

Mission flood-free Guwahati: minister reviews flood mitigation measures



Guwahati, Aug 23: Assam Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Kaushik Rai on Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting on Mission Flood-Free Guwahati at the Conference Hall of the Office of the District Commissioner, Kamrup Metropolitan, to review the progress of measures undertaken so far to address urban flooding and waterlogging in Guwahati. Representatives of all

concerned departments and agencies, including Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), PWD (Roads), Water Resources Department, Guwahati Jal Board, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), OIL, NF Railway and Kamrup Metropolitan District Administration, participated in the meeting. During the meeting, detailed

discussions were held on the various initiatives and interventions required in identified areas for effective flood and waterlogging mitigation. Specific areas and responsibilities were assigned to the concerned departments and agencies to ensure coordinated, time-bound and result-oriented action.

MLA, Dispur LAC, Pradyut Bordoloi; MLA, New Guwahati LAC, Dipuranjan Sarmah; Mayor, GMC, Mrigen Sarania, along with senior officials of the respective departments and agencies, were present at the meeting. Emphasising the importance of a coordinated approach, Minister Rai called upon all concerned departments and agencies to work in close coordination and ensure effective implementation and regular monitoring of the measures being undertaken.

The minister directed the District Commissioner, Kamrup Metropolitan, to convene another meeting with all concerned departments and agencies after 10 days to review the reports to be prepared by them on the measures undertaken and proposed for flood mitigation in their respective areas. He further directed that the reports submitted by various departments and agencies be consolidated into a comprehensive report on flood mitigation measures for Guwahati.

Rai reiterated that sustained coordination, proper planning, timely execution and continuous monitoring by all stakeholders are essential to achieve the objective of Mission Flood-Free Guwahati and provide lasting relief from urban flooding and waterlogging to the people of Guwahati.

Tawang gears up for international tourism mart

Tawang, Aug 23: Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh is gearing up to host the proposed International Tourism Mart (ITM 2026), tentatively scheduled from October 28 to 31, 2026, with preparations gaining momentum through a coordination meeting held on Saturday at the DC Office, Tawang.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Tawang, Namgyal Angmo, and attended by ADC Tawang Rinchin Leta, District Tourism Officer Tsering Deki, representatives of taxi and tour operators, and other concerned stakeholders. DTO Tsering Deki presented the tentative day-wise programme and highlighted the steady increase in tourist footfall in Tawang. She expressed gratitude to the Union Ministry of Tourism and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for proposing Tawang as the venue for this prestigious tourism event.

Hosting the ITM will provide a significant platform to showcase Tawang's breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural and spiritual heritage, vi-



brant traditions and warm hospitality to tourism stakeholders and visitors from across the country and beyond. Tawang DC Namgyal Angmo called upon all departments and stakeholders to begin preparations well in advance and work in close coordination. "The earlier ITM conducted in Tawang was very suc-

cessful. This time too, we need to be even more prepared and work collectively to make the event a grand success," the DC said. With collective effort and meticulous planning, Tawang looks forward to welcoming ITM delegates and presenting the very best of this beautiful border district.

Digital learning boosted in Guwahati

Guwahati, Aug 23: Indus Towers Limited, in collaboration with the Bharti Airtel Foundation, has facilitated the installation of two K-YAN digital learning devices at GC CRPF Guwahati Montessori School, located within the CRPF Campus at 9 Mile, Guwahati, Assam. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Ms. Neelam Dhyani, Head, Regional CRPF Family Welfare Association, as the Chief Guest. The programme was attended by Shri Rajender Gurung, Circle CEO (NESA), Indus Towers Limited, representatives from Bharti Airtel Foundation, including Mr. Dibyendu Deb Roy and Mr. Simrandeep Singh, along with CRPF officials, school representatives, teachers and students.

The initiative aims to create a more engaging, interactive and future-ready learning environment by equipping classrooms with modern digital learning tools. The intervention is expected to benefit 114 students, providing them with enhanced access to technology-enabled and experiential learning opportunities that support improved educational outcomes and digital readiness. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Neelam Dhyani, Head, Regional CRPF Family Welfare Association, said, "Every child deserves access to quality education and opportunities that help them realise their fullest potential. The introduction of these digital learning devices marks an important step towards creating a more dynamic and enriching learning environment for our students. Technology has the power to spark curiosity, enhance understanding and make learning more engaging. We are grateful to Indus Towers and Bharti Airtel Foundation for supporting this initiative and contributing to the educational development of children within the CRPF community." The event featured the ceremonial handover of the K-YAN devices, addresses by dignitaries and discussions on the transformative role of technology in enhancing teaching effectiveness and learning outcomes.

Ashtalakshmi Darshan youth exchange Prog showcases Manipur's diversity, tradition

Imphal, Aug 23: The Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme, organised by the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Manipur, in collaboration with the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy (JNMDA), brought together more than 200 delegates to experience and appreciate the rich cultural heritage, traditions and diversity of Manipur.

Addressing the participants, Prof. Khumukcham Tomba Singh, Registrar, NIT Manipur, highlighted the State's remarkable cultural diversity and traditions, including those of its 34 recognised tribes. He emphasised that Manipur's identity is enriched by the coexistence of diverse communities, languages, customs, traditions and artistic practices. Chief guest, Ng. Nongyai Singh, highlighted some of the important challenges confronting the Northeastern Region, including refugee concerns, inadequate infrastructure, socio-economic issues and insurgency.

He stressed the need for concerted and sustained efforts to ensure peace, development and protection

of indigenous communities. The visiting delegates expressed their appreciation for Manipur's vibrant traditions and described its people as peace-loving, welcoming and culturally rich. Their interactions provided them with a deeper understanding of the State beyond its geographical identity and helped them appreciate its social and cultural diversity. As part of the programme, the delegates visited several important historical, cultural and educational sites across Manipur, including: Lok Bhavan Manipur Zoological Garden Ima Keithel Andro Khongjom War Memorial Marjing Polo Complex Kakching.

These visits enabled the participants to experience Manipur's history, heritage, traditional institutions, natural environment and diverse cultural practices. Interaction with district administration officials also provided the delegates with an opportunity to understand the State's developmental priorities and contemporary challenges. A major highlight of the pro-



gramme was the presentation of traditional dance performances at JNMDA, showcasing Manipur's rich and distinctive artistic traditions.

The performances were appreciated by the visiting delegates and provided an important platform for cultural exchange. The participants also experienced the diversity of Manipuri cuisine and local food traditions through meals and food experiences at different locations, including ISKCON, Keina and other venues. Their visit to Ima Keithel and the museum provided further exposure to the distinctive social, economic

and cultural traditions of Manipur.

The programme went beyond conventional sightseeing by creating opportunities for direct interaction between visiting youth and the people of Manipur. Through visits to historical sites, cultural institutions, local markets and communities, the participants were able to experience the State's heritage in a direct and meaningful manner. The programme demonstrated how youth-to-youth interaction can contribute to greater understanding, mutual respect and national unity. By experiencing local traditions,

tasting local food, interacting with communities and learning about the State's contemporary realities, the participants developed a more comprehensive understanding of Manipur and the wider Northeastern Region. Strengthening National Integration.

The Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), Government of India, implemented with the support of the North Eastern Council (NEC). The programme was conceived to strengthen na-

tional integration and emotional bonding between the Northeastern Region and the rest of the country by providing young people with an opportunity to experience the Northeast firsthand. The programme derives its name from "Ashtalakshmi," meaning the eight Lakshmis, representing the eight Northeastern states of India—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The name symbolises the vision of recognising the Northeast as a region of immense cultural richness, diversity, natural resources and development potential.

Launched in 2025, the programme was conceived as a structured youth-exchange initiative aimed not merely at tourism, but at meaningful cultural immersion, academic interaction, community engagement and exchange of ideas. Students and young people from different parts of India are given opportunities to visit the Northeastern states, interact with local communities and youth, and gain first-hand knowledge of the region's history, culture,

traditions and contemporary challenges. The programme was designed on a large scale, envisaging participation of 1,280 students in 40 batches from 28 States and Union Territories, with exchanges covering the eight Northeastern states. Through these interactions, participants are encouraged to become ambassadors of the Northeast and promote greater understanding of the region after returning to their respective states.

As part of this initiative, NIT Manipur successfully organised the Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme on three occasions, demonstrating its continued commitment to promoting cultural exchange and national integration. Despite limitations relating to infrastructure and other logistical challenges, NIT Manipur has successfully undertaken the responsibility of hosting and facilitating such programmes. The Institute's efforts have provided visiting delegates with meaningful exposure to Manipur's cultural heritage, people, traditions and contemporary social realities.

Assam minister meets 14 transport unions' representatives; assures steps to restore normal inter-state operations



Guwahati, Aug 23: Assam border protection and development minister Atul Bora met representatives of 14 motor transport organisations in Guwahati on Sunday and deliberated on their concerns in the wake of the tension along the inter-state border.

The meeting comes less than a day after the protesting drivers and transport unions had decided to put their agitation on hold after three days, following assurances from the minister following a three-hour meeting with Meghalaya deputy chief minister Sniawbhalang Dhar in Guwahati on Saturday. "The representatives raised concerns regarding the safety of vehi-

cles, drivers and passengers following the unfortunate incident in Shillong on August 19, as well as the continuing road blockade by protesters in Meghalaya," Bora said after the meeting.

"I apprised them of the significant decisions taken during Saturday's meeting between the governments of Assam and Meghalaya. Strong measures will be undertaken to ensure the smooth movement of vehicles and restore normalcy," the Assam border protection minister said. Notably, the meeting was held on a day when movement of Assam-registered tourist vehicles towards Shillong were reportedly stopped at Umiyam Junction (Barapani)

on Sunday and sent back towards Guwahati reportedly by members of local taxi associations.

"I have already spoken with Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma and deputy chief minister Sniawbhalang Dhar regarding the road blockade. Senior officials of both governments are also in constant touch, and we are hopeful that the blockade (in Umiyam) will be withdrawn soon," Bora said. "Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is closely monitoring the situation," he said, adding, "Assam and Meghalaya are sister states bound by longstanding ties of harmony and brotherhood. I appeal to all people and stakeholders to maintain peace, restraint and spirit of brotherhood in the greater interest of the region."

The meeting with the organisations at Khanapara was also attended by Guwahati police commissioner and Assam Police STF chief, Partha Sarathi Mahanta and Assam transport commissioner, Manvendra Pratap Singh.

Meghalaya taxi operators protest at Umiyam, say Govt not taking concerns seriously

Shillong, Aug 23: Leaders and members of the All Khasi Meghalaya Tourist Taxi Association (AKMTTA) and the All Shillong Taxi Association gathered at Umiyam to express their protest over what they described as the state government's failure to take their concerns seriously amid the tensions that have arisen between commercial vehicle operators from Assam and Meghalaya.

During the gathering at Umiyam, Ri-Bhoi Assistant Commissioner Eric Dkhar also arrived and tried to advise the drivers not to create any disturbance. He urged them to think collectively and work towards finding an amicable solution so that no further disturbances or unfortunate incidents occur that could affect public peace and security. The association leaders also alleged that the government was treating them unfairly. They said that during the meeting between the ministers of the two governments at Khanapara on Saturday, the Meghalaya Government



decided to compensate the owners of vehicles from Assam that were damaged in Shillong, while nothing was said about Meghalaya commercial vehicles that were damaged in Assam.

The association leaders further expressed disappointment with Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar, saying that after returning from the meeting, he did not say anything about their protest, whether

at Umiyam or Byrnihat. They alleged that when he arrived at these places, he passed through without speaking to them, which they said showed that he was not taking their protest seriously. They therefore said that the government should not act in a one-sided manner and that, whenever discussions are held, the concerns of both sides should be addressed rather than focusing only on the problems faced

by drivers from Assam. Police personnel were also deployed at the gathering at Umiyam to maintain security.

The Assistant Commissioner also strongly appealed to the protesters not to create any disturbance and urged them to resolve the issue through the proper means, in order to address the situation that has emerged and affected the movement of vehicular traffic.

131 of 246 Assam residents stranded in Meghalaya returned safely: CM

Shillong, Aug 23: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa said that 131 of the 246 people from the state who were stranded in Meghalaya have safely returned to the state on Saturday night.

“We are working in close coordination with the Meghalaya Government to ensure that the remaining persons are brought back safely to Guwahati at the earliest,” he said. They returned to Assam after a ministerial-level meeting between Assam and Meghalaya was held at the Koinadhara State Guest House in Guwahati on Saturday.

Following the meeting, the Assam groups, including cab operators, who were staging a road blockade at the



Assam-Meghalaya border against violence in Shillong on August 19, decided to suspend their protest. The meeting, chaired by Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Dr S. Dhar and Assam Minister Atul Bora, lasted more than three hours and was attend-

ed by senior officials from both states. The two governments agreed on a series of measures aimed at restoring normalcy and ensuring the safe movement of tourists, passengers and vehicles between the two states.

The Meghalaya govern-

ment expressed regret over the incidents reported in Shillong on August 19 and assured Assam that strict legal action would be taken against those found involved in the violence. Dhar said a special team had been constituted to identify those involved in the incidents. He added that 15 FIRs had been registered so far and that those arrested would face legal proceedings.

According to Assam Minister Atul Bora, Meghalaya had arrested three leaders of the Khasi Students' Union (KSU), including its president and secretary, in connection with the violence. Five persons allegedly involved in attacks on Assam-registered vehicles had also been identified, he said.

Problems of tourist taxi operators to be resolved by sept 10: Meghalaya deputy CM

Shillong, Aug 23: Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar on Sunday said the State Government would take up the problems faced by tourist taxi operators of Meghalaya while entering Assam and make efforts to resolve the issues by September 10.

Dhar made the statement after holding a meeting with representatives of different tourist taxi associations of Meghalaya following the blockade of Assam-registered vehicles by tourist taxi drivers at Umroi earlier in the day. Describing the meeting as “very fruitful”, Dhar said the taxi associations had highlighted several issues they have been facing while travelling to Assam.

“Their problems are genuine. With-in September 10, I will call a meeting with the Commissioner and Secretary of Transport, senior officials of Home, both Deputy Commissioners and the concerned authorities from Assam and Meghalaya. We will try to resolve all the problems they are facing in Assam,” Dhar said. He also said that the protest-



ers who had stopped Assam-registered tourist vehicles at Umroi on Sunday have decided to allow free movement of vehicles, and that vehicles from both Assam and Meghalaya would ply normally.

On the issue of damage caused to vehicles, Dhar said the associations from both sides had already withdrawn their blockades and that the government was in the process of assessing the losses.

“We have sought the details. Based on the damage, the MVI has to assess it. We are yet to get the number. Everything will be done as per law,” he said.

Dhar also said the situation in Shillong was returning to normal and that the Chief Minister would take the final call on further measures. The meeting came amid heightened tensions between Assam and Meghalaya following incidents involving vehicles from the two States.

Wanted PLA cadre with Rs 4 lakh bounty apprehended in Manipur's Thoubal



Imphal, Aug 23: In a major breakthrough, Assam Rifles and Manipur Police apprehended a wanted People's Liberation Army (PLA) cadre, who was carrying a bounty of Rs 4 lakh on his head.

The arrested militant has been identified as self-styled Captain Balin alias

Thiyam Boycha Singh, from Ushoipokpi in Thoubal district of Manipur. The successful joint operation was launched following precise intelligence generated by Assam Rifles, which established his presence in Bishnupur district. Security forces initiated a targeted search operation at approximate-

ly 5:30 pm, successfully intercepting the accused.

On-the-spot questioning confirmed his identity as Thiyam Boycha Singh, who was wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) with a Rs 4 lakh bounty. He is also a key accused in the November 13, 2021, Churachandpur ambush case that resulted in the death of Colonel Viplay Tripathi, his family members and other personnel. Initial questioning revealed his involvement in PLA activities, including training and prolonged stay at a militant camp in Myanmar, procurement and transfer of war-like stores and linkages with other militant groups.

The apprehended cadre was handed over to Manipur Police at Lilong Police Station in Thoubal district for taking further legal action. This operation underscores the seamless synergy between Assam Rifles and Manipur Police in maintaining peace and regional security, an official statement said.

Nagaland govt not to force people to sing Vande Mataram

Kohima, Aug 23: Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister and minister in charge of Home, Y. Patton, has said the State government would not force anyone to sing Vande Mataram.

He made the statement amid controversy over the Centre's directive on singing the national song in schools and official programmes, which has drawn opposition from various Naga civil society organisations, including the Naga Students' Federation and Nagaland Baptist Church Council.

Patton said the State government could not say it would enforce the directive, maintaining that participation should be a matter of individual choice. “Nobody

is forced to sing, and nobody will be asked to sing, and nobody can stop anyone from singing,” Patton said.

He indicated that the issue could come up for discussion during the forthcoming Ninth session of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, scheduled to begin on September 1.

Asked whether the State government would examine the implications of compulsory observance of the Centre's directive in the context of Article 371(A) of the Constitution, Patton said Article 371(A) would not be affected by the issue. On the ongoing eviction drive near Merapani border, following eviction notices reportedly served to 59 houses by the Assam government, Patton



said Border Magistrates from both Assam and Nagaland were conducting investigation and verification to establish the status of the residents.

He cautioned against identifying the affected area specifically as a Lotha area,

saying the residents could either be illegal immigrants or Nagas. “We will find out, and we will examine the report,” he said. Patton said the State government would await the verification report before drawing any conclusion. (EOM)

Assam agriculture minister participates in national conference on agristack and pulses mission in New Delhi

Guwahati, Aug 23: Assam Agriculture Minister Pijush Hazarika participated in the National Conference on AgriStack under the Digital Agriculture Mission and Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses at the ICAR Convention Centre, Pusa, New Delhi on Saturday.

Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed the progress of Farmer IDs under AgriStack and the Mission for Aatman-

irbharta in Pulses, with participation from States and Union Territories. Addressing the conference, Minister Hazarika highlighted Assam's progress in pulse cultivation, including Arhar demonstrations, black gram cultivation and Front Line Demonstrations. He stressed the potential of rice-fallow areas and char and chapori belts for expanding pulse cultivation.

The Minister highlighted challenges faced by Assam's



small and marginal farmers due to floods and erratic

rainfall and requested priority allocation of breeder

seeds suitable for the North Eastern region. Hazarika also requested 100 per cent subsidy on certified pulse seeds for farmers in Assam for an initial period of two to three years, particularly to support small and marginal farmers and encourage new farmers to take up pulse cultivation. He also proposed that certified seed allocations may alternatively be utilised for Seed Minikit Distribution.

Hazarika further requested

that Assam's small tea growers, who have now started receiving Farmer IDs under AgriStack, be brought under the ambit of PM-KISAN so that they can also avail the benefits of the scheme. The Minister also highlighted Assam's initiatives under AgriStack, including high-yield village clusters, post-harvest infrastructure, Custom Hiring Centres and integration of Soil Health Card data with Farmer Field Schools. (EOM)

Floods displace 974 as 115 homes damaged



Agartala, Aug 23: Heavy rainfall triggered flooding in several parts of Tripura on Sunday, damaging 115 houses and forcing 974 people from 280 families to move into 11 relief camps, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre's daily situation report.

Of the affected houses, 113 suffered partial damage while two were severely damaged. No houses were reported completely destroyed. The report also recorded no deaths or injuries and said there was no reported damage to electricity poles or school buildings. Jirania, Sadar, Teliamura and Khowai were among the areas affected by the flooding. In Jirania, 34 people from 25 families were accommodated in two relief camps. Sadar had five camps sheltering 87 families, with a total of 330 people taking refuge there.

Teliamura reported one severely damaged house following flooding on August 23. A relief camp at Jagannath Bari SB School was accommodating 51 people from 17 families. Khowai recorded the highest number of damaged houses, with 91 partially damaged and one severely damaged. Three relief camps were opened in the

area, providing shelter to 559 people from 151 families.

In Mohanpur, 22 houses were partially damaged following heavy rain on August 22. The report said financial assistance for the affected households was being processed. Several rivers also recorded water levels close to or above their designated thresholds. At 2.30 pm, the Howrah river at Jahar Bridge in Agartala stood at 11.06 metres, matching the critical level mentioned in the report. The Khowai river at Khowai recorded 23.85 metres at 12.30 pm against an expected flood level of 24 metres. The Bijoy river at Laxmibill in Bishalgarh stood at 12.55 metres at 11.30 am, compared with an expected flood level of 13.865 metres.

Several parts of the state recorded substantial rainfall. Lembuchhera received 218 mm, followed by Budhjonnagar with 177 mm and Agartala Airport with 153 mm. Teliamura recorded 129 mm, Tulashikhar 124.6 mm and Secretariat 101.5 mm. The weather outlook accompanying the report warned that light to moderate rain and thundershowers were likely at many places across Tripura over the following 24 hours.

COCOMI demands grievances be addressed before census

Imphal, Aug 23: In view of the serious situation prevailing in Manipur and the growing challenges confronting the people, the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) said it and the United Naga Council (UNC) had jointly submitted a memorandum to the Union Government several years ago, demanding the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state.

COCOMI said several Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) representing different sections of the people in the hills and valley are currently continuing the “No NRC, No Census” movement. It described the agitation as an important struggle aimed at protecting the future of the state and urged the government not to suppress or ignore the demands being raised by the people. Instead, the government should carefully consider the demands and provide sufficient time for dialogue

and discussion before taking any decision, COCOMI said.

The COCOMI pointed to previous movements and agitations in the state, saying many of them emerged because successive governments failed to adequately address the problems and concerns of the people. It said the present situation was also a result of the failure of successive governments to respond effectively to those concerns. Referring to the violence and unrest that began on May 3, 2023, COCOMI said the situation remains unresolved, with different communities still unable to move freely and live together as they did before. Against this backdrop, the government's decision to conduct a Census is “highly questionable” and could further deepen existing divisions, COCOMI said. It described the exercise as potentially ill-considered and insensitive if it does not take into account the ground realities faced by the people.

Rare migratory Smew spotted at Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam

Guwahati, Aug 23: Assam's Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary has recorded its first-ever sighting of the rare migratory Smew (*Mergellus albellus*), marking a conservation milestone for the protected area, Forest and Climate Change Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah said on Sunday.

Alongside the Smew, teams also recorded the endangered Bengal Florican, highlighting the sanctuary's growing importance as a safe habitat for diverse birdlife, he said. “Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary has achieved a remarkable conservation milestone with the first-ever sighting of the rare migratory Smew, alongside the recording of Bengal florican,” Baruah said in a post on X.

He said that during the 7th Kaziranga Waterbird Count 2026, the sanctuary teams recorded a high number of birds and rich



species diversity across important wetlands including Rowmari, Dondowa and Muamari beels. The discovery of the Smew provides another valuable indicator of the ecological importance of these wetlands and their role as wintering grounds for migratory waterbirds. “We are strengthening biodiversity monitoring across Laokhowa so that the changing

patterns of bird populations and wetland ecosystems can be better understood and protected. Every new species record adds to our scientific knowledge and reinforces the importance of conserving these habitats,” he said.

According to the Minister, the government is stepping up enforcement to protect the sanctuary's wetlands from activities

that threaten their ecological balance. Strict action against illegal fishing has already resulted in an arrest, while patrolling is being intensified in vulnerable areas. The authorities are also carrying out surprise checks, establishing monitoring points and taking legal action against repeat offenders to ensure that Laokhowa's wetlands remain protected.

“Our approach is clear: conservation must combine scientific monitoring, habitat protection and strong enforcement. The presence of rare migratory birds is a powerful reminder that healthy wetlands provide refuge to wildlife far beyond Assam,” the Minister said. “Laokhowa is showing that when wetlands are protected, nature returns with remarkable stories — including the arrival of species never recorded here before,” he added. (EOM)

East khasi hills district administration admits lapses; steps up vigil after shillong violence



Shillong, Aug 23: The East Khasi Hills district administration has

stepped up vigil across Shillong in the wake of Wednesday's violence in the capital city. Deputy Commissioner Abhilash Baranwal said that additional companies of CAPF and RAF have been requisitioned for the law and order situation. Admitting that there may have been lapses from the administration into the incident, the DC said that KSU after applying for permission to hold the bike rally had assured that there would be no

law and order issue. It was informed that 31 vehicles were damaged and 16 people were assaulted during the KSU bike rally. Making it clear that the administration will revoke the permission for another march and sit-in demonstration of KSU on Friday, the DC said that there is no need to impose curfew or internet ban. It was also informed that three KSU top brass leaders were arrested from KSU in a late night operation and

police had to resort to tear gas shell- ing after a petrol bomb was hurled on the police when they reached the KSU office to arrest the leaders. The DC also said that the KSU leaders have been sent to judicial custody while assuring that the administration will take every possible step to ensure peace in the city. He further sought people's cooperation in maintaining peace and tranquility in the city

The Yin-and-Yang Approach to the Pellet Gun FIR by Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi

New Delhi, Aug 23: The Gandhi siblings adopted two diametrically opposed but ultimately unified tactics during the Congress sit-in at Delhi's Parliament Street Police Station on Friday to seek the registration of a First Information Report (FIR). Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition, adopted an aggressive strategy, but his sister, Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, opted for a diplomatic approach and acted as a mediator. During the Cockroach Janata Party's rallies against NEET and other document leaks on July 20, Sahil Lochab, 19, was hit by a pellet gun. Rahul Gandhi, Lochab, the teen's mother, and their attorney arrived at the Connaught Place Police Station around noon on Friday in order to file a formal complaint.

They were asked to speak to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), whose office is at the Parliament Street Police Station. Gandhi met the officer with Lochab and his mother and made his demand clear, but was told that the matter was under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court - which has constituted a committee to probe the police action and violence during the protests - and an FIR could not be registered at this stage. The Congress MP insisted on it, however, and also showed the DCP the medical report from the hospital where the teenager had been treated. When Gandhi emerged with Lochab and his mother, an impromptu decision was made to stage a sit-in and refuse to move until the case was registered. This message was conveyed to all party leaders, and several senior figures, such as Salman Khurshid, Kumari Selja and Mukul Wasnik, arrived to join the demonstration. Priyanka Gandhi also joined her brother and the other demonstrators soon after. She initially took part in the sit-in but then began discussing the broader legal strategy with leaders such as Randeep Surjewala and Salman Khurshid, both of whom are lawyers. The MP went inside and spoke to several senior police officials, laying the groundwork for a consensus. While Rahul Gandhi continued the sit-in outside, remaining the public face of the Congress' demand, Priyanka and Lochab's lawyer presented medical and other documents, trying to convince the police officials that sufficient grounds existed for the FIR to be registered.

Assam Congress suspends 14 Barak Valley leaders for six years over alleged anti-party activities



Gauhati, Aug 23: The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) has suspended 14 party leaders from the Barak Valley for six years with immediate effect over their alleged involvement in anti-party activities during the 2026 Assam Assembly elections. The disciplinary action was taken following directions from APCC president Gaurav Gogoi. The suspension order was formally issued by Ramanna Baruah, General Secretary (Organisation) of the Pradesh Congress Committee. According to

the order, the leaders were found to have allegedly adopted an anti-party stance during the recently held Assembly elections, prompting the party to initiate disciplinary action against them. Among those suspended are Silchar District Congress Committee vice presidents Samsur Rahman Choudhury, also known as John, Aktar Hussain Barbhuiya and Mojibur Rahman Choudhury. Several district-level general secretaries have also been suspended. They include Ajmol Hussain Laskar, Shaïne Ahmed Laskar, Mehboob Hussain,

popularly known as Ripon, Hanif Alam Mazumder, Altaf Hussain Laskar, also known as Titu, and Najib Ahmed Laskar.

The action has also been taken against Assam Pradesh Youth Congress Committee General Secretary Ijjaj Laskar, Minority Department General Secretary Jahur Choudhury, Sonai Mandal Congress Committee General Secretary Kadir Ahmed Laskar, former District Minority Department president Ansar Hussain Barlaskar, and Sonai Constituency Youth Congress president Rakib Ahmed Mazumder. The suspension will remain in force for six years, with immediate effect, according to the APCC order. The latest action comes as the Assam Congress continues to review the conduct and organisational activities of its leaders following the 2026 Assembly elections. The disciplinary move is among the steps being taken by the state party unit to address allegations of activities considered to be against the interests and decisions of the organisation.

Six decades on, Zoramthanga to receive degree certificate from Gauhati University

Gauhati, Aug 23: Six decades after completing his undergraduate examination, former Mizoram Chief Minister and Mizo National Front (MNF) president Zoramthanga is set to receive his degree certificate from Gauhati University on August 20. Zoramthanga appeared for his final undergraduate examination in 1966 from Dhanamanjuri College in Manipur, which was then affiliated with Gauhati University. He had English as his major subject and passed the examination with a second-class result. However, he could not collect his degree certificate at the time as he went underground after joining the MNF, which was then engaged in an armed struggle under the leadership of Laldenga. The 82-year-old former Chief Minister will formally receive his certificate from the Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University at a ceremony scheduled for 2.30 pm on August 20 at the Phanidhar Dutta Seminar Hall. Zoramthanga joined the MNF in 1965 and went underground the following year. He re-



mained closely associated with Laldenga until the signing of the Mizoram Peace Accord in 1986 and played important roles in the organisation's political, military and diplomatic activities. During his years underground, he was involved in managing MNF camps in the then East Pakistan and present-day Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan. He also helped establish contacts with China and was involved in peace negotiations with the Government of India. Following the Mizoram Peace Accord and the state's attainment of full statehood in 1987, Zoramthanga entered mainstream politics. He served as Education and Finance Minister in the coalition gov-

ernment formed by the MNF and the Congress. After Laldenga's death in 1990, Zoramthanga became president of the MNF, a position he continues to hold. He served as Mizoram Chief Minister for three terms, from 1998 to 2008 and again from 2018 to 2023. The certificate presentation will be accompanied by a special lecture by Zoramthanga titled "From Guerrilla Fighter to a Peace Maker." The programme is being jointly organised by the Amia Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, the Gauhati University Institute of North East India Studies and the Centre for South East Asian Studies. Gauhati University Vice-Chancellor Professor Nani Gopal Mahan-

ta will inaugurate the lecture, while Subhash Chandra Das, chairman of the governing body of the Amia Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, will attend as the guest of honour. During the lecture, Zoramthanga is expected to reflect on his political journey, including his years as an underground MNF leader, his involvement in the peace process and his subsequent career in electoral politics and government. Zoramthanga is also the author of From Guerrilla Fighter to Chief Minister, an autobiography published by Penguin Books in 2026. The book traces his journey from his early political involvement and years underground to his time as Chief Minister of Mizoram. The presentation of his long-awaited degree certificate comes nearly 60 years after he completed the examination, bringing together an academic milestone from his youth with a later political career that played a significant role in Mizoram's transition from armed conflict to electoral politics.

Road quality and delays in NHIDCL projects in Nagaland are highlighted by the Naga Students' Federation

Kohima, Aug 23: The National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) is working on road infrastructure projects throughout Nagaland. The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) has expressed concerns about the quality of construction, delays, and maintenance of these projects. Although the project received a Completion Certificate in 2023, the Federation has specifically questioned the state of the expanded four-lane Dimapur-Kohima Road, claiming that some sections have acquired defects. The NSF claims that problems with the road include damaged sections, crumbling side walls, poor slope protection, inadequate drainage, and delays in performing maintenance and repairs. It also highlighted flaws in the infrastructure for road safety, such as warning signs, reflective markings, road indicators, and safety barriers. The Federation noted that the project is covered under a five-year Defect Liability Period (DLP) and questioned the lack of adequate rectification work during the period. It said the situation raises concerns over construction quality, project

supervision and accountability of the agencies and contractors involved. The NSF also alleged deficiencies in the design and execution of some bridge structures along the Dimapur-Kohima stretch, claiming that four-lane bridge infrastructure has not been provided at certain locations in accordance with the upgraded highway standards. It further raised concerns over the absence of median landscaping and beautification, inadequate road furniture and safety installations, particularly in view of risks associated with night-time travel and adverse weather conditions. The Federation said similar complaints have been raised by civil society organisations and local communities regarding several other NHIDCL projects across the state. These include the Kohima Bypass Road, Kohima-Mao Road Upgradation Project, Dimapur Bypass Project, slope protection works along NH-29, Akash Bridge-Jessami Road (NH-202), and the Peren-Dimapur section of NH-129A under Packages II and III. The NSF questioned why disciplinary or punitive action had not been initiated against contractors allegedly responsible for substandard

execution despite repeated complaints and reported deficiencies. The Federation has demanded a comprehensive inspection of all NHIDCL projects in Nagaland and immediate repair and rectification of defects covered under the Defect Liability Period. It has also called for the completion of pending works, including drainage systems, slope protection measures, retaining structures, road safety installations and signages. The NSF further demanded that contractors found responsible for substandard work be terminated and blacklisted, and urged the Nagaland government to intensify its engagement with NHIDCL to ensure timely completion and proper maintenance of ongoing projects. The Federation has also called on the state government to take up the matter with the concerned authorities and seek appropriate action against officials and contractors found responsible for deficiencies in infrastructure projects. The NSF said it would continue to monitor NHIDCL projects across Nagaland and pursue further action if concerns over delays, workmanship and maintenance remained unresolved.

Meghalaya cm bats for comprehensive ecosystem to develop veterinary dept

Shillong, Aug 23: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the State Veterinary Hospital in Upper Shillong. Also present during the occasion were Minister, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Shanbor Shul-lai, MLA, Mylliem Constituency, Ronnie V Lyngdoh, Chief Secretary, Dr Shakil Ahammad and officials from the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary department. In his address, Chief Minister Sangma emphasised the need for a comprehensive ecosystem beyond individual schemes in the veterinary department with a focus on animal husbandry and creating a systematic approach.

"The larger purpose and goal should be to create livelihoods and to minimise demand and supply differences through systematic efforts," he said. The Chief Minister described the state veterinary hospital as the hub with the district and the subdivision headquarters as spokes adding, "This hospital cannot function if we do not have the hub and spoke system strengthening infrastructure including machines, equipment, medicines and manpower at all levels." Further, he also emphasised on the importance of achieving goals and targets in a step-by-step, phase-wise manner. He outlined the need to have a comprehensive plan detailing the

The monsoon session of the Tripura Assembly will start on August 27

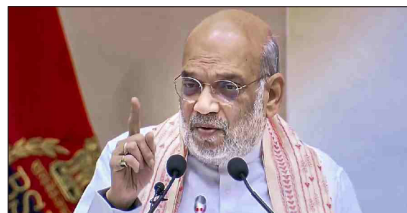


Agartala, Aug 23: The Tripura Legislative Assembly's monsoon session is set to start on August 27 and end on August 31. The House will meet for three days, on August 27, 28, and 31. On Friday, August 21, the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) met in the Assembly and made the decision. Speaker Rampada Jamatia presided over the gathering. Jamatia stated that the session will start at 11 a.m. and clarified that the dates had been decided upon to minimize the typical disruption that occurs when a session starts on a Friday due to the weekend. The Speaker stated, "There is no bill listed

at this time, but one may come during the session." Congress MLA Sudip Roy Barman has already sent the Assembly a short-notice discussion notice about smart meters and electricity bills. According to Jamatia, the notice has been accepted. He said that other notices on issues of public interest can be received prior to the meeting. The agenda, duration, and arrangements for a seamless session were considered during the BAC meeting. Jamatia stated that it will take some more time to establish the envisaged paperless Assembly. Deputy Speaker Ram Prasad Paul, Parliamentary Affairs

Minister Ratan Lal Nath, Transport and Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury, Leader of the Opposition and CPI(M) MLA Jitendra Chaudhury, Congress MLA Gopal Chandra Roy and Minister Animesh Debbarma attended the meeting. The three-day session is expected to provide legislators an opportunity to raise issues concerning public interest, development and the state's future priorities. The Speaker expressed hope that constructive participation and meaningful discussions by members would make the session productive and beneficial for the people of Tripura.

