories of petrol cars were piling up at dealerships as buyers shifted towards CNG and electric vehicles over concerns around E20 petrol, Kejriwal said people had "stopped buying petrol cars" and urged the government to reverse its ethanol policy. "People have stopped buying petrol cars. The government should reverse its ethanol policy. Else it will hurt the economy very badly," Kejriwal



wrote. His remarks came days after AAP intensified its campaign against E20 petrol, with Kejriwal leading a march towards the Prime Minister's residence on Tuesday carrying 2.38 lakh petitions collected from across the country. The delegation was stopped by Delhi Police near Firoz Shah Road, following which Kejriwal and other AAP leaders staged a sit-in on the road. Police later took possession of the petitions after the delegation was informed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not meet them. Kejriwal subsequently said the petitions had been sent to the Prime Minister's Office. "We want the government to listen to the concerns of crores of vehicle owners who are facing problems because of E20 petrol," he said.

'Give Consumers a Choice'

Kejriwal had said AAP sought an appointment with the Prime Minister around a month earlier but received no response. He reiterated the party's demand that fuel stations offer consumers a choice between pure petrol and E20 instead of making ethanol-blended petrol effectively mandatory. "If E20 is to be promoted, then sell it at a lower price," Kejriwal said. Addressing supporters before Tuesday's march, he had said more than 2.30 lakh people had signed petitions raising concerns over E20 petrol.

Jharkhand Aspirant Continues Hunger Strike From ICU



Ranchi (Agency): A government job aspirant who has remained tantalisingly close yet frustratingly out of reach for Rahul Kranti. Now, even as he lies in an ICU after six days without food, the 40-year-old refuses to give up his fight. Kranti, who claims to have cleared several job examinations but is yet to get a job, is among the six protesters on hunger strike over alleged irregularities in Jharkhand's recruitment process. He claimed that he cracked the JSSC-Graduate Trained Teacher in 2016 but was not empanelled, while he is awaiting an appointment letter for the 2023 assistant teacher recruitment exam, alleging it was all because of corruption. He further said that he appeared in the 14th JPSC examination this year following an age relaxation ordered by the high court. This was probably his last chance to appear in the government recruitment exam, but allegations of paper leak and exam irregularities have dashed his hopes. A native of Palamu district, Kranti began his hunger strike at the Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium on Tuesday night, and was shifted to a hospital on the fourth day as his health deteriorated. "Doctors say that I am suffering from viral fever. I was shifted here on Friday with high fever and headache. When my condition did not improve, doctors shifted me to the hospital," Kranti told PTI. Kranti said his health condition was stable, although he feels weak. "Doctors are saying that my health will not improve until I take food. But I am determined to continue with my fast because the state government is not paying heed to our demands," he said.

"Justice Will Be Delivered": CM Amid Student Protests

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Sunday pledged to deliver justice with transparency to youths protesting alleged irregularities in recruitment exams while asserting that dialogue, not batons, can solve all problems at home. Alleging that vested interests were working at full force to disrupt democracy in the state, he said the students' stir should not be politicised and warned those harbouring political ambitions against misguiding youths. Soren said the youths' concern was his concern and those involved in exam irregularities will face strict action. "Unable to accept the state's self-reliance, vested interests are working at full force in Jharkhand to disrupt democracy here, Samvad and not 'lathi-danda-bandook' (dialogue, not batons), can solve all problems."

Iran to continue path of peace if US builds trust: Iranian President

Tehran (Agency): Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tehran will keep pursuing the path of peace under the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed recently with the United States, provided that Washington helps build an atmosphere of trust. Iran is trying to move on the "path of peace" based on the "paragraphs" in the MoU, Pezeshkian said on Saturday at a press conference, adding, "Now is the best time to reach an agreement, as there is solidarity, power and unity in the country." "We are determined to ... use the MoU as the basis provided that the United States lets go of the atmosphere of distrust it has created, and an atmosphere of trust is formed," he said. He highlighted reciprocity in negotiations with the United States, saying Iran will match its commitments to the level of US compliance, Xinhua news agency reported. If the other side seeks to resort to force, Iran will not acquiesce to that, he said, adding that the basis for Iran's action will eventually be Supreme Leader Mojtaba

Khamenei's decisions. Earlier, Iranian President reaffirmed the country's commitment to pursuing dialogue to safeguard its rights, while emphasising that Tehran will not be forced to surrender. Pezeshkian made the remarks in an interview, published on the website of his office on Friday (local time), defending the Iranian government's decision to enter negotiations with the United States and sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on ending the war. Pezeshkian said Iran remains committed to its obligations as long as the United States fulfils its commitments under the MoU, adding, "Wherever they fail to fulfil their commitment, we have no obligation to continue." Earlier this week, Pezeshkian denied that he was stepping down and said he would "continue his work resolutely." The remarks came amid rumoured "divisions" within Iran's leadership over the MoU. In June, Iran and the United States signed the MoU on ending the war on all fronts.

Pakistan considers Balochistan security issue, ignores economic and political aspects: Report



Islamabad (Agency): Poor governance is the primary reason behind instability and deprivation in Pakistan's Balochistan province as the Federal government regards the province as a security issue and does not address the social, economic, and political causes of the crisis there, a report said. People of Balochistan do not get benefits despite the province being resource-rich, according to the report in Afghan Diaspora Network. The majority of development projects in Balochistan, including the strategic Gwadar port and the Saindak copper and gold mine, have been operated by China. Chinese or people from Pakistan's Punjab and Sindh provinces earn profits from Balochistan's resources instead of people from the province. The have-nots of Balochistan often take up militancy to fight for their rights and express their anger towards the foreigners in Balochistan, it said. The majority of people in Balochistan live in extreme deprivation of resources, human rights and education, though Pakistan denies that people of the province are discontented. Its approach towards Balochistan has been security-centric while the development and governance agenda have taken the backseat. Currently, Balochistan faces the highest poverty in Pakistan, with 47 per cent of residents living below the poverty line. The province does not have basic infrastructure, employment opportunities, gas connections, and clean drinking water despite being a hub for

extraction and mega projects, according to the Afghan Diaspora Network report. "Experts blame the poor governance as a main culprit behind instability and deprivation. Quick to resort to repression, the state has considered Balochistan unidimensional as a security issue, ignoring the underlying social, economic, and political causes of the crisis. The ongoing 'Operation Shaban' might hit the headlines for killing terrorists, but it fails to ensure any sustainable peace and stability. The experts argue that the military cannot lead to durable peace without addressing the root causes of multiple causes of Balochistan's unrest, including federalism, identity, and the fair distribution of resource wealth," Kadeem Baloch, a freelance journalist based in Pakistan, wrote in the report. On Saturday, the Baloch Republican Guards (BRG) claimed responsibility for destroying two electricity towers in the province's Nasirabad, local media reported. BRG spokesperson Dosteen Baloch said in a statement that the members of BRG blew up two 220 kV electricity towers going from the Och Power Plant to Punjab at the Piru Pul area near Mir Hassan area of Nasirabad. The Balochistan Post reported. Two towers collapsed, and two more sustained severe damage as a result of the explosion. The spokesperson stated that BRG accepts responsibility for this attack and noted that such operations will continue until the independence of Balochistan from Pakistan.

Canada's British Columbia declares state of emergency over wildfires



Ottawa(Agency): The western Canadian province of British Columbia (B.C.) declared a provincial state of emergency on Saturday (local time) as fast-spreading wildfires threatened several communities. Speaking at a news conference in Vancouver, B.C. Premier David Eby said the decision was necessary given the dynamic wildfire situation and overnight large-scale evacuations, which required specific tools to ensure public safety, reports Xinhua news agency. "The conditions of this fire are extremely dangerous and are changing minute by minute," Eby said, stressing that saving lives and supporting rescue efforts remain the government's top priority. He added

that air evacuations are underway to rescue people cut off by the flames. According to the provincial emergency management ministry, the state of emergency will grant the government greater flexibility to respond to the crisis, including the authority to commandeer accommodations and impose local travel restrictions. The wildfire near Summerland remains particularly severe, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate and destroying several homes and properties. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said on social media later Saturday that the federal government stands ready to offer full support to B.C. in its firefighting and relief efforts. Wildfires

sweeping across northwestern Ontario, Canada, in recent days have caused severe smog and a sharp deterioration in air quality in several regions, including Ottawa, the nation's capital, and Toronto, Canada's largest city. Toronto's air quality index ranked the worst among major global cities. According to data released by Environment Canada, Toronto's Air Quality Health Index was classified as "very high risk." Earlier, Ottawa also issued air quality alerts due to a combination of wildfire smoke and humid weather, with high humidity trapping smoke particles in the air and turning the sky yellow. Meanwhile, a video widely circulated on social media

showed a Canadian National (CN) train surrounded by raging wildfires near Armstrong, Ontario. The footage, filmed by a locomotive crew member, showed towering flames engulfing the woods on both sides of the train and casting an intense red glow throughout the locomotive cab. CN on Wednesday confirmed the authenticity of the video, adding that the train crew had been safely evacuated. Currently, more than 100 active fires are still burning in northwestern Ontario, forcing the emergency evacuation of residents from several communities. CN has also announced a temporary suspension of train operations in the affected section.

Ukraine reaches deal with US on monthly deliveries of interceptor missiles: Zelensky

Kyiv (Agency): Ukraine has reached an agreement with the United States on monthly deliveries of interceptor missiles for the Patriot air defence system, although the supply remains insufficient, Ukrinform news agency reported Saturday, citing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Speaking to reporters in Belgrade, Zelensky confirmed that Washington will supply Ukraine with interceptor missiles on a month-

ly basis. However, he stressed that the volume falls short of meeting the country's air defence needs. Zelensky noted that the number of interceptor missiles Ukraine is expected to receive in 2026 would be lower than in 2025, without disclosing specific figures, Xinhua news agency reported. According to earlier reports, Zelensky said at a press conference with NATO leadership in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv that actual deliveries of mis-



sile interceptors from allies had fallen, largely due to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. Earlier in July, US President Donald Trump expressed optimism that Russia and Ukraine

could be moving closer to a peace agreement, saying he believes both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky now want to end the war after his latest conversations with the two leaders. Speaking alongside Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan before their bilateral meeting in Ankara ahead of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Summit, Trump said he had held lengthy discussions

with both Putin and Zelensky and expected progress in the coming weeks. "I do. I had a very good talk with President Putin, who, by the way, has a lot of respect for President Erdogan, a lot of respect for him," Trump said when asked whether a breakthrough in the Ukraine peace process was possible. "We had a long talk yesterday, lasted a long time. And, I also spoke with President Zelensky right after that." "I think they both want to

make a deal. It's too bad it took so long, but I think there's going to be -- something's going to come out." Trump said Erdogan was also playing a constructive role in efforts to end the conflict. "And the president's also helping us with that, but I think there's something." Although he acknowledged that a settlement might not appear imminent, Trump said negotiations often advanced when expectations were lowest.