Amit Shah criticizes the two-stanza Vande Mataram ruling by the Congress

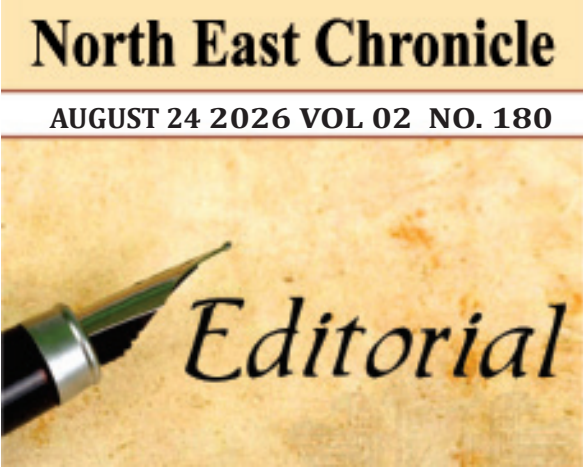


New Delhi, Aug 23: On Thursday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah unleashed a vicious attack on the Congress party, claiming that the party's choice to sing just two stanzas of "Vande Mataram" was not only anti-national but also an outright disobedience of the law and an attempt to pacify the "vote bank." Shah detailed the history of division and emphasized the consequences incurred by the country after the truncation of Vande Mataram, alluding to the Congress Working Committee's decision to stick to just two paras of the national song rather than its entire version. The Union home minister claimed in a statement on 'X,' "In 1937, for the sake of appeasement, it was the Congress itself that fragmented Vande Mataram into two parts." On the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, the Modi government corrected this historic mistake and gave the full song legal form. But under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, the Congress is once again treading the path of appeasement for the sake of its vote bank," Shah charged. The mistake of fragmenting Vande Mataram has happened once, and the nation has already suffered its consequences, he alleged. BJP president Nitin Nabin has slammed the Congress alleging the opposition party has become the "new Muslim League" for votes.



veterinary department's plans for the next five years. Sangma also urged the department to take initiative and create opportunities for entrepreneurship and investment. Concluding his speech, he stressed on a clear timeline and quality control in the project. "Let us ensure that this veterinary hospital is one of the best hospitals and research centres in the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary sector for the entire North East," he said. The State Veterinary Hospital is a landmark investment of nearly Rs 65 crore on around 161 acres of departmental land defining the commitment of the government to animal health, farmer prosperity and a self-reliant rural economy.

The existing State Veterinary Hospital has served Meghalaya for many years, but is now constrained by space and infrastructure limitations. More than 25 percent of the cases attended every day are referrals from different parts of the State, a clear sign that a stronger, modern, State-level referral institution is needed. The new hospital will serve as an apex referral institution, strengthening veterinary services at the district, block and village levels across Meghalaya. The hospital will also offer modern, specialised veterinary care, advanced diagnostics, radiology and imaging, surgery, orthopaedics, inpatient services, laboratory facilities and pharmacy all under one roof.



The permanent outrage republic

The recent optics of the Leader of the Opposition mocking the Prime Minister, with a few avoidable insinuations and inelegances thrown in for effect, were hardly edifying. What followed was equally revealing: a predictable eruption of ‘manufactured outrage’ from the ruling establishment and its ecosystem, complete with solemn pronouncements on dignity and democratic norms, as though political memory began only with the latest offending remark. The point is not to excuse the Opposition’s lapse; some things are simply better left unsaid. It is to note the extraordinary selectivity with which indignation is deployed. The long record of tasteless and personally disparaging remarks from the ruling side is conveniently forgotten, while the latest indiscretion by the other camp becomes a moral emergency. The outrage is less about standards than about ownership of the moral high ground.

Indian politics was always given to drama, noise and decibels. It was never, however, so comically given to self-righteousness. What has intensified in recent years is the theatrical, condescending and patronising showmanship accompanying political disagreement. Minor remarks, obscure social-media posts, and isolated incidents are routinely inflated into national crises, with politicians, television anchors and partisan influencers competing to establish who is most offended. Social media has turbocharged this process. A few carefully selected words are lifted from a speech, stripped of context and amplified until they become the story. The same selective memory governs partisan outrage — an equally foolish or offensive remark by one’s own side is rationalised or forgotten while the opponent’s latest utterance is dissected with theatrical indignation. Soon the substance disappears, replaced by the hapless spectacle of people performing personal offence. Context is always demanded for one’s own camp, and always denied to the other.

The media, rather than restoring proportion, has too often become the amplifier of this silly pathos. A press ecosystem that is partisan, timid, or beholden, has little incentive to puncture the performance as it profits from sustaining it. Every grievance becomes ‘Breaking News’, every stray remark a television panel, every manufactured sleight another round of indignation. The distinction between reporting outrage and manufacturing it has become increasingly blurred. The contrast with an earlier generation is striking. Leaders who had participated in the freedom struggle and the arduous business of nation-building, from Nehru and C. Rajagopalachari to Piloo Mody and Atal Behari Vajpayee, operated under

very different ideologies and were hardly free of flaws. Yet there was a certain largeness of spirit — an ability to accommodate, engage with and sometimes even celebrate the “other”. Fierce disagreement did not automatically become an affront to patriotism or personal dignity. Even parliamentary adversaries such as Vajpayee, Indira Gandhi, Somnath Chatterjee and Sushma Swaraj could combine ideological combat with wit, civility and an appreciation of the opponent’s stature. That quality seems in short supply today. The citizenry, too, has been conditioned to expect theatricality, particularly on “nationalism”, which increasingly shades into jingoism. Anything short of chest-thumping affirmation risks being treated as suspect. Nuance becomes equivocation, criticism disloyalty and scepticism “anti-national”. Patriotism, which should be capacious enough to accommodate dissent and self-criticism, is reduced to a performance in which volume counts for more than thought.

The result is what might be called soap-opera politics — declarations are exaggerated, grievances personalised and political language calibrated for applause rather than persuasion. A politician attempting to make a mark through reason, restraint and prudence risks sounding almost out of place. The prevailing mood seems to beseech ‘manufactured offence’, i.e., to find something, anything, that can be turned into an affront requiring collective indignation. And if all else fails, there is always Pakistan. Invoke the enemy and, remarkably often, the machinery of patriotic outrage starts working again.

This has consequences beyond political decorum. The earlier governments of P.V. Narasimha Rao, I.K. Gujral, Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, despite their considerable differences and imperfections, drew more visibly on economists, administrators, technocrats and domain specialists. Rao had Manmohan Singh; Vajpayee had Jaswant Singh, Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie; Manmohan Singh’s Cabinets included P. Chidambaram, Pranab Mukherjee and Montek Singh Ahluwalia in influential roles. These were they always right, but they brought intellectual heft, administrative experience and, crucially, a degree of independent political personality to government. Expertise never displaced politics, but competence and independent ministerial talent had a discernible premium. Increasingly, across the partisan divide, that space appears narrower. In its place one often finds obsequiousness, non-threatening competence and tokenism. Expertise is welcome so long as it remains politically harmless, and independence surely becomes a liability.

Mapping the margins: the urgent need for India’s migration data

The first dedicated comprehensive migration survey in India in nearly two decades is a chance to gain insight into a segment of the workforce that is key to the economy but has largely been ignored in policymaking. The migrant workforce became visible when India went under lockdown during the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020.

Pictures of labourers walking hundreds of kilometres to reach their villages had a profound impact on policymakers. The crisis not only exposed their vulnerability; it also showed a clear opportunity to build our knowledge of those who make modern India tick. The issue is not just about migrants being uncoun­ted. The assumption that people live, work, access welfare, and build their lives in one place continues to shape public policy today. However, more and more Indians are moving between districts, States and cities to find work, pursue education and seek opportunities. While mobility is emerging as a key part of India’s development narrative, policies based on permanence are lagging behind. Therefore, the government’s decision to carry out a nationwide Migration Survey from July 2026 to June 2027 by the National Statistics Office (NSO) is important. It will provide the most comprehensive migration survey in almost 18 years, after the National Sample Survey’s special migration round in 2007-08. Rapidly evolving labour markets, urbanisation trends and economic aspirations make this an important time to understand one of the most critical but under-researched aspects of modern-day India.

India’s migration is far greater than what is realised. According to Census 2011, nearly 38 per cent of India’s population consisted of migrants, with 45.6 crore counted in 2011 compared with 31.5 crore in 2001. The growth of about 45 per cent was significantly higher than the overall population growth of about 18 per cent over the decade, highlighting mobility as a key aspect of economic change. The Economic Survey 2017 also estimated that almost nine million people move between States annually, making labour mobility one of the most significant demographic changes in India. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2020-21 showed that almost 28.9 per cent of Indians were migrants. The migration rates were 47.9 per cent among women and 10.7 per cent among men.

The main motivation for women migrants is marriage and for men, it is work, but these answers do not necessarily tell the whole story. Women who migrate after marriage are often involved

in the labour force, informal labour and care work, but their economic role is rarely included in the official discourse. Although people often think of migration as movement across State borders, the vast majority of migration takes place within States. Over 80% of migrants are estimated to move within their States, highlighting the significance of intra-State movement between villages, towns and emerging urban centres. Migration and labour force patterns are undergoing seasonal, circular and temporary shifts, which are poorly represented in existing data sources. This statistical invisibility has dangerous implications. When Covid-19 struck, the lack of regular stock-taking of migrants and the absence of databases posed challenges to relief activities and highlighted the shortcomings of welfare systems based on fixed places of residence. The cost of inadequate migration data goes beyond welfare delivery. Lack of migration data skews urban planning, workforce projections, infrastructure investments, and skill development plans. Both cities and the people who live and work within them need reliable information to plan housing, public transportation, healthcare facilities and educational services that effectively meet the needs of residents.

The survey has implica-

tions that go beyond demographic accounting. It is designed to record seasonal and short-term migration, return migration, employment characteristics, housing situation, income fluctuations and intentions to migrate. This information may contribute to understanding migration’s impact on labour markets and local economies. Some key indicators include the duration and frequency of migration, reasons, job type and wages, social security enrolment (e-Shram, EPFO, ESIC), health insurance coverage, portability of ration card, housing tenure and safety, exposure to climate shocks (drought, flood, heat waves). Household sampling frame includes specific modules for short-term, seasonal and return migrants. It will classify migrants by place-of-birth, place-of-enumeration, and length of stay and also will measure industry, occupation and earnings to differentiate economic migration from social migration. State-level results are anticipated 6–9 months after the completion of fieldwork, and microdata and dashboards will be made public. But it is not just about counting movements; it is about understanding vulnerabilities. Do migrants have higher wages than they did previously? Are they able to secure healthcare, insurance and social security? Do mi-

grants have access to secure work and to a decent life? How many people are still outside of urban services, but play an important role in the city economy? Data collection without investigating the outcomes will only give a partial picture.

The survey also comes at a time when migration trends are beginning to change due to climate change. In many regions of India, unreliable rainfall and frequent droughts, causing groundwater depletion and reduced yield, are making rural livelihoods precarious. Migration has become a way of life for many households as a means of coping with environmental and economic uncertainty. However, solid estimates of climate-induced migration are still absent in India, and policymakers are not well equipped to meet the future challenges of changing population patterns. The survey can bridge this important knowledge gap. The federal aspect is also significant. To fill labour shortages in construction, manufacturing, logistics and services, States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are relying increasingly on migrant workers. Thousands of migrant workers in construction, hospitality, transportation and domestic services, as well as in the platform economy, have contributed to Bengaluru’s growth.

At the same time, regions such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha remain significant sources of labour out-migration. Improved migration statistics can assist both origin and destination States in developing policies relating to skills, labour rights and welfare portability.

India’s migration survey should be more than an exercise in counting workers; it must become a foundation for policy reform. The Covid-19 crisis exposed how migrant workers were excluded from welfare systems because benefits, services and administrative records were tied to fixed locations. Survey findings should, therefore, drive portable social security, healthcare and pension entitlements, effective implementation of One Nation–One Ration Card, affordable housing near workplaces, stronger labour and occupational protections, and cooperation between source and destination States. A joint mechanism involving the Labour Ministry, NSO, States and Urban Local Bodies, supported by public dashboards, can ensure accountability. Ultimately, the survey’s success will depend not on the data collected, but on whether institutions and welfare systems become portable, inclusive and responsive to the workers who sustain India’s economy.

Beneath the surface: decoding berlin’s underground terror threat

Way back in July 2016, I produced a Handbook of Counter Radicalisation - among three other such Handbooks - for an official state agency. In the introduction, I questioned the concept of de-radicalisation. I had called it a “non-existent animal”. I had propounded instead the theory of counter-radicalisation. I had written: Research has shown that a number of Saudi Guantanamo detainees that were ‘de-radicalised’ have returned to terrorism upon release. Although there have been arguments that de-radicalisation creates a barrier to recidivism, there is really no way to fathom or evaluate whether a thorough cauterisation has taken place. Or are there de-radicalised terrorists-disengaging because of purely instrumental reasons-who continue to harbour a radical world-view? Who determines whether the law-enforcer is erring or not by arranging theological correction of “radicalised minds” that have never actually read the Qur’an? Answers to such questions can only come to the fore where a science that “looks inside the brain” is employed. This theory applies for so-called de-radicalised terrorists as well as ones who have been thought to have been radicalised by religious injunction. After all is it not conceivable that there are extra-religious reasons or considerations that could have propelled perpetrators of crimes to adopt a nihilistic weltanschauung that led to the death and gore that have been witnessed since the “baying” from Ar-Raqqa began? Has a neurological study been ever conducted on an Islamist radical who has attempted to undertake the hijrah and have been apprehended midway? As said above, let me examine the recent “Lone-Wolf” attack in Berlin. On July 25, 2026 (exactly a decade after my above-mentioned Handbook), the fragile equilibrium of European urban security intelligence networks extensively documented his trajectory into violent extremism. Shattered when a rented minivan ploughed into a crowd at the Christopher Street Day Pride celebrations near Berlin’s iconic Brandenburg Gate. The vehicle ramming, followed by a frenzied machete rampage, left one woman dead and 29 others injured-some critically. The attack culminated the next evening in a shootout at a Spandau allotment garden, where police fatally neutralised the 21-year-old perpetrator.

Beyond the immediate tragedy, this act of violence has exposed a significant and systemic disconnect within the counterterrorism framework. It serves as a clear signal that the threat of radical Salafism has not vanished; rather, it has mutated into a decentralised, domestic phenomenon that evades traditional bureaucratic

safety nets. The perpetrator was identified as Abdul Ballout, a 21-year-old German national born and raised in Berlin to parents of Lebanese descent. Ballout’s background dismantles the convenient political narrative that contemporary Islamist terrorism in Europe is purely an “imported” border-control problem. He held sole German citizenship, rendering moot any immediate populist demands for rapid deportation or naturalisation reversals. Ballout was not an unknown entity to the state; he was a textbook example of a known wolf. His trajectory into violent extremism was extensively documented by intelligence networks.

To be sure, Ballout made multiple failed attempts to exit Germany to join the core fighting ranks of the Islamic State between 2024 and 2025. His travel pipeline went through Turkey to Mauritania and eventually to Lebanon, where he attempted to cross into Syria. He was arrested by Lebanese authorities, convicted by a military court for “inciting religious and confessional conflict”, and served a brief prison sentence. Upon returning to Germany in November 2025, Ballout was arrested at the Berlin International Airport and spent months in German pre-trial detention. He had a standing conviction for “preparing a serious act of subversive violence” yet walked out of judicial custody under a suspended sentence just months before his attack. The core analytical question surrounding Ballout’s attack hinges on the nature of his links to global Salafi organisations. German federal prosecutors and investigators have established that while Ballout explicitly operated on behalf of the ISIS-the ideological ghost of the collapsed caliphate-he did not belong to a formalised, top-down terror cell. Digging deep into the intelligence findings, authorities found no evidence of tactical, two-way operational command and control between Ballout and the Islamic State’s remaining external operations command (such as IS-Khorasan). There was no “handler” assigning the target, financing the vehicle, or coordinating the timing.

Instead, the relationship was entirely symbiotic via self-induced radical nourishment. However, Ballout was a consumer and a node of decentralised online Salafist communities. These virtual ecosystems utilise tailored formulaic channels to weaponise vulnerable, disaffected young Muslims. His motivation was twofold: a deep-seated adherence to the global Salafi call to target Western infrastructure, combined with a specific, deep-seated adherence to the global Salafi call to target Western infrastructure, layered onto a targeted hatred

of Western cultural institutions. Choosing the Berlin Pride celebration was highly deliberate, matching a historical pattern of IS-inspired attacks targeting LGBTQ+ symbols, which the group views as the ultimate manifestation of “Western decadence”. German security services conducted a post-attack post-mortem that exposed an alarming gap between judicial standards and intelligence monitoring. Despite the Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (the German domestic intelligence agency) classifying Ballout as an active security threat, the legal system operated in a silo. Berlin’s judicial authorities insisted they followed strict statutory guidelines when releasing Ballout on a suspended sentence. Yet, terrorism experts at organisations like the prestigious Counter Extremism Project point out the absurdity of a system that allows an individual convicted of preparing subversive violence to roam freely in an individual convicted of preparing subversive violence to freely roam the capital. Even though a covert camera caught Ballout leaving his apartment on the night of the attack, real-time physical intervention was absent. But in a free, democratic society, round-the-clock physical surveillance of every designated “Gefährder” (dangerous person) is legally and operationally impossible.