Industrial and export supply chains face disruption due to goods, oil transporters strike

Islamabad (Agency): Industrial and export supply chains faced disruption in Pakistan as the goods transporters and oil tankers launched a nationwide strike, with operators pledging to continue the protest until the group's leadership holds talks with the government on Monday, local media reported on Monday. Pakistan Goods Transporters Alliance chairman Nisar Hussain Jafray said that their strike across the nation will continue "as our leadership intends to meet the ministers concerned with petroleum, transport and ports on Monday," Pakistan-based daily Dawn reported. He said the movement of over 400,000 goods-carrying vehicles had been suspended from Saturday until the meeting with the authorities on Monday. Jafray said goods transporters were holding a nationwide strike over several issues, including the government's recently implemented daily fuel price mechanism. Jafray demanded restoration of the monthly fuel price mechanism and reduction of with-



holding tax on transporters from seven per cent to two per cent, stressing that oil carriers were paying two per cent withholding tax on services. Pakistan government on Friday reduced the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) by Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 2.20 and PKR 1.50 per litre, respectively. The revised prices of fuel will remain in effect until Monday. After the latest revision, the price of petrol stood at PKR 327.62 per litre while HSD price reached PKR 380.86 per litre, Pakistan-based another daily, Business Recorder reported. On July 17, Pakistan's

Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik and Information Minister Atta Tarar announced that the fuel prices will be revised on a daily basis amid volatility in global oil prices after renewed hostilities in West Asia, adding that the changing rates would be published by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) on its website, Dawn reported. He stated that the Ogra would decide the price of fuel on a regular basis based on international market trends. Since early March, Pakistan government has been deciding fuel prices on a weekly basis.

Over 380,000 residents affected by severe weather in Philippines

Manila (Agency): The enhanced southwest monsoon and tropical cyclones have affected more than 380,000 residents across eight regions in the Philippines, according to Philippine official media reports on Sunday. According to the Philippine News Agency, at least 110,000 families were affected, and the death toll remained at six, with seven injured persons recorded. The weather disturbances also damaged 148 houses, including 138 partially and 10 totally destroyed. Two of the fatalities were caused by a landslide triggered by heavy rain, two by a rockslide, and the remaining two by drowning and electrocution, respectively, according to the official reports, Xinhua News Agency reported. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council of the Philippines said 86 evacuation centres have been activated, sheltering 2,200 families or 7,300 people. Another 1,132 families, or 3,700 persons, are staying outside evacuation centres. On Sunday, the state



weather bureau said that the southwest monsoon will continue to bring heavy rains over large parts of the Philippines, including Metro Manila and several provinces in Luzon. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) warned of possible flash floods or landslides in areas experiencing moderate to intense rains, including Ilocos Sur, La Union, Abra, Benguet, Zambales, Bataan and Occidental Mindoro. Scattered rains and thunderstorms are also expected across the Visayas and parts of Mindanao. PAGASA also reported that Typhoon Dolphin is strengthening the

southwest monsoon, with rough to very rough seas expected off extreme Northern Luzon. Meanwhile, multiple shopping malls in Metro Manila, the capital of the Philippines, opened designated waiting areas for residents displaced by heavy rains and flooding caused by the enhanced southwest monsoon, according to local media reports on Sunday. The participating malls, operated by the SM Group, one of the Philippines' largest conglomerates, are providing free Wi-Fi, restrooms, charging stations and help desks to affected residents. Free overnight parking is also available at these malls on Saturday night.

NABARD Celebrates National Handloom Day with Three-Day Exhibition in Mumbai

By Abhishek Poddar

Good Morning, Mumbai: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is celebrating National Handloom Day by organising a three-day Exhibition-cum-Sale from August 5 to 7, 2026, at its Head Office in Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai.

The exhibition showcases authentic handloom products representing 15 renowned weaving traditions from across India, providing visitors an opportunity to explore and purchase traditional products directly from artisans and weavers. The participating

traditions include **Paithani from Maharashtra, Pochampally Ikat from Telangana, Kota Doriya from Rajasthan, Sambalpuri from Odisha, Bhagalpur Silk from Bihar, Kantha Stitch from West Bengal, Kutch Shawls from Gujarat, Venkatagiri from Andhra Pradesh, Arani Silk from Tamil Nadu, Balaramapuram from Kerala, Mubarakpur from Uttar Pradesh, Ambala Handlooms from Haryana, Bagh from Madhya Pradesh, Bhagaiya Silk from Jharkhand and Uttariya from Karnataka.

A key highlight of the initiative is the producer-to-customer engagement, which gives artisans and weavers direct



access to markets while enabling consumers to purchase genuine traditional handloom products.

NABARD also organised a Buyer-Seller Meet on August 6, bringing together artisans, producer groups, institutional buyers and other market stakeholders. The initiative aims to create new business opportunities and establish sustainable, long-term market linkages for handloom producers. NABARD has been supporting the handloom sector through market promotion, skill development, livelihood initiatives and support for Geographical Indication (GI) registration of traditional products. It has also encouraged

the collectivisation of artisans through Rural Enterprise Producer Organisations (REPOs) to strengthen their market access and promote value addition.

Observed annually on August 7 National Handloom Day commemorates the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905 and recognises the significant contribution of handloom weavers to India's cultural heritage, rural economy and self-reliant growth.

Through initiatives such as the Mumbai exhibition, NABARD continues to promote India's rich handloom traditions while supporting artisans and weaving communities in building sustainable livelihoods.

Grand Film on Maharaja Agrasen’s Life and Legacy to Feature Mukesh Khanna

By Abhishek Poddar

Good Morning, Mumbai: A grand feature film based on the life, ideals and social vision of Maharaja Agrasen is set to be made, marking a significant development for the Agarwal community. Renowned actor Mukesh Khanna best known for his iconic portrayal of Bhisma Pitamah in Mahabharat will play the lead role of Maharaja Agrasen. The film’s signing and contractual formalities were completed at Mukesh Khanna’s office, followed by the presentation of the signing amount and the auspicious Muhurat ceremony, officially marking the beginning of the project. Produced under the banner of Shyam Film Production, the film is directed by Sunny Agarwal Dr. Shyam Agarwal and Purushottam Kejriwalare the producers, with Suman Agarwal as co-producer. The film will highlight Maharaja Agrasen’s ideals of equality, social harmony, cooperation, compassion, philanthropy and public welfare,



while presenting their relevance to today’s generation. The makers aim to take his inspiring legacy beyond the community and introduce his life and philosophy to a wider national audience. The casting of Mukesh Khanna has generated

considerable interest, with members of the Agarwal community welcoming the project as a matter of pride and expressing enthusiasm for seeing the legendary ruler’s life brought to the silver screen.

Sion ROB Reconstruction Reaches Major Milestone

By Shrikant Khuperkar

Good Morning, Mumbai : Central Railway has achieved a major milestone in the reconstruction of the Sion Road Over Bridge (ROB) with the successful launching of the second 500-tonne steel girder.

Both main girders, each measuring about 54.5 metres in span, have now been launched successfully within just two days, using two separate three-hour night blocks. The challenging work was carried out over active railway tracks with careful planning, advanced equipment and strict safety measures, while minimising disruption to suburban train services.

The reconstruction of Sion ROB is being undertaken as part of the CSMT-Kurla 5th and 6th line project. The wider railway span of the new ROB will help accommodate the proposed additional railway lines.



With both main girders in position, the project has now moved to the next stage, including deck slab construction, road approaches, surfacing and crash barriers.

Once completed, the new Sion ROB will restore important east-west road connectivity between the Eastern Express Highway, LBS Road and Dharavi Road, providing significant relief to commuters

Mumbai to Host BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave 2026

By Abhishek Poddar

Good Morning, Mumbai: Mumbai will host the second BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave 2026 on August 11 and 12, bringing together city leaders, policymakers and urban experts from BRICS nations. The conclave will be inaugurated on August 11 at the Four Seasons Hotel by Maharashtra Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, with Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other dignitaries expected to attend. Organised by Mumbai First with support from the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of India, the two-day event will see participation from around 15 cities and delegations from Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Iran and Indonesia. Six sessions will focus on urban resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability, with discussions covering climate resilience, coastal protection, clean air, affordable housing, low-carbon mobility, cooling cities and AI in urban governance. Mumbai First Chairman Narinder Nayar said the conclave aims to move from dialogue to action by creating partnerships in infrastructure, mobility, investment and innovation. Vice-Chairman Ashank Desai said the platform will promote knowledge-sharing and cooperation among BRICS cities. The organisers aim to develop the conclave into an annual BRICS Friendship Cities platform, strengthening long-term institutional collaboration and enabling cities to exchange practical solutions to common urban challenges.



Fraud in the name of providing flats

Good Morning, Palghar: A case of fraud involving crores of rupees in the name of providing flats has once again come to light in Umrauli, Maharashtra. According to the complaint, two individuals duped the victim of over 1 crore 71 lakh rupees by promising to provide a flat in a building.

According to the victim, the two individuals gained his trust by showing him

various projects and flats and then transferred the money to their bank accounts.

The victim also filed an FIR in March 2025. Based on the complaint, the police took action and arrested two person, Abhishek Yadav and Vikas Yadav. The police are investigating the entire matter and trying to determine how many more people are involved in this alleged fraud.