However, the incident has reignited structural debates at Europol regarding the absolute absence of an EU-wide unified watch list or a centralised register for tracking individuals with historical ties to terrorism across borders. It has also triggered another round of debate between de-radicalisation and counter-radicalisation. The Berlin attack is not an isolated anomaly; it is an empirical index of what I had originally named the “Third Wave of Radicalisation”. The micro-actor is an important component in this wave. My research said that whereas the “First Wave” took place during the exhibition of massive violent movements and radicalisation between 1999 and 2005, the “Second Wave” began with the “oath of allegiance” or Bay’ah to ISIS in the wake of the formation of the neo-caliphate of Abu Bakr and radicalisation between 1999 and 2005, the “Second Wave” began with the “oath of allegiance” or Bay’ah to ISIS in the wake of the formation of the neo-caliphate of Abu Bakr-al-Baghdadi. Statistically, the data compiled by the Sydney-headquartered Institute for Economics and Peace is unequivocal: 93% of fatal terrorist attacks in the West over the last five years have been carried out by lone actors.

Germany has increasingly become the epicentre of this European friction point, logging multiple low-tech vehicle and knife incidents over the 2024-2026 cycle. Several underlying indicators suggest this trend will accelerate. Hundreds of individuals convicted during the height of ISIS activity (2014-2018) are reaching the end of their prison sentences across Europe. The questionable efficacy of “de-radicalisation” programmes means a fresh pool of experienced radicals are returning to society. By utilising everyday items like rental vans and knives, attackers achieve complete tactical camouflage. They completely bypass the surveillance tripwires associated with acquiring firearms or bomb-making components. The ongoing geopolitical friction points in the Middle East act as continuous radicalisation fuel within domestic European chat rooms, shortening the window between initial online radicalisation and the physical deployment of violence. One wonders whether my theory that de-radicalisation does not necessarily create a barrier to recidivism has been seriously researched since I first prepared the Handbook of Counter Radicalisation in 2016. But I do know that the authorities all over the world (including India) are still utilising de-radicalisation methods to cauterise radical thoughts. This approach is a big mistake.

My research indicates that the individual labelled as “radical” may have found an outlet sanctioned by an “establishment” (in this case, ISIS), but this misleads the counter-terrorism apparatus and the world into believing that a Salafist organisation drove him to a killing frenzy. Therefore, even if a de-radicalisation programme is set in motion, the most important (initial) examination that must be conducted is to clinically unearth the real motivations of the perpetrator. The simplest explanation that abounds is to term a killer “a poor Muslim” because they have misinterpreted the Qur’an. A more acceptable explanation might be to label them as psychopaths who discovered a discourse and a clear, unambiguous, audible paradigm in which their behaviour is not only encouraged but also glorified through prophetic injunctions. We still do not know the real motivation of Abdul Ballout. After all, Dabiq was the official, flagship English-language online magazine published by ISIS between 2014 and 2016. I have closely analysed every single issue of Dabiq for an official state agency, and I found that almost all acts of barbarism receive immediate “endorsement” through a Shura. For instance, the burning alive of the Jordanian pilot Mu’adh Safi Yusuf al-Kasasibah-according to Daesh-is called “equivalent response”.

SBI growth trajectory paves way for ₹200 trillion vault by 2030, says CS Setty

New Delhi: State Bank of India's total business could potentially double to around ₹200 trillion by 2030, when the bank celebrates its platinum jubilee, given the current growth trajectory, Chairman C S Setty said.

SBI came into existence on July 1, 1955 through an Act of Parliament, which, among other things, provided for the transfer of the undertaking of the Imperial Bank of India. The country's biggest lender crossed the landmark of ₹100 trillion total business, which is an aggregate of total loans

and advances in the second quarter of the last financial year. This further increased to ₹110.01 trillion at the end of June 2026.

Whether the bank had set a specific target for its platinum jubilee year, Setty said there was no formal milestone, but the bank's growth trajectory could take its total business to ₹170-180 trillion and potentially as high as ₹200 trillion by 2030. "We don't have any milestone, but if you take the current growth rate, I think we should be around ₹170-180 trillion, or maybe

reaching ₹200 trillion. That would be another important milestone," he told PTI in an interview.

Setty said the scale of SBI's operations is closely linked to the performance of the Indian economy. "For a bank of our size, scale is imminent, and it is fully intertwined with what is happening in the Indian economy," he said. He noted that if the Indian economy continues to grow at 7-8 per cent, SBI's balance sheet has the potential to expand around 11-12 per cent annually. "If the Indian economy

grows at 7-8 per cent and our balance sheet has a potential to grow at 11-12 per cent, it means again coming to my favourite theme that every six years SBI's balance sheet gets doubled. So I think it's potentially possible by 2030 we may have ₹200 trillion overall business," he said. Setty further said SBI has Vision 2030, which focuses on ensuring that all bank's activities benefit or address the requirements of four key stakeholders -- customers, employees, shareholders, and the government and

regulators, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). "We are working on the requirements of all these four stakeholders. When we benchmark ourselves against the best globally, we should be able to measure up to the best standards in each of these areas," he said. For customers, he said, the focus is on improving service and experience. For employees, SBI aims to simplify processes, improve productivity and create an environment where they feel satisfied and can deliver their best.

The marketplace division of Amazon turns a profit, with revenue increasing 15.5% to Rs 35,574 crore

New Delhi: The marketplace division of Amazon in India, Amazon Seller Services, recorded total revenue of ₹35,574 crore in FY26, up 15.5% from ₹30,805 crore in the same time last year. For the first time in its history, Amazon Seller Services generated a profit before interest and tax (PBIT) of ₹172 crore at the operating level in FY26.

The achievement comes after the company's first positive EBIDTA report in FY25. Additionally, the company's loss after tax decreased from ₹408.2 crore in FY25 to ₹389.9 crore for the year. The financial results coincide with Amazon's increased investment in its cloud, AI, e-commerce, and quick-commerce businesses in India. It has announced plans to invest \$48 billion in India between 2026 and 2030. The proposed spending would take Amazon's cumulative investment in the country since 2010 to more than \$88 billion by the end of the decade. The investments are aimed at expanding the operations network supporting Amazon's



e-commerce and quick-commerce businesses, while also adding capacity across AI and cloud infrastructure. Amazon has also been scaling its quick-commerce business, Amazon Now, as competition for rapid grocery and essentials delivery intensifies in India. In June, the company said Amazon Now had become the fastest-growing e-commerce business unit in Amazon India's history, with orders doubling every quarter since its launch. Amazon said it was expanding the service across more than 300 cities.

SEBI proposes new rules for fixed-income channel partners

New Delhi: Market regulator Sebi has proposed introducing a framework for Fixed Income Channel Partners to broaden retail participation in fixed-income securities through online bond platform providers (OBPPs).

The proposal aims to improve access to fixed-income products in Tier-II, Tier-III cities and rural areas, according to a consultation paper issued by Sebi on Friday. Under the proposed framework, individuals and non-individual entities listed on stock exchanges could act as Fixed Income Channel Partners (FICPs) and facilitate the distribution of permitted fixed-income securities through OBPPs.

Mutual fund distributors registered with AMFI would also be eligible to apply for FICP status without paying the applicable enlistment fee, subject to passing the relevant NISM certification.

Sebi said outstanding corporate bonds have grown from about Rs 17.5 lakh crore at the end of FY15 to over Rs 60 lakh crore as of



July 31, 2026, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 12 per cent. Listed corporate

bonds account for about Rs 46 lakh crore, amounting to approximately 76.6 per cent of the market.

Debt issuances mobilised Rs 9.1 lakh crore in FY26, nearly twice the amount raised through equity; however, access remains concentrated among institutional investors. The regulator noted that FICPs will provide support to the OBPP in onboarding clients, assisting them in completing the documentation, conducting KYC

procedures and facilitating transactions.

However, FICPs will not handle client funds or securities and will not receive or pay any money or securities of clients in their own name or account. Client orders will be routed and reported directly through the OBPP platform, Sebi said.

FICPs will receive remuneration for their services only from the appointing OBPP, and they shall not levy or collect any amount from clients. The proposed

commission, fee or brokerage charged to clients would be capped at 2.5 per cent of the investment value.

Alongside the FICP guidelines, SEBI has floated a parallel proposal to tighten advertising codes for OBPPs. The market regulator has cracked down on artificial urgency tactics (such as FOMO-driven marketing) and restricted generic claims like "high yield" or "fixed returns" unless backed by transpar-

ent, verifiable information and prominent risk disclaimers highlighting credit and default risks. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has invited public comments from stakeholders on the consultation paper by September 11, 2026. Individuals would need to be Indian citizens, be at least 18 years of age, have passed Class 12 and hold a valid NISM Series: Fixed Income Securities certification, among other requirements.

Sensex jumps 500 points as market rebounds



Mumbai: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Thursday, tracking a recovery in world markets as easing US Treasury yields improved global risk sentiment.

Fresh foreign fund inflows also added to the markets' optimism during the initial trading. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 504.32 points to 77,416.16

in early trade after four days of decline. Sourcing Heavy Commercial Machinery. The 50-share NSE Nifty also bounced back after seven days of losses. It climbed 118.85 points to 24,198.55.

"Indian equity markets are expected to trade with a firmer undertone, supported by an overnight rebound on Wall Street and gains across Asian

markets after easing US Treasury yields improved global risk sentiment. "While the recovery in overseas equities offers a constructive backdrop, persistent geopolitical uncertainty in the Middle East is likely to keep investors cautious," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said.

All the 30-Sensex firms were trading in positive territory during the early deals. Eternal, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services and HCL Tech were among the biggest winners.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 407.99 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi rebounded 5.74 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were also quoting higher.

"US indices halted a three-day losing streak after the US Treasury an-

nounced plans to move to more than double long-dated debt buybacks, pulling the 10-year Treasury yield down to 4.65 per cent. The S&P 500 gained 0.21 per cent, the Nasdaq Composite rose 0.16 per cent, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average added 120 points," Rajesh Palviya, Head of Research at Axis Direct, said.

US markets ended in positive territory on Wednesday. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.20 per cent higher at USD 91.87 per barrel. "The decline in US bond yields indicates a positive potential construct for equity markets, globally," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

On Wednesday, the Sensex was down 325.78 points, or 0.42 per cent, to settle at 76,909.68, registering its fourth day of decline. Extending its losses to the seventh day, the Nifty declined 76.60 points, or 0.32 per cent, to end at 24,078.30.

NRIs seek high yields as banks attract \$65B via FCNR-B deposits in 75 days

New Delhi: Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) don't want to let go of the opportunity to earn higher returns of about 6.00 to 7.50 per cent from Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits of 3-5 years duration, going by RBI's latest forex inflow data.

This is underscored by the fact that they parked a whopping \$65.397 billion in just 75 days (from June 8, 2026 to August 21, 2026) in these deposits. And the inflows are gathering pace as the RBI has cut short the deadline to offer concessional swap facility for fresh FCNR-B deposits mobilised by banks by a month to August 31, 2026.

These inflows are also being aided, to an extent, by leverage being provided by banks to their NRI customers. The proceeds of the leverage are, in turn, being parked with the Banks. Banks have raised \$4.860 billion via the Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowing (OFCB) route in



the June 8, 2026 to August 21, 2026 period.

With just nine days remaining for the aforementioned facility, which is being provided by RBI to encourage banks to mop up fresh FCNR-B deposits so that the resulting inflows can address the volatility in the Rupee, to end, market experts expect the inflows to touch about \$80 billion under via this route. And the latest RBI data bears this out -- Banks mobilised \$13.097 billion in the eight days ending August 21st against \$15.575 billion in the preceding 13 days (between August 1 to August 13, 2026).

Since RBI introduced a special USD-INR Forex Swap facility covering FCNR(B) deposits, ECB and OFCB inflows on June 08, 2026, overall forex inflows amounted to \$72.848 billion. Saumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Advisor, SBI, noted that while there may be valid reasons to justify an early closure, the most likely reason could be that the target for FCNR (B) mobilization has already been achieved.

India considers duty-free sugar imports

New Delhi: In an effort to increase supplies of the sweetener and control record prices, India is exploring a number of measures, including restricting duty-free sugar imports and tightening stockholding limits for bulk traders, according to government and industry sources on Tuesday. For the first time in almost ten years, imports from the largest sugar consumer in the world might support international prices while assisting New Delhi in controlling local prices during the busiest festival season. Citing official regulations, a government source who wished to remain anonymous stated, "We will have to take measures to check prices, and we are considering a whole host of measures and tools." Moves being discussed include lowering stockholding limits, allowing limited imports, cutting import duties and adjusting monthly sugar allocations for domestic sales by mills, he said. Wholesale sugar prices in Kolhapur, a key trading hub in the western state of Maharashtra, have risen nearly a fifth since the start of August to a record 5,350 rupees (\$56) per 100 kg. The increase comes



despite sufficient supplies to meet domestic demand until next season's arrivals start coming into the market, a second government source said. "Local supplies are tight. Only imports can help increase supplies and bring down prices during the festival season," said Ashok Jain, president of the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association. India's sugar demand typically rises from August to November when it celebrates major festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Dussehra and Diwali, when consumption of traditional sweets and confectionery increases. Last week, Reuters reported that India was considering curbing the amount of sugarcane used to produce ethanol in October to boost sugar output and help calm record prices.

Swiggy moves into inventory-led quick commerce after shareholder greenlight

New Delhi: Earlier this month, shareholders of food delivery and quick commerce (qcom) company Swiggy approved resolutions to become an Indian-owned and controlled company (IOCC) at the firm's annual general meeting (AGM), clearing a key regulatory hurdle for its planned shift to an inventory-led qcom model.

Analysts expect the operational transition to begin from Q3, with Swiggy having already begun key groundwork, including talks with brand partners, inventory planning, and changes to its operational dashboard. "From Q3 onwards, they will start with an inventory model and the margin benefit is likely to emerge over the subsequent two quarters," said Shobit Singhal, research analyst at Anand Rathi Institutional Equities, who added that Swiggy has been preparing for the shift for the past two-three months.

The change carries weight well beyond operations. An industry source said marketplace operators typically report only the commission they earn, while inventory-led platforms record the full value of the sale. With commissions usually run-



ning at 20-35 per cent, the source estimated Swiggy's reported revenue could rise four to five times once the shift takes effect, depending on the product mix. Experts, however, caution that the shift is less dramatic operationally than the regulatory language implies. "Business looks at an inventory model, meaning a brand has sold inventory to the (qcom) platform, and the platform is controlling it largely and selling it to the market," said Nishant Shekhar, managing director and partner at Boston Consulting Group.

By his estimate, more than 90 per cent of qcom operations already functioning as inventory-led from a business standpoint -- the marketplace format is

mostly confined to newer categories with less predictable demand. The regulatory distinction still matters, though, because it determines legal ownership of the inventory. Since no other qcom player has made this transition, Blinkit which moved to the inventory model a year ago is the only real precedent, and its numbers give a sense of the trade-offs Swiggy is signing up for. Eternal, Blinkit's parent, said in its Q1FY27 results that it had completed a full year as a first-party business. The company has since raised its steady-state capex estimate per dark store, including warehousing, to ₹2.5 crore from ₹1 crore a bill Swiggy should likely expect, too.

The Tata Sons AGM is derailed by a quorum since Sir Ratan Tata Trust does not propose a member

New Delhi: One of the major shareholders failed to designate a delegate to attend the 108th annual general meeting of Tata Sons, which resulted in the meeting being adjourned as planned. Despite efforts, one of the major shareholders, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, was unable to obtain relief from Maharashtra's charity commissioner in time to call a board of trustees meeting to jointly designate a representative with another major stakeholder, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. If and when SRTT receives approval from the charity commissioner to host an internal meeting to nominate a representative for the AGM, the Tata Sons board is anticipated to convene shortly to choose the next date for the AGM. Article 86 of Tata Sons' articles of association mandates at least five members to be present for a valid quorum, including the joint SDTT-SRTT representative. The development comes days after Tata Sons chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran announced his decision to not seek re-appointment as chairman, with



his term scheduled to be over in February 2027. He had then pointed to objections from a "board member" to his reappointment as chairman, widely perceived as a reference to Noel Tata, the chairman of Tata Trusts, which holds a 66 per cent stake in Tata Sons, the holding company of the salt-to-software conglomerate.

The AGM notice for the August 18 meeting, issued before Chandrasekaran's announcement, included the renewal of his directorship. The general resolution must be passed by the shareholders for Chandrasekaran to remain a board member till February 20, 2027, when his second and final five-year term ends, as he has decided not to seek

another term. However, he is likely to continue as director until a legally valid AGM takes place. The AGM also needs to approve the accounts and declare a dividend, which is critical to the philanthropic activities of the trusts. The Tata Sons AGM was known in corporate circles to be a routine affair, with key resolutions and appointments approved largely with unanimity. This is probably for the first time in its history that the AGM had to be adjourned. While Chandrasekaran and other board member Anita George joined the AGM, scheduled at 2.30 PM, physically at Bombay House, Noel Tata joined virtually. But the proceedings could not go on due to lack of quorum.

Revanth’s visit denied clearance, sparking IOC-US backlash

The Telangana chapter of the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC) in the US has expressed “deep disappointment” over New Delhi’s decision to deny political clearance to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his planned trip to America.Reddy, who is currently in London, had planned to visit the US after concluding the trip to the UK on August 23. The IOC USA Telangana Chapter, in a statement on Saturday, expressed “deep disappointment and concern over the Central Government’s decision to deny political clearance” to Reddy for his planned visit to the US.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday that it assesses the visits of chief ministers and other dignitaries to accord

political clearance. “The programme proposed in such cases should be appropriate to the office held and the purpose of the visit. In this particular case, that was not so in respect of the US,” MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in New Delhi on Friday. “Therefore, clearance has not been given. Incidentally, his visit to the UK has been cleared,” he added. The Telangana Chapter said the Reddy’s “highly anticipated” US tour had included a major public reception in New York as well as high-level engagements with leading American academic institutions. “The principal objective of the Chief Minister’s US visit was to advance Telangana’s ambition to make Hyderabad a global centre for education, innovation, skills, and research through partnerships with some of the world’s



leading universities,” the IOC statement said. Responding to the MEA’s decision, Reddy had said that the only purpose of his visit to the US was to, as part of the New Education Policy of the Centre, bring the world’s

best institutions to India, to Telangana and to Hyderabad. “They would have been an answer to our youth’s aspirations to get education, skills, and training from the best Ivy Leagues and top global institutions. I have

always believed we should all think beyond politics and elections when it comes to nation-building and the future of the youth.” George Abraham, Vice-Chairman of IOC-USA, said that efforts to advance education, employ-

ment, investment, and opportunities for India’s youth must remain above partisan politics.

Abraham “questioned the denial of clearance to the Telangana Chief Minister while the Gujarat Chief Minister is permitted to visit the United States, calling the unequal treatment a troubling and unmistakable double standard.” The Telangana Chapter noted that Reddy has instructed the delegation of state government officials to proceed to the United States as scheduled and continue the planned engagements. The delegation is expected to pursue the scheduled Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and partnership initiatives with leading institutions, including Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Northeastern Univer-

sity, and Virginia Tech, the statement said. Since permission to travel to the US was denied, Reddy is returning to Hyderabad on August 30, the Chief Minister’s Office said in a release. Reddy has instructed officials to proceed with the USA trip and conclude all the MoUs and partnership agreements, it said. In the past, the MEA declined political clearance to Arvind Kejriwal and Mamata Banerjee to travel abroad while they were Chief Ministers of Delhi and West Bengal, respectively.

IOC USA President Mohinder Singh Gilzian, Working President, IOC USA National Pradeep Samala, Chairman of the Telangana Chapter Rammohan Gadula, President, Telangana Chapter Rajeshwar Reddy Gangasani, General Secretary, IOC USA National Sharath

Chandra Vemuganti and General Secretary, Telangana Chapter Narendar Yelmareddy noted that thousands of members of the Indian diaspora from state had registered within hours to welcome Reddy in the US. “The IOC USA strongly condemns the use of political or administrative mechanisms to impede legitimate initiatives aimed at promoting education, investment, innovation, and economic development. Political rivalry should end where the interests of India’s youth and the development of its states begin,” it said. The IOC USA “stands firmly with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his vision of transforming Telangana into a globally competitive destination for education, technology, innovation, investment, and skills development.

Ottawa announces retaliatory tariffs amid escalating US trade conflict

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced retaliatory tariffs on the United States on Saturday, after walking away from a “bad deal” on trade in a deepening rift between the longtime allies. Negotiations between the neighboring countries broke down Friday in Washington, putting into force new 50-percent US tariffs impacting about \$20 billion worth of goods, or 5.5 percent of Canadian exports to the United States.

Impacted products range from hockey sticks to cement. “You’re at war when you get attacked. We got attacked,” Carney said. US President Donald Trump had said Washington “should be able to have a deal with Canada,” citing his “good relationship” with Carney. But on Saturday, Canada’s prime minister said Trump set conditions that were ultimately unacceptable even though earlier talks had been positive. “In recent days, the United States proposed new terms that were uneconomic, unfair and undermined the net benefits for Canada, and called into question the reliability of any deal,” Carney said in Ottawa. “We cannot accept what they’ve offered, and we will not give what they’ve asked.” New Canadian tariffs will notably target the US steel and dairy industries and take effect on September 8. More details would come next week, Carney said.

A senior US official characterized

this week’s talks in Washington as candid and not acrimonious. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told Fox News on Saturday that Washington was “moving forward with measures that respond to Canadian retaliation.” He also said no new talks were planned with Canadian negotiators. Canada has been seeking relief from Trump’s tariffs on autos, steel and aluminum, which have battered the country’s economy, forced job losses and strained what was once an iron-clad trade relationship. The White House had alleged “discriminatory treatment” by Canada against US alcohol, automobile and dairy products in introducing the duties. They were originally set to take effect Wednesday, before Trump issued a three-day reprieve citing progress in talks. Carney said one reason the deal collapsed was US negotiators at the 11th hour introducing restrictions on Canadian trade deals with other countries. US negotiators also made unacceptable “threats” to the French language and “Quebec culture,” he said, referring to the French-speaking province in eastern Canada.

The escalating trade war was met with anger by Democratic lawmakers and governors from border states including Minnesota, New York and Washington, blaming Trump for triggering chaos that will raise costs on US businesses and families. “Need-

lessly picking fights with our allies and raising prices here at home. That’s Trump’s economic policy in a nutshell,” New York Governor Kathy Hochul posted on X. Beyond the latest tariffs, the US and Canada still have to agree on revisions to the North American free trade agreement, USMCA, which Trump declined to renew in its current form. Trump’s threats to make Canada the 51st US state have also antagonized Canadians. Carney has repeatedly said relations with the US have been forever altered, and that Canada must reduce reliance on its southern neighbor, which currently accounts for roughly 70 percent of Canadian exports. “We’ve been under no illusions. We recognized from the start that America has changed,” Carney said Saturday. “We recognize that sometimes, its signature was written in pencil.” Carney spoke with provincial leaders to outline next steps. One of them, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, said Canadians must remain united.

Trump “can’t be trusted, simple as that,” Ford told reporters. “President Trump is the type of person who would steal your lunch money.” The Business Roundtable, a group of 200 chief executives of leading US corporations, warned the new tariffs “risk raising costs for American businesses and families,” and urged both governments to resume negotiations.

Israel admits its soldiers fired at car in which Hind Rajab was killed

The Israeli military admitted on Wednesday its troops had opened fire on a car carrying five-year-old Hind Rajab and six family members in Gaza in 2024, saying it had ordered a criminal investigation into the killing. The killing of Hind and her family was one of the most high profile of a series of incidents involving civilian casualties during the first months of the Gaza conflict which prompted international outrage.

Hind died after a desperate three-hour phone call to the Palestinian Red Crescent on 29 January 2024 in which she pleaded for rescue. The family’s Kia Picanto car had been hit as they sought to flee a new Israeli offensive into Gaza City. All the other passengers were also killed. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) repeatedly denied its troops had been in the area near the incident, but investigations by media and others found evidence that strongly suggested nearby Israeli tanks were responsible. Palestinian paramedics dispatched an ambulance to rescue Hind and stayed on the line until contact was lost, but the ambulance too came under fire, killing two medics. The bodies of the casualties were only retrieved 12 days later when Israeli troops withdrew. The IDF also admitted on Wednesday that troops had fired on the ambulance. “Following review of the findings and due to alleged failures in the coordination of the movement of the Palestine Red Crescent ambulance, it has been decided to initiate a criminal investigation of the incident by military police criminal investigation division,” the military said on Wednesday.

Criminal misconduct investigations into Israeli troops over the killing of Palestinians rarely lead to convictions. The IDF published reviews on Wednesday into four other high-profile incidents in Gaza, saying it was launching a criminal investigation into the killing in near the southern city of Rafah of 15 Palestinian medics and humanitarian personnel in March 2025. Troops lying in ambush for Hamas militants initially shot at an ambulance that was trying to retrieve casualties from an Israeli offensive, then fired on a series of emergency vehicles which approached their positions, according to phone footage and the sole survivor of the shootings. The soldiers then bulldozed over the bodies and vehicles, burying them in a mass grave. UN and rescue workers were only able to reach

the site a week later. “They were killed in their uniforms. Driving their clearly marked vehicles. Wearing their gloves. On their way to save lives. This should never have happened,” said Jonathan Whittall, a UN official who helped recover the bodies.

The Israeli military initially said it had opened fire because the vehicles were “advancing suspiciously” without headlights or emergency signals. But it backtracked from that account after footage emerged showing the Red Crescent and civil defence teams driving slowly with their emergency vehicle lights flashing and logos visible. Munther Abed, a Palestinian paramedic who was at the incident in which 15 of his colleagues were killed, said he hoped “those who killed my colleagues, who were like family to me, face justice, real justice.” “I want to say to the whole world, ambulances 101 is not a target and they must be protected,” he said referring to the speed dial number for the Red Crescent service in Gaza. The IDF said it had decided not to open a criminal investigation into the April 2024 airstrikes that hit a convoy of World Central Kitchen vehicles, killing seven humanitarian workers from the US-based aid group, which has distributed food in Gaza throughout the war. The aid group said at the time it had coordinated with the military over the movement of its cars. The vehicles, which had the group’s logo on their roofs visible from the air, were left incinerated and mangled, indicating a series of targeted strikes. The IDF said on Wednesday it had mistaken several individuals in the vehicles for armed Hamas military operatives, and that the convoy deviated from the previously coordinated route. But it concluded that “the decisions of the commanders did not raise reasonable suspicion of criminal misconduct”. Two officers were removed from their positions at the time and three others reprimanded.

One of those killed in the strike was Australian aid worker Zomi Frankcom. The Australian government has called the deaths a “tragedy and an outrage” and pressed for full accountability and “any appropriate criminal charges”. In February this year the Australian prime minister, Anthony Albanese, said he had made it clear to Israel and its president, Isaac Herzog, that there be transparency about Israel’s then-ongoing investigation into the incident. In April



this year Australia’s foreign minister Penny Wong paid tribute to Frankcom on the second anniversary of her death, saying “people like Zomi are rare and their selflessness should not only be celebrated but protected”. World Central Kitchen said it strongly disagreed with Israeli officials’ account of the airstrikes and their decision not to pursue a criminal investigation. “There has never been any excuse or justification for the attacks, and there is nothing in this account that does so. The decision is inconsistent with the full truth and deeply offensive,” it said in a statement.

“At the time of the lethal attacks, the IDF knew that our team in Gaza was unarmed and posing a threat to nobody. It had full visual clarity on our clearly marked humanitarian vehicles during the extended, multiple airstrikes. It knew our team’s movements, identities and activities in advance.” The UK Foreign Office issued a statement on Thursday, saying the UK was “appalled and angry” for the families of John Chapman, James Henderson and James Kirby, three British citizens who were killed in the attack. The minister for the Middle East, Stephen Doughty, said: “For more than two years, we have pressed the government of Israel to deliver the justice and accountability that the families deserve. This is not good enough. We have raised this with the Israeli authorities today and will continue to push for urgent answers.” The military also decided not to take criminal action over the killing of four humanitarian workers from Doctors Without Borders in two separate instances in November 2023 and February 2024. Israel later effectively barred the medical charity from operating in Gaza. Dan Owen, a researcher at Yesh Din, an Israeli rights organisation, said that over the last decade only a tiny proportion of investigations had led to indictments while growing political pres-

sure “further deters Israeli law-enforcement authorities from holding those responsible accountable, even when clear evidence does exist”.

A UN report published in February described “a pervasive climate of impunity” by Israel in occupied Palestine “in relation to gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law ... some constituting war crimes and possibly other international crimes”. Israeli forces say they never deliberately target civilians in Gaza and accuse Hamas of using civilians to shield its militants. The IDF said that as part of its obligations under international law and Israeli domestic law, it examined “exceptional incidents that occurred during combat”. “For more than a thousand days, the IDF has been conducting intensive combat across numerous fronts, carrying out a wide range of military missions in an exceptionally complex operational reality,” it said in a statement.

The war began in October 2023 when Hamas launched a surprise attack into southern Israel, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 250. Israel’s ensuing offensives in Gaza have killed more than 73,000, mostly women and children, including more than 1,200 since a fragile ceasefire took effect in October. On Wednesday, Israeli airstrikes killed seven Palestinians. Israeli military officials told local media one strike that killed six had targeted a meeting of Hamas commanders in Gaza City. Itamar Ben Gvir, Israel’s far right national security minister, said last weekend that “targeted assassinations should be carried out in Gaza, taking down 30 to 40 every night.” “Not just those who pose an immediate threat ... There are people there who are not worthy of life. They shouldn’t live. They’re not even people,” Ben Gvir told a podcast hosted by a former hostage held by Hamas in Gaza.

Trump shows off White House renovations and ornate new helipad

As the US national debt climbed past \$40tn for the first time on Wednesday, and the war with Iran he started nearly six months ago dragged on, forcing Americans already struggling to pay the bills to spend more on fuel, Donald Trump led the press corps on a tour of the extensive remodeling of the White House grounds he is personally overseeing in his role as the self-styled “builder-in-chief”. The tour, during which Trump showed off upgrades such as a new granite driveway and refurbished columns, and expounded at length on newly laid grass, culminated in Trump autographing the back of a stone, inscribed with his name, to go in the center of the ornate new helipad he insists he needs.

All in all, the 40-minute diversion from the work of being US president, which seemed at times like a lost episode of the 1980s TV show Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous, did little to help Trump beat the charge laid against him by senator Jon Ossoff, the Georgia Democrat who said earlier this week that the former real estate developer is not really that interested in the work of leading the nation. While US service members “fight his war” on Iran, Ossoff said, “the president sleeps through his meetings. He golfs and want to do the job. He wants to with his close aide Natalie Harp him by the emir of Qatar. At one boasted about the “flawless phalt driveway with, he told his “We get the best stuff; one thing “It’s ridiculous the way this said. “Nobody, including other But I see it because I was very the best in a lot of ways.” Draw-sod around the helipad, golf one of his favorite lines. “You mans have a life,” he said, for at remarks in the past year. “It’s words, we put top soil, brand



know, very – a lot of good ingredients in that earth for grass. If you’re grass, you’re very happy,” the president said. He then pivoted to something like a product placement. “This grass is the highest quality. It was given free of charge by Scotts Miracle-Gro. Scotts. And Scotts is a great a great company. They actually contributed to my campaign,” he said. “They said to me, ‘Sir, we’d like to replace the grass at the White House with the highest quality grass and do a real job.’ So, Scotts, I want to thank Scotts Miracle-Gro,” Trump went on. “It’s a very, I think the biggest grass company in the world, somebody said, but it’s very big and very good.” Trump first made his observation that “grass has a life” during remarks last August to the federal forces he deployed to police Washington DC. “I know more about grass than any human being I think anywhere in the world,” the president claimed on that occasion. He made the observation again in the Oval Office the following month, while announcing his rebrand of the defense department as the Department of War, and has repeated it multiple times since, including: during a cabinet meeting; while meeting with the Nato secretary general; while signing an executive order on trade; and as he unveiled plans for a renovation of Dulles airport. The president also suggested that his new helipad will be dual use, also serving as a second patio. “They can have events on it. They can have people go there for cocktails and then walk to the ballroom after that’s finished,” he said. Before he was done with the tour on Wednesday, the president also reminded the press pack that he had donated the two huge flag poles now flanking the White House, and made a point of saying that those poles were of the highest quality. “This is a great pole,” Trump said. “This is the top of the line. It’s tapered. Great. I’m very good at flagpoles.”

trades stocks. See, he doesn’t build his ballroom” and travel on the luxury jet gifted to point in the tour, after Trump granite” he replaced the as-captive audience of reporters: I know how to do is build.” place was taken care of,” he presidents, they didn’t see it. good at real estate, like maybe ing attention to the newly laid course owner Trump repeated know, grass has a life like hu-least the tenth time in public all been top-soiled. In other new earth on top. Very, you know,” the president said. He then pivoted to something like a product placement. “This grass is the highest quality. It was given free of charge by Scotts Miracle-Gro. Scotts. And Scotts is a great a great company. They actually contributed to my campaign,” he said. “They said to me, ‘Sir, we’d like to replace the grass at the White House with the highest quality grass and do a real job.’ So, Scotts, I want to thank Scotts Miracle-Gro,” Trump went on. “It’s a very, I think the biggest grass company in the world, somebody said, but it’s very big and very good.” Trump first made his observation that “grass has a life” during remarks last August to the federal forces he deployed to police Washington DC. “I know more about grass than any human being I think anywhere in the world,” the president claimed on that occasion. He made the observation again in the Oval Office the following month, while announcing his rebrand of the defense department as the Department of War, and has repeated it multiple times since, including: during a cabinet meeting; while meeting with the Nato secretary general; while signing an executive order on trade; and as he unveiled plans for a renovation of Dulles airport. The president also suggested that his new helipad will be dual use, also serving as a second patio. “They can have events on it. They can have people go there for cocktails and then walk to the ballroom after that’s finished,” he said. Before he was done with the tour on Wednesday, the president also reminded the press pack that he had donated the two huge flag poles now flanking the White House, and made a point of saying that those poles were of the highest quality. “This is a great pole,” Trump said. “This is the top of the line. It’s tapered. Great. I’m very good at flagpoles.”