Akums reports robust Q1 FY27 performance with 13.9% YoY Revenue growth

Gayatri Sahu

Good Morning, Mumbai: Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., India's largest Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO), announced its consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, marking a strong start to FY27. The Company delivered healthy growth in revenue, operating profitability and PAT, supported by continued momentum in its CDMO business, improved operating performance and healthy customer demand. Akums reported

operating revenue of 1,167 crore in Q1 FY27, registering a 13.9% year-on-year growth compared with 1,024 crore in Q1 FY26. EBITDA increased 35.4% year-on-year to 175 crore, with EBITDA margin improving to 15.0% from 12.6%. PAT stood at 101 crore, compared with 65 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. PAT margin also improved to 8.4% from 6.2%. The CDMO business remained the key growth driver during the quarter. CDMO revenue increased to 964 crore, compared with 813 crore in Q1 FY26, while CDMO EBITDA grew 36.8% year-on-year to 163 crore from 119 crore in Q1

FY26, supported by continued volume growth and improvement in API prices. Commenting on the results, Sanjeev Jain, Managing Director, said, "FY27 has begun on a strong and encouraging note. The consistent performance of CDMO showcases healthy demand environment as well as our clients' trust in Akums as the preferred manufacturing partner." Sandeep Jain, Managing Director, added, "Backed by a strong pipeline and prudent capital allocation, we are well-positioned to deliver sustainable growth in the years ahead."

Students in Raigad Zilla Parishad Schools Face Shortage of School Nutrition Meals Since June

By Shrikant Khuperkar

Good Morning, Karjat : A shortage of school nutrition meals has reportedly affected several Zilla Parishad schools in Raigad district since June. As a result, students have been deprived of the nutritious meals provided at school. The issue has raised concern among parents and citizens because these meals are important for students’ health and nutrition.

The school nutrition meal scheme aims to provide nutritious food to students along with education, improve school attendance and support children from economically weaker families. However, many Zilla Parishad schools in the district have reportedly not received the required food grains and other supplies since June.

The shortage has created difficulties in providing meals to students, particularly in rural areas where many children depend on Zilla Parishad schools. Parents and citizens have urged the administration to take the matter seriously.

Panchayat Samiti Karjat Block Education Officer Anant Khaire said that the Raigad Zilla Parishad Education Officer has instructed the concerned supplier to provide the required supplies. He said that the supply of school nutrition meals is expected to resume within two days.

Khaire also said that the agreement for the supply has been completed and that food grains and other required materials will start reaching schools within two days. The current problem is therefore expected to be resolved soon.

Parents and citizens have also appealed to the administration to ensure regular supply in the future so that students do not face similar difficulties again. Parents, students and teachers are now waiting to see whether the promised supplies reach the schools within the next two days.

Maldives' Tobacco Tax Reset Highlights Need for Balanced Taxation and Stronger Action Against Illicit Trade, Say Experts

Santosh Sahu

Good Morning, Mumbai: As illicit cigarettes account for over one-fourth of India's cigarette market, tobacco taxation must be backed by stronger enforcement to safeguard both public health and government revenues. The Maldives' decision to reduce cigarette import duty by 50% after a surge in illicit tobacco trade has renewed debate over how

governments can balance tobacco taxation with effective enforcement. Public health and policy experts say the development reinforces an important insight for India: tobacco taxation delivers the best outcomes when supported by strong enforcement, robust supply-chain monitoring and sustained action against illicit trade.

The Maldives recently reduced cigarette import duty from MVR 8 to MVR 4 per pack after authorities

reported that previous tax increases had fuelled the growth of the illicit tobacco market, eroding legal sales and government revenues. The policy review has attracted international attention because the country was recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO) with the 2024 World No Tobacco Day Award for strengthening tobacco-control measures, including higher tobacco taxation.

Speaking in Parliament, Maldives Minister of Finance and Planning Moosa Zameer said the decision followed discussions with the WHO and was intended to curb the growing illicit tobacco market after earlier tax increases encouraged consumers to shift to illegal products.

Dr. Nandini Sharma, Ex Dean and Director Professor, Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi,

"International evidence consistently shows that tobacco taxation remains one of the most effective public health measures to reduce consumption. However, taxation is most effective when accompanied by strong enforcement, supply-chain monitoring and coordinated action against illicit trade.

Dr. Meenakshi N. Family Physician, Public Health Expert, Apollo Hospital, Noida, "The

Maldives' experience demonstrates that tobacco taxation should be evidence-based and supported by effective enforcement. When illegal markets are allowed to flourish, they can undermine both public health goals and government revenues. The policy priority should therefore be to strengthen enforcement alongside taxation to ensure the intended objectives of tobacco-control measures are achieved."

EDITORIAL

A steep price for crowd control

The Supreme Court's observations on pellet guns in connection with the recent police action on youth protests in Delhi did not engage with a fundamental issue regarding their use. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices JoymalyaBagchi and V Mohana, while hearing a petition on the use of metallic pellets as ammunition by the CRPF's Rapid Action Force, expressed reservations about the petition. The Court found the demand vague because it did not challenge existing police regulations. It pointed out that the regulations allowed the use of such weapons in exceptional situations, and a prayer for a blanket ban would be untenable without challenging the validity of those very regulations. The Court noted that a bona fide protest may turn violent at any point, perhaps due to infiltration of anti-social elements, sometimes necessitating graded responses of law enforcement.

Pellet guns, as a crowd control measure, are distinct from a lathi charge or the use of water cannons. They don't merely deter; they are instruments of deliberate punishment and risk causing permanent impairment to the affected. Crowd control measures cannot be aimed at punishment, which should come only at the end of a trial.

The youth at JantarMantar did not commit any offence; they only exercised their right to protest. Past use of pellet guns has caused blindness, facial disfigurement or neurological damage. Kashmir has reported many such cases. Using them against students and other protesters cannot be defined in terms of a "graded response". This state response is disproportionate and should not have a place in a democratic society. The condition that pellet guns should be used only in exceptional situations is flawed. When the police face an unruly crowd, the personnel won't be in a position to decide whether they are engaging with something exceptional. In a rapidly evolving situation, while managing an agitated group of people, they might not possess the mental frame for a considered decision. While the use of firearms comes with stipulations such as the below-the-knee guideline, pellet fire can become indiscriminate, causing injuries anywhere on the body.

Many international human rights organisations and medical bodies have sought a ban on the use of pellet guns. If the Supreme Court intends to ban the use of these weapons, it can quash the administrative rules and standard operating procedures that make their use legal. The Court can do it under Article 142 of the Constitution, which gives it discretionary powers.

RSWAMINATHAN



The war in Iran has entered its sixth month, bringing heightened anxiety to the Gulf over the last weekend, following United States President Donald Trump's warning that Washington intended to hit Tehran "very hard". The statement issued after a cabinet meeting at Camp David coincided with media reports that US and Israeli forces were coordinating major air strikes against Iran's energy infrastructure. Anxiety over the impending attacks in the Gulf intensified further as Trump had met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington just three days prior, on July 28, as well as by a security advisory from the US Embassy in Israel urging American citizens to consider leaving the region.

However, the tension was defused by Trump's announcement that he was cancelling the strikes on condition that a deal with Iran is finalised quickly. He noted that the pause was in response to requests from countries in the region and Iranian officials who assured him that a framework had been reached.

Since the conflict began on February 28, the US President has halted planned military strikes against Iran on six distinct occasions. This recurring pattern reveals reliance on maximum rhetorical escalation followed by sudden retreats. Every time Trump makes threats to attack Iranian energy infrastructure, Gulf partners quickly intervene to plead for restraint to protect their critical assets from the fallout. This time, the turnaround happened after a phone call from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and coordinated pressure from other Gulf states. This collective intervention was done after they received calls from Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who warned that Iran would be forced to retaliate by attacking their energy and vital desalination infrastructure. This cycle of threatening attacks followed by withdrawals has exposed the limits of Washington's leverage beyond strikes on military assets in Iran.

The latest episode has also demonstrated the US's dwindling options for ending the war,



particularly the opening of the Strait of Hormuz. Repeated heavy US bombardments have reached their limit in securing further military advantages, and a full-scale ground invasion to force an Iranian surrender is not an option. Simultaneously, the US is fast depleting its stockpile of precision long-range missiles and interceptors needed for other global theatres. In the meantime, Iran has broadened the scope of the war by activating the Houthis in Yemen and Shia militias in Iraq. The uneasy truce between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis has collapsed in recent weeks after they declared a maritime embargo against Saudi shipping and Red Sea ports. The Houthis also quickly acted on their threat, striking Saudi oil tankers as well as key energy facilities along the Red Sea. This has undermined Riyadh's contingency strategy of using its East-West Pipeline to bypass the Strait of Hormuz, leaving it no choice but to reroute its oil tankers around Africa to supply its major buyers in Asia. The Houthis are continuing their

attacks, with the latest targeting an airport in southwestern Saudi Arabia. In addition, Iran-backed Iraqi militias launched a two-day drone and missile attack on the crude stabilisation units in Saudi Arabia's oil-rich Eastern Province to undermine the Kingdom's export reliability. This forced Saudi Arabia to abandon its strategic restraint to join with the US to launch retaliatory airstrikes against militia command centres across Iraq. The war further expanded to the Eastern Mediterranean when unidentified drones struck an American floating storage vessel in the Egyptian port city of Damietta. While neither Iran nor the Houthis claimed responsibility for the attack, it was a clear message that Western energy supply chains remain vulnerable beyond the Gulf region as well.

While Iran is under severe economic strain, compounded by the US naval blockade on its ports, it is determined to endure the short-term pain, rather than accepting a temporary truce.

Iranian leadership is holding out for a decisive outcome that permanently ends the cycle of war with the US and Israel. It is also equally determined to maintain control of the Strait of Hormuz.

The US and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are encouraging Oman to find an acceptable solution for opening the Strait. The debate over the deadlock in Hormuz has shifted from whether Iran will exert control on the route to how it will enforce this control, culminating in Iran's announcement late Wednesday that a tentative agreement with Oman has been reached, but emphasising that finalising a bilateral transit corridor cannot ensure maritime security until the US lifts its naval blockade. While the Gulf countries will be deeply unhappy about Iran's control over maritime traffic or the imposition of a service fee, their immediate priority remains securing the reopening of the strait for their exports. Though the US remains opposed to making concessions to Iran on the Strait of Hormuz, Article 43 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides a legal framework for sharing the financial burden of keeping an international strait safe and clean through consensus-driven, voluntary partnerships, offering Washington a viable diplomatic off-ramp.

Can CJP Change Politics Without Entering Politics?



MAYURESH GANAPATYE

The Gen Z and Gen Alpha-led protests over the NEET controversy may well be remembered as a defining political moment. For a generation often dismissed as politically apathetic or confined to social media activism, the demonstrations at Delhi's JantarMantar proved otherwise.

They showed that when young people rally around a common cause, governments are compelled to respond. The Union government's decision to change the Education Minister only reinforced the belief that sustained public pressure can influence those in power.