Sawan Somwar special: make soft & delicious vrat dahi vade the Sanjeev Kapoor way

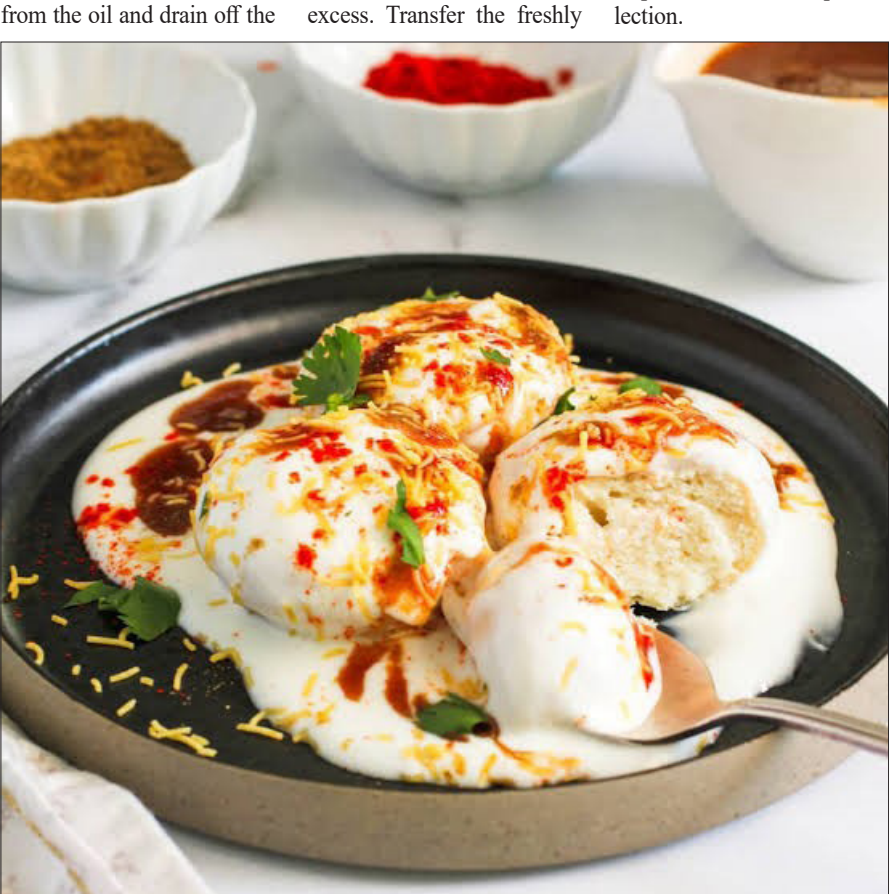


Dahi vade may not be the first dish that comes to mind when planning a Sawan Somwar vrat menu, but Chef Sanjeev Kapoor’s fast-ing-friendly version gives the classic snack a clever twist. Instead of lentils, these vade are made with cooked barn-yard millet, also known as sama or samak, and boiled potatoes. The golden-fried balls are briefly soaked in buttermilk before being coated in sweetened yoghurt and aromatic spices. The result is a satisfying combination of crisp, soft, creamy and mildly spicy flavours.

Ingredients
1.5 cups cooked barnyard millet or samo
2 medium potatoes, boiled and peeled
1 teaspoon cumin seeds
2 teaspoons ginger-green chilli paste
Rock salt, according to taste
2 tablespoons chopped fresh coriander, plus extra for garnishing

Buttermilk, as required
Sweetened yoghurt, as required
Oil for deep-frying
Red chilli powder, for garnishing
Roasted cumin powder, for garnishing

How To Make Vrat Ke Dahi Vade
Begin by heating enough oil for deep-frying in a kadai. Place the cooked barnyard millet in a mixing bowl and grate the boiled potatoes directly over it. Add cumin seeds, ginger-green chilli paste, rock salt and two tablespoons of chopped coriander. Place the cooked barnyard millet in a mixing bowl and grate the boiled potatoes directly over it. Add cumin seeds, ginger-green chilli paste, rock salt and two tablespoons of chopped coriander. Carefully slide the prepared balls into the hot oil. Fry them until they become crisp and evenly golden on the outside. Remove the vade



fried vade to a bowl of buttermilk and allow them to soak for two to three minutes. This step helps soften their centres and gives them the familiar texture of traditional dahi vade. Gently squeeze out the excess buttermilk and arrange the vade on a serving plate. Pour sweetened yoghurt generously over them. Finish with a sprinkling of red chilli powder, roasted cumin powder and freshly chopped coriander. Serve immediately for the best contrast between the soft vade and cool, creamy yoghurt. Fasting traditions and permitted ingredients can differ between households. Adjust the chilli powder, coriander or other seasonings according to the vrat rules followed by your family. The recipe is adapted from Chef Sanjeev Kapoor’s Shravan recipe collection.

Seven male habits that could increase your partner’s cancer risk

Cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers affecting women, but its biggest known cause is persistent infection with high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV), which is closely linked to sexual transmission. While HPV itself is not caused by men, certain sexual and lifestyle habits can increase the chances of HPV exposure and transmission between partners. Cervical cancer develops in the cervix, which is the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. One of the main causes of cervical cancer is a long-lasting infection with certain types of human papillomavirus, or HPV. HPV is a very common virus that spreads mainly through intimate sexual contact. There are many types of HPV. Most infections do not cause serious problems and are cleared naturally by the body’s immune system. However, some high-risk HPV types can remain in the body for years. Over time, they can cause abnormal changes in cervical cells. If these changes are not detected and treated, they can eventually develop into cancer. This is where men’s sexual health and lifestyle choices become relevant. Having multiple sexual partners can increase a person’s chances of being exposed to HPV and other sexually transmitted infections. HPV is extremely common and can spread through intimate skin-to-skin sexual contact, including vaginal, anal and oral sex. A person may carry the virus without experiencing any symptoms and unknowingly transmit it to a partner. This does not mean that having multiple partners directly causes cervical cancer. Rather, greater sexual exposure can increase the probability of encountering

a high-risk HPV type, some of which are associated with cervical cancer. Condoms can reduce the risk of HPV transmission, although they cannot provide complete protection because HPV can infect skin that is not covered by a condom. Consistent condom use is an important part of safer sex, particularly when partners have not been tested or when their sexual health history is unknown. Using condoms correctly can also reduce the risk of several other sexually transmitted infections. Genital warts are commonly caused by low-risk HPV types and are different from the high-risk HPV types most strongly associated with cancer. However, noticing a genital wart, unusual lesion or other sexual health symptoms should not be ignored. Many HPV infections cause no visible symptoms, which is why assuming that “everything is fine” simply because there are no symptoms can be misleading. Men should seek medical evaluation if they notice persistent genital lesions, unusual growths or other concerning symptoms. Smoking is well established as a risk factor for cervical cancer in women with HPV infection. Tobacco smoke contains chemicals that can affect the immune system and may make it harder for the body to clear HPV infections. Smoking can therefore be particularly concerning when persistent high-risk HPV infection is already present. Men who smoke may also expose their partners to secondhand smoke, which is another reason quitting is beneficial for the health of the entire household. Quitting smoking is one of the most important lifestyle changes couples can make for better overall

health. HPV vaccination is not only for girls and women. Boys and men can also benefit from HPV vaccination, as it can protect against HPV types associated with genital warts and several cancers. Vaccinating boys and men can also contribute to reducing HPV transmission within the population. However, vaccination does not treat an existing HPV infection and does not replace cervical cancer screening. Many men do not seek medical advice unless they experience obvious symptoms. But HPV can often remain completely silent. There is currently no routine HPV screening test recommended for all men in the same way that cervical screening is used for women. This makes prevention, vaccination, safer sexual practices and awareness particularly important. If a man has concerns about HPV exposure, genital lesions or sexually transmitted infections, he should discuss them with a qualified healthcare professional rather than relying on self-diagnosis. This may not be a “habit” that directly causes HPV transmission, but it is an important behaviour that couples should change. Cervical screening can detect precancerous changes in the cervix before they develop into cancer. Regular screening is therefore one of the most effective ways to prevent cervical cancer deaths. Men can support their partners by encouraging them to follow recommended screening schedules and seek medical advice when required. Cervical cancer prevention should not be treated as the responsibility of women alone. Partners can support vaccination, safer sexual practices and timely screening.

How to Know Your Body is Running Low on Key Nutrients

When your lifestyle hasn’t actually altered, have you ever felt as though your body is operating on “low power mode”? Subtle nutritional depletion is one of the quiet cues your body frequently sends out before it shouts. Small symptoms like poor energy, hair problems, dull skin, or sporadic twitches in your muscles can be your body’s way of expressing, “Hey, I’m running low on fuel.” anatomy. You can address these inadequacies before they become major health issues if you identify these signs early.

Signs that Your Body is Lacking Nutrients
Your body subtly tells you that you should feed it well when it lacks the crucial nutrients. Here are some obvious signs that you should look for:

Feeling Fatigued All the Time
If you feel tired despite sleeping well, it could be more than just stress. It can indicate lack of iron, which is a mineral that carries oxygen through your blood, and its deficiency often causes: Constant weakness or tiredness
Shortness of breath during light activity
Dizziness or pale skin
In such cases, doctors may recommend iron tablets to restore healthy levels and improve energy.

You Fall Sick Frequently
If you fall sick easily or your wounds take longer to heal, you may have weak immunity. Deficiencies in vitamins A, C, and D can lower your body’s defense system. Vitamin D, in particular, has a major contribution in: Anatomy
Strengthening bones and muscles
Supporting immune response
Regulating mood and energy
If you don’t get enough sunlight or fortified foods, you should supplement with vitamin D tablets. These help maintain immunity and overall health, especially during winters



or if you spend most of your time indoors. Hair Loss and Brittle Nails Your hair and nails are obvious indicators of your inner nutrition. Common signs of deficiencies include:

Thinning hair or excessive hair fall
Brittle or weak nails
Dry scalp or dull hair texture
These often point to a lack of biotin, zinc, or iron. Eating more leafy greens, lentils, and nuts can help restore the nutrients naturally. If you still see the problem persists, visit a doctor to identify any deeper deficiencies.

Mood Swings
Feeling unusually moody, anxious, or forgetful? Your brain relies on nutrients like omega-3 fatty acids, B vitamins, and magnesium. If there are low levels of it, this can result in: Poor focus or concentration
Unexplained irritability
Trouble sleeping or restlessness
You should include more seeds, dark chocolate, and whole grains in your meals.

Pale Skin or Dark Circles
If your skin looks dull or unusually pale, there are chances that your body’s red blood cell production is low, which is often linked to iron or vitamin B12 deficiency. Constant tiredness
Dull complexion
Prominent dark circles
Eating more iron-rich foods like spinach, beans, and tofu can help restore your skin’s natural glow from within.

Final Thoughts
You might think that you are eating healthy, but your body gives telltale signs about what’s missing. Look closely at those clues, eat a balanced diet, and get regular health check-ups. And if your diet alone doesn’t cover all your needs, consult a healthcare expert for suitable supplements. A few mindful adjustments can help you feel stronger, sharper, and more energetic. Vitamins & Supplements.

Silent Heart Attacks Explained: When Damage To The Heart Goes Unnoticed

Not every heart attack arrives with the dramatic, crushing chest pain that people commonly associate with a cardiac emergency. Some heart attacks can occur with mild, vague or even no noticeable symptoms. These are often referred to as silent myocardial infarctions. A person may experience nothing more than unusual fatigue, breathlessness, sweating, nausea, dizziness or indigestion-like discomfort. They may recover and continue with their routine without realizing that the heart has been deprived of blood flow. In some cases, the event is discovered much later, when an ECG, echocardiogram or cardiac imaging shows evidence of previous heart muscle damage. What happens during a silent heart attack? A heart attack occurs when blood flow to part of the heart muscle is reduced or blocked, causing injury to the affected tissue. When the symptoms are subtle, a person may not seek medical attention at the time. Small areas of heart muscle can be injured during episodes of reduced blood supply. If such events occur repeatedly, the cumulative effect may result in scar formation. Over time, this can contribute to reduced heart function, heart failure or a higher risk of future cardiovascular events. The absence of severe pain does not mean that there has been no damage. The extent of injury can vary, and only appropriate medical evaluation can determine whether a previous event has occurred.

Why diabetes can make symptoms harder to recognize
Silent heart attacks are particularly important in people with diabetes. Nerve damage associated with diabetes can blunt the perception of pain, which means a person may not experience the typical warning symptom of a heart attack. Older adults and people with established cardiovascular risk

factors may also be more likely to have less typical symptoms. This makes it important to pay attention to changes in how you feel and how much activity you can comfortably manage. For example, if you previously walked for 30 minutes without difficulty but now become unusually breathless after 10 or 15 minutes, that change should not simply be attributed to age or being tired. It deserves attention, particularly if you have diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, smoke or have a strong family history of coronary artery disease.

Do not assume every raised troponin means a heart attack
There is also an important distinction between myocardial injury and myocardial infarction. Troponin is a blood marker that indicates injury to the heart muscle. A raised troponin level does not, by itself, prove that a person has had a heart attack. Myocardial injury can occur with several other con-

ditions, including myocarditis, rapid heart rhythms, severe anemia, kidney disease and prolonged low blood pressure. A diagnosis of myocardial infarction requires the right combination of clinical findings, ECG changes, biochemical evidence and, where appropriate, imaging or other cardiac investigations. This distinction matters because the cause of the heart muscle injury determines what treatment and follow-up are needed.

Symptoms you should not ignore
You do not need to have severe chest pain to seek medical attention. Persistent or unexplained breathlessness, unusual fatigue, reduced exercise tolerance, sweating, nausea, dizziness or intermittent chest discomfort can sometimes indicate a cardiac problem.

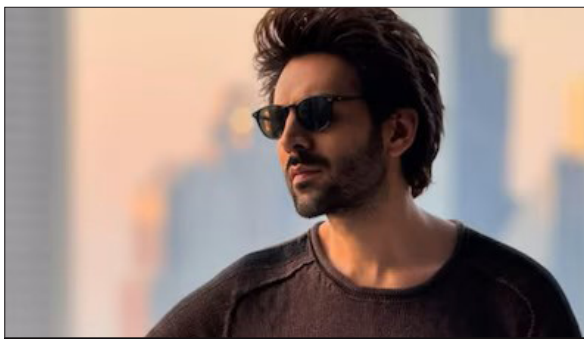
Indigestion-like discomfort can also be misleading, particularly when it occurs with other symptoms or during physical activity. If you have diabetes or other cardiovascular risk factors, a new or unexplained change in your symptoms should be evaluated rather than dismissed. Your doctor may recommend an ECG, blood tests, echocardiogram or other cardiac investigations based on your symptoms and risk profile.

Prevention still matters
The best approach is to identify and manage cardiovascular risk factors before heart muscle is damaged. Keep your blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol under control. If you smoke, stopping can significantly reduce cardiovascular risk. Regular physical activity, a suitable diet, maintaining a healthy weight and taking prescribed medicines consistently also matter. People with diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol or a strong family history of coronary artery disease may need regular cardiovascular assessment, even when they feel well. The absence of severe chest pain should never be taken as proof that your heart is healthy. A silent heart attack may cause few or no obvious symptoms, but the injury to the heart can still be real. Recognizing subtle changes, getting appropriate evaluation and addressing cardiovascular risk factors early can reduce the chance of a silent event becoming a larger cardiac problem.



ENTERTAINMENT

Kartik Aaryan recovers from knee surgery, ready to resume work



Mumbai : Kartik Aaryan is currently busy wrapping his next project with Kabir Khan. Unfortunately, on August 18, the actor suffered a major injury on the sets during the final two days of the shoot. He was immediately admitted to Fortis Raheja Hospital as he required a knee surgery. Kartik was

shooting an intense action scene when he got injured.

In the latest update, Kartik Aaryan has undergone his knee surgery successfully and is currently recovering at home. According to his spokesperson, Kartik is expected to return to the sets soon. According to India Today, the actor was injured

during the final two days of the shoot. Kartik had been training with action coaches before the shoot as the scenes required him to do physically demanding work. The source also said that Kartik will need to rest for a few days after the procedure and will return to work once he has recovered.

The injury is expected to bring a short break to Kartik's busy schedule. After recovering, he is likely to take a few more days off before beginning work on Anurag Basu's upcoming untitled film.

On the work front, Kartik Aaryan turned producer with Dopamine Studios for his upcoming collaboration

with Kabir Khan. This is their second project together. The untitled project is inspired by an extraordinary real-life sporting story, with Kartik Aaryan set to play a kickboxing coach who mentors a young girl from Kashmir. The film is reportedly inspired by the journey of Tajamul Islam, the Kashmiri kickboxing champion who gained international recognition for her achievements in the sport. Next up, fans will see him in Naagzilla, directed by Mrighdeep Singh Lamba. He will also act in Captain India. The actor is also set to star in Bhool Bhulaiyaa 4, the latest instalment in the popular horror-come-dy franchise.

Mohsin Khan gets engaged: Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai star shares romantic pics

Mumbai : Actor Mohsin Khan has announced his engagement with Tamanna as he shared a series of pictures from the ceremony. The actor is known for his role of Kartik Goenka in "Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai". He shared the post on his Instagram handle on Sunday, which featured the duo. It was followed by other pictures from the engagement.

"This beautiful, confident, sensitive girly - always laughing and teasing, hoping and praying, always dancing and singing - was written for me in the heavens. The first time we looked at each other, the first time I held your hand, to the first time you sang 'Hum toh bhai jaise hai waise rehenge' I knew something within me settled," he wrote in the caption.

"I was always told when your forever person arrives, it will somehow become the easiest and yet the most important decision you will ever make.



Maybe our story was already written in the stars. Or maybe, once in a lifetime, people simply find each other at exactly the moment they were always meant to. Of all the promises we have made and all the dreams we are yet to dream, perhaps the most beautiful one is this....

to find a home in each other," he

added. Several celebrities went on to congratulate the couple in the comments. "Congratulations Moh Lots and lots of love to you both ," Eisha Singh wrote. "Love forever.. beautiful this is," Nia Sharma said. "Whaaaaaatttt. So beautiful, Congratulations Moh," Kanika Mann wrote in the comments .

Bobby Deol wants to shed villain image after 'Animal' success



Mumbai : Bobby Deol has found a new career high by embracing darker characters, but the success has brought its own problem. After playing a string of antagonists in recent years, the actor admits that filmmakers have increasingly started approaching him with similar roles.

Bobby, who reinvented his career with projects such as Aashram and Animal, says he is aware of being boxed into a particular image. Instead of simply accepting every villain offered to him, the 57-year-old is now actively looking for characters that allow him to show a different side of himself. Speaking on the sidelines of the Jagran Film Festival in Delhi on Saturday, Bobby addressed how quickly the industry begins associating actors with a particular kind of character once something works.

"If an actor becomes successful in a particular kind of role, they keep getting similar roles. That's what happens in the industry," he said. Bobby's career resurgence gathered momentum with Prakash Jha's Aashram, in

which he played Baba Nirala, a self-styled godman hiding a sinister side. The series offered audiences a version of Bobby dramatically different from the romantic and action hero they had watched during the 1990s and 2000s. Then came Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Animal in 2023. Despite limited screen time, Bobby's turn as Abrar Haque opposite Ranbir Kapoor became one of the film's major talking points.

More antagonist roles followed in projects including Kanguva, Daaku Maharaaj, Hari Hara Veera Mallu, Alpha and Jana Nayagan. Bobby isn't complaining about playing villains. His concern is repetition. "I try really hard to break out of that," he told PTI, before pointing towards Bandar as an example of the kind of material he wants to explore. The Anurag Kashyap directorial presented Bobby in a considerably different space. He played an ageing film star accused of rape by his former girlfriend, giving him a character removed from the larger-than-life villains audiences have recently associated him with.

Kangana Ranaut slams taapsee pannu over past feud remarks

Mumbai : Actress Taapsee Pannu has addressed her long-standing differences with actor-politician Kangana Ranaut. The two became part of a public feud in 2019 and 2020, with their names frequently being linked amid the ongoing debate over nepotism in Bollywood. However, Taapsee has now said that she has never met Kangana, either before or after the controversy.

During her chat with India Today, Taapsee Pannu was asked if she and Kangana Ranaut had made amends. She replied, "I haven't met her. I didn't meet her before when these so-called issues started. I haven't met her now



as well. My opinion on her is reflective of my upbringing and my way of talking, my way of perceiving things and hers... she stands by hers. So, I think that's enough for everybody to look and decide who comes from where."

Soon after Taapsee's remarks surfaced online, Kan-

gana was seen reacting to the same. She called out Taapsee for "crossing all limits, shamelessly ridiculing her upbringing." She took to her Instagram stories and wrote, "One Sasti copy is out and about with her upcoming B grade film but as usual only headline point with the me-

dia is Kangana Ranaut, but today she crossed all limits shamelessly ridiculing my upbringing / parents, I think all parents do their best and I never bring any parents in to any argument, but today I also want to ask her parents why they couldn't birth someone original like my parents did? Why a cheap Sasti copy? Feel sorry for your efforts."

In 2019, Taapsee and Kangana got involved in a public controversy after Kangana's sister Rangoli Chandel accused Taapsee of copying Kangana and referred to her as a "sasti copy". The comments came after Taapsee praised the trailer of Judge-mentall Hai Kya but did not

specifically mention Kangana. The episode led to a series of exchanges, with Taapsee later responding to the comparisons and saying she had no intention of engaging in a mudslinging match.

The tension resurfaced in 2020 amid the heated debate over nepotism and the treatment of outsiders in the Hindi film industry. Kangana referred to Taapsee and Swara Bhasker as "B-grade actresses" and "needy outsiders". Taapsee responded by arguing that outsiders should not be pitted against each other and that the larger issue was the need for a better system in the industry. Despite the public meltdown, Taapsee has

maintained that she never personally fought with Kangana.

Meanwhile, while speaking to the publication, the actress also spoke about the possibility of entering politics. She said, "I am too honest and vulnerable for this. Also, I want to do a few more films. I am not at all considering joining and I don't have the DNA for that." Taapsee also spoke about her interest in political issues, clarifying that she voices her opinions as an educated citizen rather than approaching them from a political perspective. On the work front, Taapsee will next be seen in Gandhari, a revenge drama. It is set to premiere on Netflix on September 3.

'7 Dogs' Day 2 box office: Salman-Sanjay starrer collects just Rs 18 lakh



Mumbai : 7 Dogs is an Arabic action thriller that also stars Bollywood stars Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt in pivotal roles alongside Egyptian actors Karim Abdel Aziz and Ahmed Ezz. The film released in theatres on August 21 in dubbed Hindi and

English versions. However, it didn't see a great response at the box office in India. 7 Dogs was originally released in Arab countries in May.

According to Sacnilk, 7 Dogs earned approximately ₹18 lakh gross in India on Day 2, while its net col-

lection stood at around ₹17 lakh. Based on the available figures, the film's total worldwide gross after two days is also estimated at around ₹18 lakh. The Hindi version contributed around ₹4 lakh to the film's net collections, while the English version earned approximately ₹9 lakh net on Day 2.

7 Dogs is a Saudi Arabian action film directed by Adil El Arbi and Bilal Fallah and written by Mohamed El-Dabbah, based on a story by Turki Alalshikh. The film stars Ahmed Ezz and Karim Abdel Aziz as an Interpol officer and a criminal figure who join forces to take on a

powerful transnational criminal network. The ensemble cast also features Monica Bellucci, Nasser Al Qasabi, Sayed Ragab, Tara Emad, Sandy Bella, Giancarlo Esposito, Max Huang, Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt.

Produced by Sela Studios with support from Saudi Arabia's General Entertainment Authority and Riyadh Season, the film was shot largely in Riyadh. With a reported budget of \$40 million, 7 Dogs is said to be the most expensive Arabic-language film ever made. The film premiered in Cairo on May 22, 2026, before releasing across the Middle East on May 27.

Meghan Markle dropped from 'the gentlemen' role amid backlash



London : Meghan Markle has reportedly been dropped from a potential role in the third season of Netflix's hit crime drama The Gentlemen, just hours after reports emerged that she was in discussions to join the Guy Ritchie series.

The Duchess of Sussex had reportedly been in talks for a role in the upcoming season. Variety reported on August 22 that Markle was in discussions to join Season 3, although her role had not been revealed and no contract had been signed. The third season itself had also not yet received an official green light. However, veteran journalist and former Vanity Fair editor-in-chief Tina Brown subsequently claimed that Markle's reported casting had been withdrawn following what she described as intense backlash in the UK.

"I learned this morning that the casting of Meghan Markle in season 3 of Guy Ritchie's Netflix series The Gentlemen has been withdrawn," Brown wrote in a post on Substack. She added that the backlash in Britain had been so intense that it had become "untenable" to proceed. The Hollywood Reporter also reported that Markle had been in advanced discussions for the project, with the role reportedly being developed for the third season. Netflix has not officially confirmed Markle's casting or commented on the reported withdrawal. The development is a set-

back for Markle's reported return to scripted acting. She became widely known for playing Rachel Zane in the legal drama Suits, leaving the series in 2017 before marrying Prince Harry in 2018. She has largely stepped away from conventional acting since then, although she is set to make a cameo appearance in the upcoming film Close Personal Friends. The Gentlemen is a television spin-off of Ritchie's 2019 film of the same name. The series stars Theo James as an aristocrat who inherits a large estate and discovers that it is connected to an underground cannabis empire. Its second season is scheduled to premiere on September 3.

The reported casting controversy comes amid renewed attention on Meghan and Prince Harry's plans to spend more time in the UK. The couple are reportedly returning to Britain with their children, Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet, after several years living in California. Reports say the children are expected to attend school in the UK from September. The reported move has also been linked to Meghan's professional prospects in Britain, although the couple are not expected to resume their former roles as working members of the royal family. The family is reportedly planning to live in a private residence outside London while retaining their California home.

Yash halts 'Toxic' event after sound system fails amid crowd rush



Mumbai : Kannada actor Yash's Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is one of the most anticipated films of the year, and with the release of the movie approaching, the makers hosted a grand pre-release event on August 22. However, an unfortunate incident happened, leading Yash to halt the event midway.

As per several videos circulating online, a floodlight or sound system pole collapsed during the event, leaving two students injured. The accident happened when Yash was addressing the audience from the stage, and fans climbed onto it to get a glimpse of their favourite superstar. As the structure

collapsed on two students, people quickly rushed to help the injured. Police personnel present at the venue immediately intervened, and the injured were rushed to a nearby hospital for swift medical treatment.

Yash, who noticed several youngsters climbing the sound system, addressed them from the stage and said, "Aye... careful. Is it okay there? Please check... Please, students, be careful. Get down, please." He repeatedly asked whether the students were safe and okay. Following the incident, Yash halted his speech and asked event organisers and security to attend to the injured. Only after confirming that every-

thing was back under control, Yash continued the event, and everything concluded without further disruptions.

The Hyderabad event was also attended by Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi and Rukmini Vasanth. Meanwhile, Nayanthara and Tara Sutaria skipped the event. A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups has received an 18+ rating in the UK, with the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) giving the film its highest ratings for violence, sex and injury detail. Toxic has also been cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The Geetu Mohandas-directorial has received no cuts and just two small modifications.

The film, which has been shot in Kannada and English, runs for 3 hours and 12 minutes, according to its CBFC certificate. The board has asked the makers to mute and replace two words and phrases in the Kannada version, with corresponding changes made to the English subtitles. The required anti-smoking and anti-drinking warnings will also be included.

Uorfi Javed denies blocking Apoorva Mukhija after 'rebel kid' praise

Mumbai : The fallout between Uorfi Javed and Apoorva Mukhija, popularly known as Rebel Kid, became one of the most discussed equations to emerge from The Traitors Season 1. Months later, their relationship is back in focus after Apoorva revisited the show and admitted that watching it again has completely changed the way she views Uorfi.

While Apoorva showered her former co-contestant with praise, she also mentioned that the two had seemingly blocked each other on social media. Uorfi has now stepped in with a clarification, insisting that she never blocked Apoorva. Uorfi addressed the renewed chatter through a video on social media and made her side of the story clear. "Maine Rebel Kid ko block nahi kiya hua hai. Usi ne mujhe kiya hua hai," Uorfi said, claiming that it was Apoorva who had blocked her.

She then added a characteristically cheeky clarification about her own blocking policy. "I never block girls, I only



block my ex-boyfriends," Uorfi said before signing off with, "Peace out." Her response came after Apoorva spoke about Uorfi while revisiting the first season of The Traitors.

Apoorva admitted that she had developed a very different opinion of Uorfi after rewatching their season. Introducing the unexpected confession, she said she was about to say something nobody would have anticipated from her. "I have rewatched Season 1 and I have newfound respect and love and appreciation for Uorfi Javed," Apoorva said. She went on to praise Uorfi's ability to keep the reality show entertaining and even compared her presence with the contestants cur-

rently appearing in Season 2. "Like the entire cast of Traitors Season 2 ka combined is not as entertaining as Uorfi," she said. Apoorva also remembered one of Uorfi's memorable moments from their season, when she dramatically promised to shave her head if she turned out to be a traitor. Recalling the line, "Agar main Traitor nikli to mai ganji ho jaungi," Apoorva described Uorfi as pure "entertainment". According to Uorfi, their clashes and equations spilled into real life even after filming ended, giving viewers plenty to talk about outside the episodes as well. She felt the Season 2 contestants haven't created the same kind of off-screen drama so far.

PM Modi praises space startups, spotlighting India’s cost edge



New Delhi, Aug 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded space startups in the country, saying they have shown courage in entering a new sector and called for creating an atmosphere that attracts global talent to India.

PM Modi, who interacted with CEOs and founders of space startups, laid emphasis on consistency in policies, noting that it gives assurance to risk-takers. “Met India’s brightest space StartUps. As always, came away impressed by their energy and ambition. You would love their in-

sights and optimism. Do tell me...what excites you most about India’s space journey?” he said in a post on X.

The post included a video of PM Modi’s interaction with the CEOs and founders of space startups. “You have shown courage in a new sector. The most important thing is that you placed your trust in the government. My view has always been that whatever decisions we make, we must remain consistent. We shouldn’t keep changing them constantly; that way, anyone willing

to take a risk can feel assured--knowing that if something goes wrong due to their own error, that’s one thing, but no one will abandon them. That is the trust we are striving to build,” he said.

PM Modi expressed confidence that India can attract a global talent pool in the space sector. “I believe we should create an aura where people from all over the world feel that if they want to build a life in this field, they should come to India--join an Indian startup or the Indian space agency. I am convinced that we can attract this entire talent pool like a magnet, and it can become a tremendous strength for us,” he said.

“We are highly cost-competitive. There is no question regarding the quality of talent, and since the people of our country naturally possess a high capacity for risk-taking, we can rapidly carve out a niche for ourselves,” he added. The Prime Minister encouraged

space companies to explore new applications of their technologies and focus on how these can make people’s lives easier. He suggested greater collaboration between space sector companies and companies working in other sectors. Giving examples, he said companies working on space debris could collaborate with environmental organisations to scale up their technologies, while space technology companies working with the agriculture sector could collaborate with agricultural universities and departments to help farmers make better-informed decisions and maximise their output.

The Prime Minister called for creating an ecosystem and an environment where, when the world thinks of the space sector, it looks towards India. He also called for closer collaboration with Atal Tinkering Labs, saying this could create curiosity and interest in the space sector among young children from an early age.

Ankita Dhyani finishes second in Stumptown Twilight after setting a personal best in the 1500 meters



New Delhi, Aug 23: At the Stumptown Twilight, Ankita Dhyani ran the fastest time of her 1500-meter career, finishing second with a time of 4:06.75, which was 5.53 seconds faster than her previous personal best.

Before Dhyani broke the four-minute-10-second mark for the first time in Portland, her previous best time of 4:12.28 had served as the standard for her career. Her 1500-meter time of 4:06.75 is the fastest by an Indian this season and the fourth-fastest by an Indian

woman. The magnitude of the achievement is further demonstrated by the fact that it is this year's third-fastest mark in Asia.

As Dhyani continues to race in both the 1500m and 3000m steeplechase with the Asian Games now firmly in her sights, the performance adds another noteworthy outcome to her season. Dhyani had never gone below 4:10 in the 1500m before Saturday's race. She not only crossed that mark but lowered her personal best by more than five seconds,

finishing second in a competitive field. The run was a major improvement over her previous best and showed how much progress she has made over the distance this season.

Dhyani has also enjoyed a strong campaign in the 3000m steeplechase, winning the event at the 2026 National Federation Cup in 9:48.16 before breaching the Asian Games qualification standard at the Inter-State Championships. Her latest 1500m performance gives her another event to strength-

en her case in as she builds towards the Asian Games. Dhyani's breakthrough has also added another dimension to the women's 1500m selection picture.

No athlete breached the women's 1500m Asian Games qualification standard at the Inter-State Championships. Since then, both Pooja and Dhyani have gone inside the qualifying mark this season. Pooja has also breached the qualification standard in the 800m, while Parul Chaudhary has been named in the provisional Asian Games list for the 1500m, 5000m and 3000m steeplechase. The Athletics Federation of India will now have to weigh its options before finalising the women's 1500m selection.

For Dhyani, however, the latest run has strengthened her case considerably. She has brought her personal best down from 4:12.28 to 4:06.75 and established herself among India's fastest women over the distance. With the Asian Games approaching, the timing of her breakthrough could hardly have been better.

Fifa top official Kevin Lamour exits



New Delhi, Aug 23: Kevin Lamour, the chief operations officer of FIFA, reportedly resigned from his position at the soccer governing body a few weeks after claiming that Gianni Infantino, the organization's president, had misled employees with his World Cup sell-off scheme. In a message to The Associated Press on August 1, Lamour, who is headquartered in Zurich, defended his colleagues amid the intense uproar over the idea to sell stakes in future World Cup earnings to private equity investors, thereby inviting Infantino to remove him. Lamour claimed that Infantino's lack of transparency in planning "deceived" the workers. On the day that Infantino's senior adviser, Carlos Cordeiro, made the decision to resign, he issued the statement, calling the \$20 billion commercial subsidiary plan "a bad deal for football." Britain's Press Association late Monday quoted a FIFA spokesperson as saying: "Fifa can confirm that the working relationship between Fifa and Kevin Lamour as Fifa's Chief Operating Officer has ended." "Fifa thanks Kevin for his two years of service and wishes him the best of luck for the future.

No further comment will be made on the matter." Infantino is seeking reelection as Fifa president but remains under pressure after the heads of three continental confederations - for Europe, Asia and for North, Central America and the Caribbean - issued an open letter last week saying his World Cup plan was a "fundamental breach of trust" and described it as "deception." Infantino withdrew the \$20 billion proposal after a furious backlash by global soccer officials, including European body UEFA, which has warned of a boycott of all Fifa games and events. Some national federations have withdrawn their support for Infantino, although the heads of six Arab soccer federations last week expressed their "full support" and "confidence" in the president. Infantino has been Fifa president since 2016 and, until the backlash over the so-called Fifa Forward Enterprise proposal, seemed sure to be reelected unopposed next year in Morocco.

Bihar tells the Supreme Court that a police officer trapped during a protest fired an AK-47, but no one was hurt

New Delhi, Aug 23: The state government of Bihar has clarified its stance before the Supreme Court in response to criticism regarding the use of an AK-47 weapon by a police officer during the students' protest last month. The Bihar government has refuted claims of "disproportionate use of force" by the police in its Supreme Court affidavit. According to the government, the police took the appropriate action to manage the gathering as the state of law and order worsened. According to the state government, a constable who became stuck in the protesting crowd shot four bullets into the air during the Siwan police officer shooting incident, which was captured on camera and went viral. According to the government, no protester was injured by the bullets fired from the AK-47.