It is perhaps this very momentum that has inspired the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP). At its recent two-day core committee meeting at AbhijitDipke's residence in ChhatrapatiSambhajnagar, the CJP decided that it would not transform into a political party but instead function as a pressure group. On paper, it appears to be a principled stand. In practice, however, Indian politics has repeatedly demonstrated the limitations of remaining outside the system while attempting to fundamentally change it.

Pressure groups undoubtedly have an important role in a democracy. Business associations influence economic policy, trade unions negotiate labour reforms, farmers' organi-

sations shape agricultural decisions, while student and professional bodies routinely lobby governments. Yet almost every successful pressure group has either enjoyed political access, ideological backing or institutional influence. Influence and power rarely operate independently.

The real question before the CJP is not whether pressure politics works-it clearly does-but whether it can remain effective without eventually seeking political power.

History offers an instructive lesson. The India Against Corruption movement led by Anna Hazare emerged with a singular demand: the passage of a strong Lokpal law. What followed was one of independent India's most powerful public mobilisations. RamlilaMaidan became the epicentre of anti-corruption sentiment, forcing the government to negotiate with the movement.

Yet the leadership soon realised that while protests could compel governments to listen, they could not govern. That understanding eventually gave birth to the AamAadmi Party. Anna Hazare disagreed with the decision and chose to remain outside electoral politics, whereas ArvindKejriwal and his colleagues concluded that lasting reforms required administrative authority, not merely moral authority. Whether one agrees with AAP's politics today is beside the point. Its governments in Delhi demonstrated that electoral success provides the ability to implement ideas rather than simply advocate them. The transformation of Delhi's government schools and the Mohalla Clinics model are often cited as examples of governance born out of activism. Even Maharashtra has experimented with neighbourhood healthcare initiatives inspired by that model. The CJP today stands at a remarkably similar crossroads. It argues that people no longer trust politicians and therefore intends to remain above politics while changing India's political discourse. That argument may resonate with many disillusioned young Indians, but changing the discourse is not the same as changing policy.

What makes crowd control lawful?

PRANAV JAIN

What decides whether a method of mob control is lawful or not? Two questions decide it: was the assembly, by then, unlawful, and did the force that followed answer the refusal rather than anticipate it? Everything below is an answer to both of those two questions, nothing more.

Take the first question. Article 19(1)(b) protects the right to assemble peaceably and without arms. Article 19(3) lets the state restrict that right in the interest of public order. The right was written as conditional, not absolute, which means an assembly can cross from lawful to unlawful when it defies a lawful order or the boundary set for it. That is the test for question one, and it is a test of fact, not of sympathy. Section 148 of the BharatiyaNagarikSurakshaSanhita (BNSS), which replaced Section 129 of the old code, supplies the mechanism. An officer in charge of a police station, or an officer no lower than sub-inspector in his absence, may order an unlawful assembly, or any assembly of five or more likely to disturb the peace, to disperse. Refusal to disperse is what converts an ordinary crowd into one the police may lawfully move. Nothing in the section requires more than that.

JantarMantar itself exists as a protest ground because the Supreme Court drew a boundary in 2018, in MazdoorKisan Shakti Sangathan v Union of India, weighing the right to demonstrate against the extant security concerns. When a crowd, like the CJP protesters, leaves that boundary and pushes toward a sensitive establishment like the Parliament, question one answers itself: this was no longer the assembly the Court had accommodated, and the order to disperse followed from that fact alone. That resolves whether the assembly was unlawful. The harder question, and the one the criticism actually rests on, is whether the force that followed was proportionate to the refusal and whether it answered defiance or went looking for it. Compare In Re: RamlilaMaidan Incident (2012) 5 SCC 1, the Court's own precedent on excessive force, arising from the midnight raid on Baba Ramdev in 2011. That force failed the test because there was no warning to defy and no violence to answer. A crowd was asleep, not pushing set boundaries.

From JantarMantar to Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium: The geography of India's anger

PREETI CHOUDHRY



The crowds are way smaller than those that once thronged JantarMantar. But numbers alone rarely tell the story of a protest. The mood, the emotion and the underlying sense of betrayal often matter far more. In that sense, what is unfolding at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium feels uncannily familiar to JantarMantar.

Like JantarMantar, this movement sits at the intersection of public outrage and political engagement and tacit support. Like JantarMantar, there is an unmistakable political undercurrent. Political actors and supporters are present. Political parties and activists are visible, as they inevitably are in any mass mobilisation. Yet it would be a mistake to dismiss the gathering as politically manufactured. Much of the crowd is organic. Ordinary citizens are here not because they were mobilized, but because they feel compelled to be there.

The demographics, however, tell a different story. JantarMantar belonged to a younger India..the Gen Z, first-time protesters and idealists who believed change was within reach. Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium is populated largely by people in their

late twenties and thirties. They are no longer driven by optimism alone but by angst. They are a generation that has lived through repeated scandals, broken promises and institutional failures. Their anger is not impulsive, it is accumulated.

This is a lot that appears less idealistic and more exhausted, carrying the weight of repeated disappointments with institutions they believe have failed them..they are jaded and want accountability of their youth paying the price for a broken system.

The solidarity on display here is also reminiscent of JantarMantar. As it happened then, citizens have begun expressing support in tangible ways, sending food and essential supplies to sustain those participating in the protest. These gestures are more than charity. They are a public declaration that the protest belongs not only to



those occupying the space, but also to those watching from afar. The language of protest, however, is very different. JantarMantar was marked by satire, irreverence, witty slogans, some times insult..biting sarcasm

aimed at those in power. The mood in Jharkhand is different. The dominant emotions are raw anger, helplessness and anguish. The humour that once softened dissent has given way to a more visceral expression of disillusionment.

At Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium, the joke as they know it is on them ..the protestors.

What one witnesses is something far more unsettling: The slogans are not clever; they are cries of frustration from people who no longer believe that institutions will correct themselves. History often offers a warning. JantarMantar was never really about a single location. Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium albeit with lesser crowds is today the new JantarMantar. If the underlying causes of this anger remain unaddressed, today's protest site will simply be replaced by another tomorrow..in another city, another state, another government. another grievance.

The venue will change. The emotion will not. The real question is not whether this protest will end.

Mrunal Thakur shuts down dating rumours with cricketer Yashasvi Jaiswal

Mrunal Thakur isn't letting social media chatter simply pass by. The actor recently addressed rumours of her dating cricketer Yashasvi Jaiswal, who is 10 years younger than her. Mrunal, 34, was linked to Yashasvi, 24, after they were spotted at the same cafe in Mumbai's Bandra West.

Mrunal sets record straight

Mrunal has set the record straight on a video that has been doing the rounds on social media, which shows Mrunal and Yashasvi exiting the same Mumbai cafe. Commenting on one of the clips, she wrote, "Bro relax... show me where are we together? How can educated people like you take these rumours to be true? So much is happening in the country. Learn from the Gen Z and make videos on correct topics so that you get more views." Though the comment is no longer visible under the video, a screenshot of Mrunal's response to the viral clip has been doing the rounds on social media.

When Mrunal was linked to Dhanush

Before being linked to Yashasvi, Mrunal Thakur was linked to actor Dhanush in 2025. The speculation began in August 2025, when Mrunal rushed to greet Dhanush at the premiere of her film Son of Sardaar 2. Seeing the warmth of their interaction, many claimed Dhanush had attended the screening specifically to support her. Reports also claimed that the two stars were going to get married in 2026. However, neither Mrunal nor Dhanush ever publicly addressed the reports, and the actor's close associates even dismissed the claims. A reliable source told HT City, "Mrunal is not getting married next month. This is a rumour which has caught wind."

About Mrunal Thakur

Mrunal Thakur began her acting career in television, starring in the soap operas Mujhse Kuchh Kehti Yeh Khamoshiyaan (2012) and Kumkum Bhagya (2014–2016). She made her Hindi film debut with Love Sonia (2018) and subsequently played the female lead in Super 30 (2019) and Batla House (2019). After facing box office failures in Hindi cinema, she gained popularity in Telugu cinema, starring in Sita Ramam (2022) and Hi Nanna (2023).



Preity Zinta slams paparazzo claiming she ignored Aamir Khan during Batwara 1947 promotions

Actor Preity Zinta is set to make her big-screen comeback after an eight-year hiatus with Batwara 1947. The actor is currently busy promoting the film alongside co-star Sunny Deol and producer Aamir Khan. However, a recent video from a promotional event sparked speculation after a paparazzo page claimed that Preity had "ignored" Aamir. Preity has now hit back at the page, calling it out for 'clickbait content' and promoting negativity.

Preity Zinta slams paparazzo page for saying she 'ignored' Aamir Khan

A paparazzo page, Filmy Galaxy, shared a video on Instagram showing Preity stepping out of her vanity van. Looking confused about where she was supposed to go amid a crowd of photographers, she asked, "EK min guys, kahan jaana hai? (One minute guys, where do I have to go?)" As the photographers guided her, Preity walked in the opposite direction. Aamir was standing outside his vanity van, but Preity did not notice him and walked past without greeting him. The paparazzo page captioned the video, "Oh no, Preity Zinta ignored Aamir Khan?" Reacting to the video, Preity called out the page for creating a misleading narrative. She wrote, "This kind of clickbait content is not cool. I didn't see Aamir as I was in a rush to shoot some Shots inside & then catch a flight for Batwara 1947 Promotions. Next time pls don't expect me to stop and take pictures if your intent is to promote any kind of negativity! I have a LOT of love & respect for Aamir, so this is not in good taste." Preity was last seen in the movie Bhaiaji Superhit in 2018. She is now making her comeback to the big screen with Batwara 1947 after eight years. Helmed by Rajkumar Santoshi, Batwara 1947 also stars Sunny Deol, Shabana Azmi, Ali Fazal, Karan Deol, Abhimanyu Singh, Kanikka Kapir and Khushi Hajare among others. Set in Lahore against the backdrop of 1947 partition of India and the division of Punjab, the film is backed by Aamir Khan under his production banner Aamir Khan Productions and is scheduled to release in theatres on August 14. Talking about her comeback, Preity revealed that she didn't miss facing the camera and said, "I didn't miss it, to be honest. I was enjoying having a family; it was new to



Sanjeeda Shaikh laughs at doing action in Dhamaal 4 while the men did comedy

Dhamaal 4 was a chaotic return to the franchise started by Indra Kumar almost two decades ago. The comedy actioner saw the return of franchise favourites Ajay Devgn, Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi, and Jaaved Jaaferi, while also introducing new faces to the series. Among them was actor Sanjeeda Shaikh, who found herself doing a bit of both action and come-

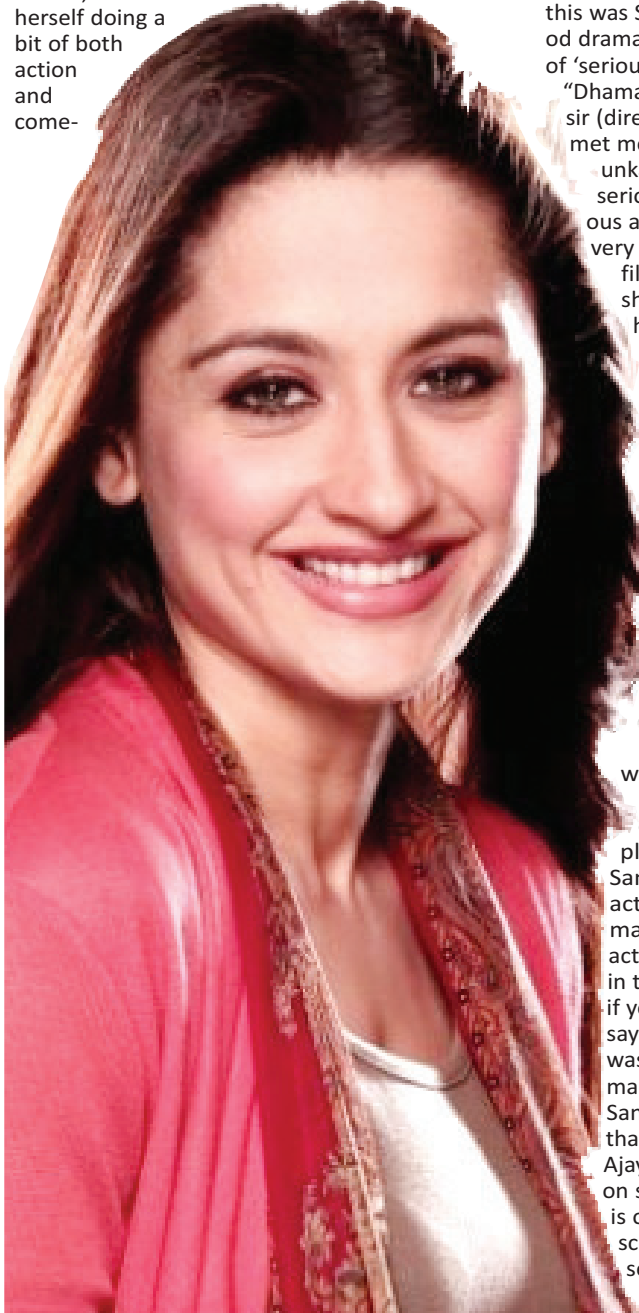
dy in the film. In an exclusive chat with Hindustan Times, Sanjeeda looks back on how she landed the role and her filming experience.

Sanjeeda on 'serious actor' tag

Prior to Dhamaal 4, Sanjeeda had not dabbled in comedy. Her previous show before this was Sanjay Leela Bhansali's intense period drama Heeramandi. The actor says the tag of 'serious actor' followed her after this. "Dhamaal 4 happened to me because Indra sir (director Indra Kumar) called me, and he met me after watching Heeramandi. And unka pehla sawal tha ki 'Aap toh bahut serious actress hain (You are a very serious actress),' because Heeramandi was very serious." Sanjeeda said she told the filmmaker to give her a chance to show how funny she is. "I sat with him, and I think he heard me laughing—and I laugh like a man—so he said, 'Okay, this is fine.' My casting was done," she adds with a laugh.

'Had to up my game'

Dhamaal 4 saw her share the screen with comedy veterans. The actor felt she had to up her game and not stick out. "You are working and sharing the screen with Ajay sir, Arshad, Riteish; those people whose comic timing is such that they elevate the scene even without speaking. So, you have to up your game. My focus was on ensuring my character would not be lost, because this is an established franchise with beloved characters. I should not look out of place," says Sanjeeda. In Dhamaal 4, Sanjeeda's character does as much action as she does comedy. In fact, in many scenes alongside other veteran action stars, it was Sanjeeda's character in the thick of things. "In all my scenes, if you've seen, there is action involved," says the actor, I was actually fooled; I was told I had to do comedy, but they made me do action!" Sanjeeda says it became a joke on set that she was doing action scenes while Ajay Devgn, a veteran action star, was on set for the comedy bits. Ajay Devgn is on set, and I am doing all the action scenes. It had just become a joke on set."



Ravi Kishan reacts to his viral 'Money follows my brother' line

Actor-MP Ravi Kishan is currently ruling social media. Be it his dancing style, his interview answers or media interactions- his Midas touch has ensured they all achieve virality. One dialogue among them, about money, has particularly caught on with the masses.

The clip is from a podcast chat Ravi did with Raj Shamani. The host had asked him what does he want more- pehchaan (recognition) or paisa (money), to which Ravi instantly replied, "Pehchaan. Money follows my brother!" The political

party Ravi's a part of, Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) took notice of his viral line and used it in one of their latest videos targeted at the Gen Z. Ravi in turn reposted it on his official X account, and wrote in the caption, "A good reputation is more valuable than money- PUBLILIUS SYRUS. Reputation & money are linked- & the argument is that reputation is king." The other reels featuring Ravi, now meme material, include one where he expresses his wish to become India's Al Pacino. Another one is him recounting his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On the professional front, Ravi continues to be active in films. His latest release is Aryabhata Ka Zero , in which he co stars with Himansh Kohli, Shilpa Shinde and Sonnalli A Sajani. His upcoming slate also has Khosla Ka Ghosla 2, a sequel to the 2006 original.

Mahesh Bhatt says Raha will 'outdistance' Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt

Raha may be one of Bollywood's youngest star kids, but according to her grandfather Mahesh Bhatt, she has already become the centre of attention at home. The filmmaker recently opened up about his granddaughter's lively personality, saying her energy takes over the entire household and predicting that she could one day "outdistance" her famous parents, Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. Talking about Raha in an interview with Times of India, Mahesh spoke about how her energy captivates everyone and said, "She'll outdistance Ranbir Kapoor and Alia by miles. She's different. She has a different vibe. When she comes, the whole house becomes hostage to her energy. For those few hours, she becomes the centre of everything." He added that Raha reminds him of a younger Pooja Bhatt and said, "I recently went with Neetu (Kapoor) to her school for her Grandparents' Day. Soni was in Istanbul. We were walking through a cloud of soap bubbles. I was holding Raha's hand while Neetu was holding the other. It was a beautiful moment. That was something which I remember doing with only Pooja. It brought back

memories of walking with Pooja when she was little. Suddenly, time collapsed. She is a vibrant version of Pooja. (Eventually) The same kind of family."

About Raha Kapoor

Ranbir and Alia tied the knot in an intimate wedding ceremony at their residence in 2022, with only close friends and family in attendance. The same year, the couple welcomed their daughter, Raha. When Raha turned one, Ranbir and Alia introduced her to the world. While some fans felt she was a mini version of her mother, others also noticed a resemblance to her late grandfather, Rishi Kapoor. Alia and Ranbir have often spoken about how Raha has changed them. In a podcast with Jay Shetty, Alia spoke about Ranbir and Raha's bond and said, "When he looks at Raha, there are stars in his eyes. Of course, (that's true) for any parents. But when I see it, because I've known Ranbir before and I know him now, I see the difference. I see the difference in the way he is with people, you know, as a father. He's just so sort of full.



India's non-fossil fuel power capacity crosses 300 GW mark

New Delhi (Agency): In a major milestone for the nation's clean energy transition and climate action targets, India has crossed 300 GW of non-fossil fuel-based installed electricity generation capacity as on July 31, 2026, which accounts for over 54 per cent of country's total electricity generation capacity of around 552 GW, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on Sunday. The growth in clean energy generation has been anchored by contributions across sectors. Solar energy remains the key growth engine with around 165 GW at present from just 2.8 GW in 2014.

Concurrently, the wind energy sector has also seen strong momentum, reaching over 58 GW from 21 GW in 2014, the statement said. During 2025-26, a record capacity of 55.29 GW of non-fossil-fuel-based electricity capacity was installed in the country with key contributions from 44.6 GW solar power and 6 GW wind power. India has already achieved 60 per cent of the 500 GW non-fossil fuel power capacity targeted to be achieved by 2030 as the country makes rapid progress towards building an Aatmanirbhar energy ecosystem. The growth in renewable energy capacity is also reflected in renewable



energy generation in the country, which has increased from 190.96 billion units in 2014-15 to 477.79 BU in 2025-26. India has already achieved 60 per cent of the 500 GW capacity targeted to be achieved by 2030 as the

country makes rapid progress towards building an Aatmanirbhar energy ecosystem. To support this rapid expansion and ensure supply chain independence, India has transformed its domestic manufacturing capabilities. Driven by the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme focusing on the nation's solar installations with high-efficiency, indigenously produced modules, the enlisted capacity under the Approved List of

Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) for Solar PV Modules has crossed the historic 200 GW milestone, rising from just 2.3 GW in 2014. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is also driving deep industrial decarbonisation, positioning India to become a global hub for the production, usage, and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives, through the implementation of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Clean energy transition is no longer just a climate commitment -- it is central to shaping India's industrial competitiveness, energy independence, and economic resilience, the statement added.

GeM enters 11th year, connects over 1.37 lakh government buyer organisations with 25 lakh sellers



New Delhi (Agency): As the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) begins its 11th year, it now connects more than 1.37 lakh government buyer organisations with nearly 25 lakh sellers and service providers, facilitating cumulative procurement worth over Rs 20 lakh crore. According to an official factsheet, the focus is shifting towards a smarter and more integrated public procurement ecosystem with GeM which was launched on August 9, 2016. "Artificial intelligence and wider participation will further strengthen transparency, efficiency and governance. By connecting government demand with local enterprises, GeM advances 'Vocal for Local', 'Make in India' and inclusive economic growth. GeM continues supporting India's journey towards a digitally empowered and self-reliant economy," according to the factsheet. Beyond facilitating transactions, GeM has become an important pillar of India's Digital Procurement Ecosystem. It provides a comprehensive digital marketplace with over 10,660 product categories and 350 service categories, meeting diverse government procurement needs. The marketplace includes medical equipment, furniture, computers, fire safety equipment and handicrafts, alongside services such as transport, catering, vehicle hiring and human resource services. Multiple procurement modes, integrated payment systems and online contract generation further ensure transparent, efficient and end-to-end digital procurement. The GeM has partnered with Common Service Centre e-Governance Services India Limited (CSC-SPV) in June 2026. Under the partnership, 50 GeM Suvidha Kendras will be established on a pilot basis across select States and Union Territories. The platform has expanded market access for traditionally underrepresented groups by enabling transparent, technology-driven participation in government procurement. Over 11 lakh registered Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) executed more than 51 lakh orders worth over Rs 2.36 lakh crore, and more than 2.1 lakh registered women-led MSEs secured procurement worth over Rs 28,000 crore. Among the SC/ST enterprises, procurement exceeded Rs 6,000 crore, registering nearly 28 per cent annual growth, and among startups, procurement crossed Rs 19,000 crore, recording over 36 per cent annual growth. Moreover, the GeM has introduced dedicated initiatives including SWAYATT, Startup Runway 2.0, Womanitya and the SARAS Collection. These initiatives improve market access for startups, women entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups (SHGs), artisans and other underserved communities.

Govt's CPGRAMS becomes one of world's largest digital public grievance redressal platforms

New Delhi (Agency): The Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), has emerged as one of the world's largest digital public grievance redressal platforms over the past decade. Through sustained reforms, technological innovation and a strong focus on citizen satisfaction, the platform has transformed the way citizens engage with government institutions, an official factsheet said on Sunday. The platform, which comes under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, has transformed

public grievance redressal in India through digital innovation, institutional reforms and citizen-centric service delivery. "Connecting all Central Ministries, Departments, States and Union Territories through a single platform, CPGRAMS enables timely grievance resolution, promotes accountability, and strengthens transparent governance while ensuring that every citizen's voice is heard and addressed," the official statement said. The number of grievances handled annually increased nearly nine-fold, from about 3.01 lakh in 2014 to around 27 lakhs in

2024. This reflects growing public trust. The grievance redressal network has also expanded significantly. The number of Grievance Redressal Officers rose from 10,232 in 2014 to more than 1.11 lakh by 2025. "These reforms have improved service delivery and reduced delays. The average grievance disposal time in Central Ministries and Departments fell from 157 days in 2014 to just 15 days in 2025," said the statement. Citizens can make a one-time registration and can lodge a complaint online. They can also lodge complaints via the CPGRAMS mobile app



(also integrated with UMANG), or at any of more than 5 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) associated with 2.5 lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs across the country. Offline grievances received by post are digitised and uploaded to the system. The system facilitates mapping of last mile GRO for auto-routing of complaints to the appropriate authority. The status

of the grievance filed in CPGRAMS can be tracked with the grievance unique registration ID provided at the time of registration of the complainant. The Comprehensive Guidelines for Effective Redressal of Public Grievances, issued in August 2024, rationalised the timeline from 30 days to 21 days. It has mandated dedicated grievance cells, root cause analysis, and strengthened escalation mechanisms. The average grievance disposal time in C e n t r a l Ministries/Departments reduced from 157 days in 2014 to 15 days in 2025.

Air India Phuket-Delhi turbulence: Pilot may lose licence if dope test positive, says pilots' body chief



New Delhi (Agency): The pilot of the Air India Phuket-Delhi flight that encountered mid-air turbulence could face cancellation of his flying licence and other penalties if his dope test is officially found positive, the pilot's body chief

said on Sunday. Captain CS Randhawa, President of the Federation of Indian Pilots said that the airline has not officially released the results of the doping test and that he would not comment on reports claiming that the pilot had tested positive

until there was an official confirmation. "Currently, the doping test results are not out officially by the airline, so we will wait for the official confirmation. I won't comment that that test is positive," he said. Randhawa said that if the test is found positive, cancellation of the pilot's licence could be among the repercussions, apart from penalties and other consequences that could affect the pilot's future. "If the test seems positive, then the license cancellation of the pilot can also take place because of this.

Govt strengthens oversight as DAPSC expenditure trails revised estimates

New Delhi (Agency): The actual expenditure under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) has remained below the revised budget estimates every year since 2020-21, with fund utilisation falling to 85.65 per cent in 2025-26, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment said on Sunday. The government said it has intensified monitoring of DAPSC allocations across 38 ministries and departments to ensure optimal utilisation of funds earmarked for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes. "The government has informed the Rajya Sabha that, as per the NITI Aayog Guidelines, 2017 for the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC), earlier known as the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP), 38 Ministries/Departments of the government are earmarking funds across various schemes for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes," it said. Replying to a question raised by Rajya Sabha member Golla Baburao, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale said that actual expenditure under DAPSC has consistently remained below the Revised Estimates (RE) during every financial year from 2020-21 to 2025-26.

IIMA, Cyril Shroff jointly set up leadership academy for new era corporate lawyers

New Delhi (Agency): Cyril Shroff, managing partner of law company Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, and the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad have jointly set up the Cyril Shroff-IIMA GC Leadership Academy, an initiative aimed at preparing general counsels for the modern era who are required to take on new roles that go beyond traditional legal advisory functions to cover various managerial aspects of modern enterprises.

Shroff said that the academy aims to create a globally relevant platform to prepare future legal leaders with judgement, capabil-



ity and purpose as the role of the General Counsel has moved from legal advisory to enterprise leadership. The academy has been established through a personal philanthropic commitment by Cyril Shroff and the Shroff family, according to the statement. The initiative comes as the role of general counsels has expanded

beyond traditional legal advisory functions to include enterprise strategy, governance, risk management, technology and business transformation. The academy will focus on areas including enterprise leadership, finance integration and technological readiness, according to an IIM Ahmedabad statement.

Indian car industry likely to reach 6.1-6.3 million units by FY31: Maruti Suzuki India Chairman

New Delhi (Agency): The Indian car industry is projected to grow to 6.1 to 6.3 million units by FY2030-31 and the share of the small car market would grow significantly faster than its pace of growth in the last five years, RC Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said on Sunday. Bhargava said that GST reforms have given a new impetus not only to the automobile industry but to several sectors of the economy and "We are in the process of making as accu-

rate an estimate as possible of the likely growth of the car market in the next five years". Maruti Suzuki India has released its 'Annual Integrated Report 2025-26', which highlights how the revival of the small car segment, the strengthening of the company's SUV portfolio, its multi-powertrain strategy, focus on capacity expansion and robust export performance have created fresh momentum for growth. The automaker registered its highest-ever annual sales of 24.22 lakh vehicles and



record exports of 4.47 lakh vehicles in FY 2025-26. Having achieved the 2 million sales mark for the third consecutive year, the company, supported by all the key growth drivers in place, is optimistic about reaching

its next million-vehicle milestone earlier than anticipated, according to a statement. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director and CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, said that "we accelerated our capacity expansion plans. During FY2026-27, we added 500,000 units of manufacturing capacity". "Customer expectations continue to evolve rapidly. The company has plans to introduce 7 SUVs in the next 5 to 6 years to further strengthen SUV portfolio," Takeuchi informed.

ED files supplementary complaint against RCom in Rs 40,185 crore PMLA case

New Delhi (Agency): The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has filed a supplementary prosecution complaint against Reliance Communications Limited under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act before the special court for PMLA cases here, according to an official statement issued on Sunday. The supplementary prosecution complaint was filed on Saturday in continuation of the first prosecution complaint dated March 27.



Reliance Communications Limited (RCom), Reliance Telecom Limited (RTL), Gautam Bhailal Doshi, Sateesh Seth, Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, and others have been arraigned as accused for offences under Section 3 and Section 3 read

with Section 70, punishable under Section 4 of the PMLA, 2002, the statement said.

The proceeds of crime are quantified at Rs 40,185.55 crore, which is the total outstanding amount that has been defaulted by

the borrower entities to consortium banks, financial institutions and bondholders. Distinct roles of the accused in the raising, deployment, concealment and projection of the funds, including false certification of the end-use of \$1 billion in Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCB) proceeds have been brought out. Confiscation of properties worth Rs 8,078.06 crore, attached and confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority, has been prayed for.

Bhuvneshwar keeps ODI WC ambitions grounded, says 'can't predict what will happen'



Lucknow (Agency): India and Lucknow Falcons pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar refused to look too far ahead when asked about his chances of making the ODI World Cup squad, insisting that his immediate focus remains on playing and performing rather than predicting what the future may hold "I have to play, I am playing. I can't predict what will happen after that," Bhuvneshwar told IANS when asked if his recent performances in white-ball cricket, including the IPL and domestic competitions, could put him in contention for the ODI World Cup The experienced pacer is set to lead the Lucknow Falcons in the fourth edition of the Uttar Pradesh T20 League, which will get underway on August 14. For Bhuvneshwar, the tournament represents another opportunity to contribute on the field while helping the next generation of Uttar Pradesh cricketers navigate the demands of competitive cricket The 24-day UPT20 Season 4 will feature 34 matches and, for the first time, will be staged across two cities. Lucknow will host the opening phase at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, with 22 matches scheduled across 13 match-

days, before the tournament moves to Green Park Stadium in Kanpur for the remaining 12 matches over 11 matchdays Bhuvneshwar, who has been part of the league since its early years, believes the tournament has grown steadily and can serve as an important stepping stone for players aspiring to reach the IPL and, eventually, the national team "This is the fourth year of the league and every year we are seeing an improvement, be it the ability of the players, or the facilities provided by UPCA, or the way they carry out operations. I am sure there's a good future. I think every state is having a league, not just UPCA."

'I'm hungry for more':

Ashmita savours maiden BWF World Tour title after Korea Masters triumph



Asan City (Agency): Ashmita Chaliha's breakthrough moment on the BWF World Tour left her struggling to put the achievement into

words as the 26-year-old Indian overcame China's fourth-seeded Han Qian Xi 14-21, 21-14, 21-14 in 53 minutes to win the Korea Masters women's singles title here on Sunday. "I feel really great; it's unbelievable. I'm still trying to digest it," Ashmita said in a video by Olympics.com after completing a comeback victory that earned her a maiden BWF World Tour crown and moved her closer to a place among the world's top 40. The Indian, ranked No. 50 before the tournament, had to negotiate challenging conditions as she recovered from a slow start in the final. Ashmita initially led 9-5 but was unable to maintain her advantage and surrendered the opening game 14-21. The conditions, however, played a significant role in how the match unfolded, and Ashmita found her rhythm once she switched sides. "First set was a little bit tricky because of the drift conditions, so I wasn't able to manage it. But then the second set, the other side is more comfortable, and it's a little bit less drift. So I was able to control it. In the third set, when I changed again after 11 points, I was on the good side...so I'm glad that I could pull off. That adjustment proved decisive. Ashmita steadily took control of the second game before carrying the momentum into the decider, where she kept Han under pressure to close out the biggest title of her career.

Rigid RTP benchmarks and technology key to player recovery at CoE

says VVS Laxman



Bengaluru (Agency): Amidst the list of injured players of the senior men's team in double digits at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru, it's head VVS Laxman on Sunday said that they must meet strict, data-driven fitness benchmarks and complete two Return To Play (RTP) matches before being cleared to rejoin national or domestic teams. Addressing reporters at the CoE facility here, Laxman detailed the multi-layered diagnostic and recovery setup that connects the BCCI with world-renowned medical specialists,

as he pushed back against the criticism of its injury-management protocols "The process starts with diagnosing the injury and finishes with a player declared fit after the two RTP (Return To Play) matches we have. Diagnosing, obviously, wherever the player gets injured in whatever environment - if it's the Indian team, the Indian team physio understands the nature of the injury and then we've got experts and specialists with whom we have got a year-long connection "Dr Rowan (Schouten) is the one we go as far as stress fracture for the back is concerned.

England opener Emilio Gay set to be fit for Pakistan Test series: Report



London (Agency): England have received a big boost ahead of their test series against Pakistan starting on August 19, as their opener Emilio Gay, who suffered a shoulder injury while playing for Durham against Middlesex on Friday, is expected to be fit for the first test match at Headingley. Gay made his debut against New Zealand earlier this year and started off his career scoring two half-centuries in the three-match series. Although he missed a hundred and was inconsistent, his partnership with Ben Duckett impressed the team management, who are keen to give him a long rope after removing Zak Crawley from the team due to poor performances. According to the Daily Mail Sport, a scan on Saturday revealed no serious damage, allowing Gay to resume his opening partnership with Ben Duckett as England's Test team embark on their latest new era with Pakistan's Test. The series will also mark Joe Root's first official assignment in his second stint as England's Test captain since stepping down in 2022. The squad selection involved newly appointed head coach Stephen Fleming along with Marcus Trescothick, who will oversee the team as interim head coach for this series before the former assumes full charge. England have already suffered a blow ahead of the three-match contest as their top-order batter Jacob Bethell has been ruled out due to a knee injury sustained during the recent 2-1 ODI series win against India. England is coming to the contest after suffering a 2-1 defeat against New Zealand at home, while on the other side Pakistan have arrived after drawing the Test series in the West Indies. England squad for first two Tests against Pakistan: Joe Root (captain), Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Sam Cook, Jordan Cox, Ben Duckett, Matthew Fisher, Emilio Gay, Dan Lawrence, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Jamie Smith, and Josh Tongue.

Durand Cup: Langsning FC make bold debut as 'Men in Pink' emerge as Group E contenders

Shillong (Agency): Langsning FC have made an emphatic entry into the Durand Cup, combining attacking flair with resilience to remain unbeaten after their opening two matches and establish themselves as serious contenders for a place in the knockout stage. Making their debut in Asia's oldest football tournament, the Shillong-based club opened their campaign with a stunning 5-0 win over fellow debutants Mumbai FC before fighting back from two goals down to draw 2-2 against local rivals Nongkseh SS&CC in a fiercely contested Shillong Derby. The contrasting results have offered an early glimpse of a side that has grown accustomed to competing at the top level of Meghalaya football and is now beginning to make its presence felt on a national stage. Langsning's first match came with the pressure that naturally accompanies a tournament debut. For much of the opening half against Mumbai, they dominated possession and created opportunities but were unable to find a breakthrough. Head coach Khlain Pyrkhat Syiemlieh opted against major tactical changes at the interval, instead asking his players to return to the plan that had served them well. "In the first half, they didn't stick to our plan," he reflected afterwards. "When we came back into the dressing room, I told them why they weren't following it. Once we started doing



that again, we dominated." The response was immediate. Six minutes into the second half, Syed Ahmed headed Langsning in front from a corner, scoring the club's first-ever Durand Cup goal. Ahmed went on to score again, while teenager Kyrmenskhem Mukhim, Diborni Chanlang Ki O Kassar and Samuel Phawa also found the net as Langsning completed a 5-0 rout. Ahmed, who had already established himself as one of the standout performers of the opening game, said the occasion carried particular significance for him. "It feels amazing," he said with a smile. "First of all, I thank God Almighty for giving me this opportunity. This is my first Durand Cup and

Alhamdulillah, I scored two goals. Inshallah, I'll score more goals in the next matches and help the team qualify." The striker narrowly missed out on a hat-trick but remained confident about his prospects in the games ahead. "No problem," he laughed. "In the next match." The performance also underlined the youthful character of the Langsning squad. Syiemlieh has revealed that the average age of his team is around 24, with five or six players still below the age of 20. Among them is 18-year-old Mukhim, who marked his Durand Cup debut with a goal. "It was my first Durand Cup," Mukhim admitted. "When I went onto the ground, I felt scared. But once

the match started, I wasn't afraid anymore." The youngster has already set his sights on reaching the highest levels of the game. "I want to play for a big club," he said. "And hopefully one day for India." Langsning's second match provided a different test. Their clash with Nongkseh was not only a battle for points but also a contest between two sides with a recent history of rivalry. Nongkseh had defeated Langsning in both the SSA Champions Cup semi-final and the Meghalaya State League final earlier this year. Langsning started brightly and came close to opening the scoring, forcing two goal-line clearances. Ahmed also appeared to have put them ahead with another impressive effort, only for the goal to be ruled out for offside. Nongkseh subsequently punished those missed opportunities, taking a 2-0 lead through Shano Tariang and captain Hardy Nongbri before half-time. But Langsning again demonstrated their ability to respond under pressure. Within five minutes of the restart, Mebanshngain Kurkalang headed in from a long throw to halve the deficit. Two minutes later, Ahmed rose highest to head home the equaliser and bring Langsning back into the contest. Kurkalang revealed the personal motivation behind his goal. "I told my mother that I would score today," he said afterwards. "So I did it for her... and for the love of my life, Veronica. And all thanks to God."

'Every athlete dreams...': CWG medallists excited to meet PM Modi

New Delhi (Agency): India's Commonwealth Games medallists, who are set to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, expressed excitement about having a face-to-face conversation with the Prime Minister, calling it "every athlete's dream to have such an experience". India concluded its campaign with 39 medals (13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze) despite competing in a significantly reduced programme that excluded medal-rich sports such as wrestling, badminton, table tennis, hockey and shooting, finishing fourth in the medal tally. Seema Kaliraman, who won a bronze medal in the women's discus throw in Glasgow, told IANS ahead of meeting the Prime Minister, "Every athlete dreams of having such an experience. Our Prime Minister supports athletes in every possible way and encourages us in all aspects. He also keeps checking on us from time to time and asks how things are



going. As soon as we won the medal, he congratulated us as well." India created history in para-athletics at the Commonwealth Games 2026 as Soman Rana clinched the country's first-ever gold medal in the Men's Shot Put F57 event, while compatriot Shubham Juyal completed a memorable one-two by claiming silver on Saturday. "I am from the Army, and I am very happy to have got the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister today. After winning at the Commonwealth Games, meeting him and receiving his blessings has given me a lot of motivation and encouragement, and I feel very proud," Rana said. Shubham, meanwhile, added, "Our schedule was also quite busy after the Commonwealth Games, and now I have got the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I think this is a very good opportunity because very few people get the chance to meet the Prime Minister of their country."

Sports Min Mandaviya leads anti-drug oath during 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle'

New Delhi (Agency): Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday led the nationwide 85th edition of 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' from Hanoi in Gujarat, with the event centred around the theme 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' and the message, 'Say yes to fitness, Say NO to drugs. Organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the Fit India Movement, the initiative placed India's youth at the forefront of the campaign against substance abuse, with participants taking a collective pledge to stay away from drugs and adopt a healthy and active lifestyle. Labelling Sundays on Cycle as a mass



movement, Dr Mandaviya said, "I am delighted that the initiative has evolved into a major movement to advance the Prime Minister's Fit India Movement. Young people

across more than 10,000 locations nationwide have conveyed the message through cycling..." Started in December 2024 by Mandaviya, more than 30

lakh people have participated in Sundays on Cycle all across India. In Delhi, the mega event was organised at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. One of the

key highlights of the programme was the collective 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' or 'Drug Free India' pledge, during which more than 1000 participants pledged to lead lives free from substance abuse and inspire their families, friends and communities to adopt healthier lifestyles. The fitness activities began early on Sunday morning. By 5:30 AM, more than 1,000 citizens had arrived at the venue to participate in various fitness activities, including yoga and Zumba. Participants then embarked on a 5-kilometre cycling ride around the iconic India Gate and Kartavya Path. A dedicated game zone was also set up at the venue, featuring carrom, chess.

BJP to resume talks with allies for joint contest in Tripura Village Committee polls

Agartala (Agency): The ruling BJP will resume fresh talks with its tribal party allies -- the Tipra Motha Party (TMP) and the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) -- to jointly contest the crucial elections to the Village Committees under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC). A BJP leader said that following directions from the party's central leadership, the state leaders are working on strategies to jointly contest the elections to the Village Committees, which are equivalent to Gram Panchayats, under the TTAADC. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha will travel to New Delhi on Sunday evening to hold meetings with TMP leaders in the presence of central



BJP leaders. The important meeting is likely to be held on Sunday night or Monday. The TMP leaders, including the party supremo Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma, are now camping in Delhi. "We will talk to the TMP leaders in the presence of our central leaders about the upcoming Village Committee elections. At the moment, I am unable to disclose the details of the meet-

ings or the proposed joint contest in the polls," CM Saha told the media on Sunday. The Chief Minister also said that his government was always ready to hold talks with surrendered militants (tribals) regarding their issues, problems and demands. "I am also personally ready to talk with the leaders of the surrendered militants. Our officials are in touch with them. We are

always concerned about the issues and problems of all concerned," he said. Elections to 587 Village Committees under the TTAADC, along with more than 20 urban local bodies, are scheduled to be held within this year. In the TTAADC elections held on April 12, the Tipra Motha Party (TMP) secured a sweeping victory, winning 24 of the 28 elected seats. The BJP managed to win only four seats. The BJP and its two tribal-based allies -- the TMP and the IPFT -- had contested the polls separately after failing to reach an electoral understanding. Since 2021, the TMP has governed the strategically significant council, widely regarded as the second most important constitutional and political institution in

Tripura after the state Assembly. The 30-member TTAADC consists of 28 elected representatives and two members nominated by the state government, and it administers nearly 70 per cent of Tripura's 10,491 sq km geographical area. Meanwhile, on August 6, the BJP's central leaders held two separate important meetings with 14 senior state leaders in Delhi and discussed the upcoming Village Committee and urban local body elections, besides other organisational matters. A senior BJP leader in Tripura said, "The central leaders have asked the state leaders to further gear up the party and strengthen the organisation ahead of the crucial elections to the Village Committees and urban local bodies.

Three Kanwariyas killed, one injured in Punjab road accident

Fatehgarh Sahib (Agency): The sacred 'Kanwar' pilgrimage turned deadly for three devotees who reportedly lost their lives, while another was left critically injured, after being hit by an unidentified truck near Sirhind, in Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib district early on Sunday. Speaking to IANS, Mukesh Kumar, 'sevadar' at Shiv Seva Kanwar Sangh, said: "There was an accident near Sirhind on the main highway between 2.15 and 2.30 a.m. There were around 100 Kanwariyas.

An unidentified truck driver hit them. Six of them were hit, of whom three died, one was seriously injured, while two others are fine." The pilgrims were returning from Haridwar after taking the holy water of the River Ganga for Lord



Shiva's worship.

"The post-mortem examination of the deceased is currently underway, after which their bodies will be taken to their hometown through ambulances run by social organisations." In a similar incident reported from Bihar's Begusarai on Thursday, a speeding truck rammed into a broken-down CNG tempo carrying devotees. The tempo driver died during treatment, while several Kanwariyas sustained

injuries in the accident. The incident occurred in the Sahebpur Kamal police station area between Bakhda Dhala and Sanha Dhala. According to police, the CNG tempo was carrying devotees from Barauni to Sultanganj to collect holy Ganga water for offering to Lord Shiva. After the vehicle developed a mechanical fault, the driver and the pilgrims stepped down and began pushing it along the roadside.

Bring back Sasikala, T.T.V. Dhinakaran to AIADMK, Velumani, Viswanathan urge EPS

Chennai (Agency): Senior AIADMK leaders S.P. Velumani and Natham R. Viswanathan have urged party General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami to bring V.K. Sasikala and T.T.V. Dhinakaran back into the party fold, while launching a sharp attack on his leadership over a series of electoral and alliance decisions. In a joint statement, the two leaders alleged that Palaniswami's unilateral decisions had contributed to the AIADMK's successive electoral setbacks and created widespread disappointment among party functionaries and cadres. They accused Palaniswami of failing to seize an opportunity to forge an alliance with the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) ahead of the 2026 Assembly election. They also alleged that after the election, he sought to negotiate with the DMK over government formation without adequately consulting senior party leaders. Velumani and Viswanathan claimed that differences over the AIADMK's post-election strategy had triggered serious divisions within the organisation, with 25 of its 47 MLAs opposing moves that they believed went against the political legacy of party founders M.G. Ramachandran and former Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa. Tracing the party's electoral setbacks, the leaders said Union Home Minister Amit Shah had held discussions in Chennai ahead of the 2021 Assembly election in an attempt to facilitate an alliance involving Dhinakaran. Though ousted party leader O. Panneerselvam was agreeable to the proposal, Palaniswami rejected it, they alleged, claiming the decision cost the AIADMK opportunities in several constituencies. The duo further accused Palaniswami of sidelining parties and leaders who had been part of the AIADMK-led alliance in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. The statement also criticised the AIADMK's approach to the 2024 parliamentary election, alleging that overtures from the BJP leadership for reviving the alliance were rejected without adequate deliberation. This, they said, helped the DMK-Congress alliance sweep all 40 Lok Sabha constituencies in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. They also alleged that delays in finalising an understanding with the PMK resulted in the AIADMK losing another potential ally. Velumani and Viswanathan said similar mistakes were repeated ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls despite Palaniswami's repeated promise to build a broad coalition. Calling for urgent corrective measures to revive the organisation, the two leaders said the AIADMK should initiate discussions to reunite estranged leaders, including Sasikala and Dhinakaran, and strengthen the party through reconciliation.



Seven militants arrested in Manipur; arms, ammunition seized

Imphal (Agency): The security forces, in separate joint operations in Manipur, arrested seven militants belonging to different banned insurgent outfits and recovered arms, ammunition and other incriminating materials during the past 24 hours, officials said on Sunday. A senior police official said that the seven extremists were apprehended from Imphal West and Bishnupur districts during coordinated operations jointly carried out by the Manipur Police and other Central forces. The arrested militants belong to the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) and the People's Liberation



Army (PLA) and its political wing, the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) and Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL). The official said the arrested militants were allegedly involved in various unlawful activities, including kidnapping and the forcible collection of

"subscriptions", and recruitment of youths in the banned outfits. Security personnel recovered several incriminating documents, subscription receipts, cash, seals, letterheads of the banned outfits and other materials from the possession of the arrest-

ed militants. In three separate joint operations in Imphal East and Imphal West districts, the security forces also recovered a cache of arms and ammunition. The recovered weapons included 11 Single-Barrel Breech-Loading shotguns, six pistols, one anti-riot gun, thirty seven 36 powerful hand grenades, one white phosphorus grenade, one IED weighing approximately 4.6 kg, six empty magazines of SLR, INSAS, .303 rifles, 86 assorted ammunition six Anti Riot Shell, one vehicular set, two hand held sets, 162 live rounds ammunition of different calibres, 26 empty cases and two Stun Shells.

TN minister warns against delimitation, accuses DMK of 'secret understanding' with BJP

Madurai (Agency): Tamil Nadu Minister Nirmal Kumar has strongly opposed the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise, warning that any reduction in the state's representation in Parliament would undermine its political rights, while accusing the DMK of preparing to indirectly support the BJP on the contentious issue. Speaking to reporters after participating in a marathon organised as part of an initiative to make Madurai a garbage-free city, Nirmal Kumar said all political parties in Tamil Nadu should unite against any delimitation formula that could reduce the state's representation on the basis of population. He alleged that the Union government was pushing ahead with delimitation for political reasons at a time when there was no need for such an exercise. Tamil Nadu, which has performed relatively well in population control, could lose parliamentary representation if seats were redistributed purely on the basis of population, he said. Nirmal Kumar argued that the proposed exercise could weaken the political voice of Tamil Nadu and marginalise sections of the population. Protecting the state's rights should therefore take precedence over political differences, and parties should present a united front against any proposal detrimental to Tamil Nadu's interests, he said.

Gujarat to create enclosure at Ambardi Park for lions involved in human attacks

Gandhinagar/Amreli (Agency): The Gujarat Forest Department has begun work on a 100-hectare special enclosure at Ambardi Safari Park in Amreli district to house lions involved in human attacks, in a move aimed at managing human-wildlife conflict while keeping the animals in a natural habitat. The enclosure will be created within Ambardi Safari Park, a reserved forest area of the Gir Protected Area near Dhari. Lions identified as being involved in attacks on humans will be kept in the designated area after being relocated from areas



where they pose a risk to people. Dr Jaipal Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, said: "Lions involved in human attacks will be kept in a suitable environment by fencing a designated area at Ambardi

Safari Park. Necessary instructions have been issued for this work, and the required work has been initiated." The decision comes ahead of 'World Lion Day' on August 10, which is observed to raise awareness about lion conservation and

protection. The state government said various schemes and projects for the conservation and protection of Asiatic lions have been implemented under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. The Forest Department undertakes scientific relocation of wildlife as part of efforts to reduce human-wildlife conflict, provide safe habitats, maintain ecological balance and support the long-term conservation of wildlife species. Wild animals that enter villages or other populated areas are generally captured safely and released in suitable forest areas.

Odisha CM launches 'Har Ghar Tiranga' drive, urges statewide participation

Bhubaneswar (Agency): On the auspicious occasion of August Kranti Diwas, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday launched the historical 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign during a special event in Bhubaneswar. Speaking on the occasion, he appealed to 4.5 crore people of Odisha to proudly hoist the national flag in every village, panchayat, city, home, school, and office across the state from August 9 to August 17. The Chief Minister said the 'Quit India' movement,



which started from the August Kranti Maidan in Mumbai on August 9, 1942, gave a new direction to the freedom struggle. Paying deep tributes to the freedom fighters, brave martyrs, and immortal sons of Odisha in

his address, CM Majhi noted, "The national flag 'Tiranga' is not merely an amalgamation of three colours; rather, it is a symbol of the self-respect, pride, and aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians.

Hyderabad celebrates Bonalu with traditional fervour, devotees throng temples

Hyderabad (Agency): Devotees thronged Mahankali temples in Hyderabad on Sunday as the annual 'Bonalu' festival was celebrated with traditional fervour and gaiety. Special prayers were held at the Simhavahini Mahankali temple in Lal Darwaza in the old city of Hyderabad on the occasion of the 118th annual Bonalu celebrations. Ministers and leaders from various political parties offered prayers at Mahankali Temple, Lal Darwaza, the historic Akkanna Madanna temple at Hari Bowli in Shah Ali



Banda and other temples to the deity in different parts of the city. The festival dedicated to the Goddess of power, Mahankali or Kali, is intended to ward off evil and usher

in peace. Tollywood actors Vijay Deverakonda and Anand Deverakonda and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga were among prominent personalities who

offered prayers at Lal Darwaza temple. Talking to media persons, Vijay Deverakonda greeted people on Bonalu. He said they offered prayers in the name of Sandeep Reddy's production house 'Bhadrakali'. He said he was happy to visit the temple for the first time and seek the blessings of the Goddess. State Endowment Minister Konda Surekha and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud and MP Anil Kumar Yadav offered prayers at Lal

Darwaza temple. The ministers offered silk robes on behalf of the state government. Endowments Commissioner Hanumantha Rao, Police Commissioner Sajjanar, Hyderabad Collector Priyanka Ala, and others were also present. Earlier, the ministers and TPCC chief offered prayers at Bhagyalaxmi temple at Charminar. State Minister for Industries and IT, D. Sridhar Babu, offered prayers at Akanna Madanna Mahankali temple in the old city. He, on behalf of the state government, offered silk robes to the deity.