The government has, however, conceded that the weapon should not have been used in a law-and-order situation. Calling the AK-47 a "platoon-level weapon", the government said it is meant for special



operations, not for crowd control. It also informed the court that the constable has been suspended and a departmental probe is underway. It further added that the state DGP has also issued directions regarding the use of AK-47s. The government has informed the court that although three protesters received "minor gunshot wounds", none was hurt by the AK-47 bullets. It added that none of the injured protesters was present at the spot where the constable opened AK-47 fire. A ballistic examination is underway to ascertain details such as the type of weapon, distance of firing and angle of firing to establish the facts related to the gunshot wounds suffered by the three protesters. The affidavit was filed in response to PILs over alleged police

brutality during student protests in the state. On the other incident of firing, the government has stated that an Assistant Sub-Inspector fired two rounds from his 9mm pistol to disperse the crowd at Haathi Chowk. The state government has further stated in the court that a total of 69 FIRs were registered in relation to protests between July 22 and 25, and 500 protesters were arrested. It added that as per Supreme Court directions, 222 student protesters with no criminal history were released on bail, while 75 juveniles were released through the Juvenile Justice Board. The government added that all children below 18 years of age with no criminal record have been released on a simple bond. Police claim that no stringent action is currently be-

ing taken against protesting students with no criminal background. In its reply, the government said the situation turned violent at several places during the protests, including Gandhi Maidan, Jehanabad, Patna, Chhapra, Bhagalpur, Sitamarhi, Aurangabad, Katihar, Kishanganj and Siwan. In Chhapra, it has been alleged that some anti-social elements joined the protesters on July 25 and indulged in vandalism and stone pelting. According to the government, two BDOs, three police inspectors, two sub-inspectors and 11 constables were injured during this protest. Listing out the injuries to the officials, the government has stated that one BDO lost an eye, while the other suffered serious head injuries after being hit by a heavy object and his condition was stated to be serious. A total of 157 police personnel and 7 government employees were injured, according to the Bihar government. The government has also admitted to the use of tear gas and water cannons by police and acknowledged that protesters were injured as a result

Unnati Hooda attributes her success in badminton to her father and coach, Upkar

New Delhi, Aug 23: Unnati Hooda, a rising star in Indian badminton, attributes her quick rise to her father and mentor, Upkar Hooda, who gave up his career to train her full-time and is currently coaching her at her first BWF World Championships. Former university player Upkar quit his job at a government institution to travel to competitions with his daughter, who has moved to Chhotu Ram Stadium Badminton Academy in Rohtak to hone her skills under coach Parvesh Kumar. Her father is still her greatest motivation, though. "I'm not coerced into playing badminton. Of course, my parents and my family have made a significant contribution. He also resigned from his position. After defeating Thet Htar Thuzar of Myanmar 22-20 21-16 in the first round, Unnati told PTI, "I am really grateful that I have a great family who support me a lot, but I cannot say in words how much he has contributed to me." Michelle Li of Canada, ranked 13th, will be her next opponent. "And I would like to thank Reliance Foundation also, who has been a great help since my journey from the past three years."

Asked who was sitting in the dug out with her in Tuesday's match, she replied: "No, that was my father. Right now, I train with him, my father." The 18-year-old from Rohtak is not overawed by the occasion and said Ayush Shetty's upset win over world No.1 Shi Yu Qi on Monday will act as motivation for Indian shuttlers, including her. "Very special moment (first World Championships). I just want to focus on my game tomorrow. Like, I just



want to give my all, 100 per cent and be there and just enjoy because it's going to be a good match. "He (Shetty) is my good friend and he played really well yesterday. And definitely he won against the seeded number one here. So it really gives everyone confidence that just remember who you are and just give it all. On the court, there is one versus one and anybody can lose and anyone can win. So just believe in yourself," Unnati said. The youngster feels being patient is key to success in the conditions here. "I think being really patient is important. That's the one thing I'll just keep in mind. Even I did it today also, in the last half of the court set and it really helped me. So keeping my nerves in control. "Sometimes in drift conditions it's difficult, but I feel like it's not that much difficult to judge if it's going out or in," she said.

Carrick supports Marcus Rashford as Manchester United's future is at stake

New Delhi, Aug 23: Although Marcus Rashford's long-term future at Old Trafford is still uncertain, Manchester United manager Michael Carrick has commended the England forward's mentality and physical condition since he returned to the team after his loan stint at Barcelona. After losing favor with former United manager Ruben Amorim, Rashford spent the previous season on loan at Barcelona, where he helped the Catalan team win the championship. Prior to relocating to Spain, the academy graduate previously played on loan at Aston Villa. Rashford continues to be one of United's primary talking topics as the new Premier League season draws near. But since the forward resumed training, Carrick has been impressed by what he has witnessed. "It's been pretty obvious since Marcus came back training with Kobbie (Mainoo) and Licha (Lisandro Martinez) pretty much in Dublin that he's come back fantastically well," Carrick told reporters on Thursday ahead of United's trip to Hull City. "He's enjoying his football, he looks fit, he looks sharp, he looks strong, he looks ready to play football. So I've been delighted with him since he's come back." Rashford returned to the United



squad during the club's recent training camp in the Republic of Ireland before making his first pre-season appearance against AC Milan in Wroclaw last Saturday. He came on as a second-half substitute in the final pre-season fixture. Carrick also suggested Rashford could have a role through the middle if required, although he stopped short of identifying it as the forward's best position. "Of course he can play through the middle. He has done. I wouldn't say it's his number one position, but he can do that," Carrick said. "And I think we've got forwards that give us that flexibility right across the front line. We've used all of them pretty much in slightly different roles."

Rashford's return comes at a time when speculation over his future continues. The forward recently said he wanted to focus on playing football without his "name being mentioned every day", reflecting the intense scrutiny surrounding his situation. United, meanwhile, continue to work on strengthening their squad before the September 1 transfer deadline. The club have added Belgian midfielder Youri Tielemans and Brazil international Andrey Santos, while Brighton midfielder Carlos Baleba has also been linked with a move to Old Trafford.

Carlos Alcaraz will make his much awaited comeback at the 2026 US Open

New Delhi, Aug 23: In 2026, Carlos Alcaraz, the defending US Open champion, will make his much awaited comeback to tennis at Flushing Meadows. Due to a wrist injury sustained during the Barcelona Open, Alcaraz has not played since April. Due to the setback, he was unable to attend Wimbledon and the French Open this year. He is now ranked second in the ATP rankings after losing the top place to Jannik Sinner. Alcaraz announced his participation in the forthcoming competition with the assistance of renowned football transfer guru Fabrizio Romano. Alcaraz' absence also allowed Jannik Sinner to strengthen his position at the top of the ATP rankings after the Italian successfully defended his Wimbledon crown in July. Alcaraz was also forced to sit out three Masters 1000 events and briefly slipped to No. 3 in the world rankings after Alexander Zverev captured the French Open title. However, the 23-year-old confirmed on social media



that he will be fit to compete at Flushing Meadows when the US Open gets underway on August 23. He will return with a title to defend, having beaten Sinner in the 2025 final to claim his second US Open crown. A successful comeback could see Alcaraz feature in several major events during the closing months of the season. He could potentially play at the Laver Cup in September be-

fore turning his attention to the Shanghai Masters, Paris Masters and ATP Finals. Alcaraz first announced himself on the Grand Slam stage by winning the US Open in 2022. He added another title at Flushing Meadows in 2025 and has since built a seven-major collection, which also includes two Wimbledon championships, two French Open crowns and one Australian Open ti-

tle. While Alcaraz's participation in New York has now been confirmed, Sinner's status remains unclear. The Italian was absent from the Cincinnati Masters earlier this month because of a knee injury. With the tournament serving as the final major warm-up event ahead of the US Open, Sinner has yet to reveal whether he will be fit enough to compete in New York.

Australia has revealed their starting lineup for their second Test match against Bangladesh



New Delhi: On the eve of the match, Cricket Australia announced that Matt Renshaw and Travis Head will start the second Test against Bangladesh at the Great Barrier Reef Arena in Mackay on Saturday. Jake Weatherald, who was dropped

against India. He will now, however, return as an opener, where he made his Test debut during the 2016-17 campaign. With the exception of Renshaw, the starting lineup is the same as it was in Australia's shocking loss to the visiting Bangladesh in the first game. "A lot of people jump to say that 'You have to win everything' – and obviously we hope we do," Cummins told reporters. "Particularly home Test matches, we pride ourselves on winning as many as we can." "We were nowhere near our best. But I think Bangladesh played really well. They're a really good cricket team," Australian captain added. The host did consider playing a four-pace attack and rest off-spinner Nathan Lyon. "Trying to give it another day to see whether it's four quicks or a spinner," Cummins had initially said. However, Lyon has kept his place in the playing XI which will look to now draw the two-match series.

Elena Rybakina misses the top spot due to a terrible injury scare prior to the US Open

New Delhi: Elena Rybakina's aspirations to become the new world No. 1 were tragically dashed when she was compelled to resign from her Cincinnati Days before the US Open, Iga Swiatek was playing in the Open quarterfinal despite having a left ankle ailment. Rybakina had a fantastic chance to unseat Aryna Sabalenka at the top of the WTA rankings when she arrived in Cincinnati. The defending US Open champion Sabalenka unexpectedly lost 7-6(7), 6-4 to unseeded 20-year-old Sara Bejlek in the fourth round. Rybakina, who needed two more victories in Cincinnati to advance to the summit, was made possible by the outcome. The Kazakh star had been closing the gap on Sabalenka throughout the summer, with her Australian Open triumph over the Belarusian in January playing a major role in her rise. By the time the Cincinnati tournament began, Rybakina was ranked No.2 and had a realistic chance of claiming the top spot. Rybakina's quarter-final against Swiatek began with plenty at stake, but it ended in alarming fashion. Trailing 1-4 and serving at 40-40, the 27-year-old suddenly stopped during her service game. She received treatment around her left ankle before retiring moments later after just 31 minutes on court. There were immediate fears that the injury could involve her Achilles, although reports and the WTA subsequently described it as a left ankle injury. With the US Open beginning in New York on August 30, the timing could hardly have been worse for Rybakina.



Swiatek, who advanced to the semi-finals, admitted she was worried by what she saw. "I was feeling anxious just looking at this situation. I hope Elena will be fine. The next tournament is the priority. I know this one is important as well. But the US Open is the US Open. I hope she's gonna be ready for that. She's super close to being No.1 in the world. It's a shame. I thought we were playing a good match. But health is a priority. I hope she's gonna be okay," Swiatek said. For Rybakina, what began as a potentially defining week in the battle for No.1 has instead ended with uncertainty surrounding her fitness ahead of the final Grand Slam of the season. Sabalenka will retain the top ranking heading into the US Open.

India's Men's Hockey World Cup second-round opening against the Netherlands is a tough test with no margin for error



New Delhi: Aware that there is essentially no margin for error in its attempt to advance to the semifinals, India will face its greatest test on Saturday when it plays co-host and current Olympic champion the Netherlands

in the World Cup second round opener here. India's propensity to lose control after making impressive starts continues to be its greatest worry. While a 2-1 half-time lead against England vanished as it gave up twice in the third quarter and ultimately lost 2-4, it led Pakistan 3-0 and 4-1 before letting the bitter rivals rally for a 5-3 victory. However, the Dutch team defeated Japan 4-1, Argentina 3-1, and New Zealand 5-1 in all three games. Against one of the most lethal attacking

sides in world hockey, India can not afford lapses. The challenge before India is not restricted to just the quality of the opposition. It also has to contend with capacity crowd at the Wagener Stadium. The 10,000-capacity venue is expected to be full of Dutch supporters, who have turned up in huge numbers throughout the tournament. A sea of orange in the stands, constant chanting and passionate backing for the home side could make the setting intimidating for India. Under the

new format, the top two teams from Pools D and A form Pool E, with the top two advancing to the semifinals. Since India have already lost to England, they will not face them again in this phase, but England carry three points forward, making victories in India's remaining matches all the more important. The Netherlands also carried three points in the second round having defeated the Argentina in the first round. The pool A topper Netherlands won its first World Cup title at this

very venue in 1973, defeating India and went on to lift the trophy again in 1990 and 1998. Its consistency at the highest level makes it one of the toughest opponents. But India has shown it is not invincible. It defeated the Netherlands 3-2 in the final FIH Pro League match in Rotterdam in June, after losing the opening game by the same margin. Jugraj Singh, Abhishek and Rajinder Singh scored in that victory, and all three are part of the Indian World Cup squad.

Brazil will begin the World Cup on June 24; Maracana will host the opening and final

FIFA Women's World Cup 2027



New Delhi: The International Football Association (FIFA) declared on Thursday that the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027 final will take place at Rio De Janeiro's famous Maracanã Stadium. The statement was made when the governing body unveiled the World Cup calendar using placeholders, confirming the dates

and locations of all 64 matches, which will take place in eight Brazilian cities. After defeating England in the final three years prior, Spain will start the 2027 Women's World Cup as the reigning champion. After starting their campaign in the Maracanã on June 24, host Brazil will play two more group-stage games at

the Estádio Nacional in Brasília on Sunday, July 4, and Arena Itaquera in São Paulo on Tuesday, June 29. At least seven games, including at least one knockout match, will be held in each of the eight host cities. Up until the Round of 16, games will be held in Brasília, Porto Alegre, Recife, and Salvador. The quarterfinals will be held in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, and Fortaleza. FIFA President Gianni Infantino stated, "We can't wait to watch a new chapter of women's football history unfold when the world's best players, coaches,

fans, and local communities take center stage in Brazil next year." São Paulo, the heartbeat of women's football in South America, will host one semifinal and the third-place match, while Maracanã will stage the other semifinal before the summit clash. The Maracanã will become only the third stadium to host both a FIFA World Cup™ final and a FIFA Women's World Cup final, joining the now-demolished Råsunda Stadium in Solna, Sweden (1958 and 1995) and the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, USA (1994 and 1999).

Sam Curran will have groin surgery and will not be able to return to the Test

New Delhi: Sam Curran's potential return to Test cricket has been practically ruled out as England has revealed that he will miss the rest of the English summer due to surgery for a groin injury. Selector Marcus North called Curran a "player of interest," and his name has been floated as a like-for-like replacement for the retiring Ben Stokes in the longest format. In order to recuperate from his injury, he was kept out of the squad for the first two Tests of the current Pakistan series, with the possibility of playing in the third. "Sam has had a really heavy workload this summer playing a tremendous amount of cricket, and during that time he's been doing so with a couple of



niggles, which you expect most bowlers do. But at this stage with a couple of niggles - we've seen he's missed a game in the Hundred - we don't feel physically, he's just quite right there," North said. "I think [it would be] unfair to put him into these first two Tests. He's someone our backroom staff and medical

team will be working with in the coming weeks to make sure that he potentially becomes an option in the third Test. He's someone that we really value highly and we see playing a role in the future for us as an allrounder." England has confirmed that he will now undergo surgery for a groin injury, ruling him out of

the remainder of the summer. Curran's last Test appearance came in 2021. In the same statement, it also confirmed that all-rounder Will Jacks had a successful operation to remove his appendix. It will now monitor his recovery ahead of the T20I series against Sri Lanka beginning on September 15.

Swapna Barman, the Asian Games winner, is suspended for doping even though she is retired



New Delhi: The National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) has placed Swapna Barman, the first Indian heptathlete to win gold at the Asian Games, under provisional suspension after she tested positive for a prohibited drug. Despite her recent decision to retire, disciplinary actions against her will proceed. Boldenone, a prohibited anabolic-androgenic steroid, has been detected in the 29-year-old. The NADA's most recent list of athletes on provisional suspension includes her name. "The due procedure will be followed and she stands provisionally suspended despite her retirement. She will have to appear for a hearing and can seek a B sample test," a well-placed source in the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) told PTL. "If she decides to come out of retirement at any point in her life, all sanctions against her will stand in case she is found guilty in the formal hearing, a ban will be imposed. A retirement announcement does not absolve anyone of doping offences," the source added. Apart from Barman's provisional suspension, hockey player Mayank Sharma was banned for four years for failing an out of competition test last year. In addition, 19-year-old runner Sanjana Singh, who won a gold in the women's 1500m and 5000m races in the SAAF Senior Athletics Championships last year, was handed a five-year ban after testing positive for prohibited steroids last year. Both Mayank and Sanjana were already serving provisional suspensions. But Barman was the biggest name to emerge in

the latest list of sanctions. She was the first Indian heptathlete to clinch gold at the Asiad when she finished on top in the 2018 Jakarta Games. She announced her retirement at the beginning of this month, stating that her injury-plagued body could no longer take the rigours of competition. Boldenone is known to decrease testosterone levels and has no medicinal use for the human body. In Barman's case, it was detected through the Gas Chromatography-Combustion-Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry, which is an advanced analytical technique to distinguish natural hormones from the synthetic ones.

A former Asian champion, who was born with six toes in each of her foot, Barman also represented India in the 2016 Olympic Games. But her moment of glory was the Asiad gold following which sportswear brands came up with customised shoes for her. Barman had famously complained that having to squeeze her feet in the standard shoes meant for five toes had left her with blisters. Barman, who grew up in extreme poverty in Ghospara village near Jalpaiguri in West Bengal, dabbled in politics recently when she fought and lost the state assembly elections on a Trinamool Congress ticket.

Arteta provides the Gunners with a transfer update prior to the Premier League opener

New Delhi: According to Arteta, Arsenal is attempting to strengthen their defensive options in light of allegations in the media that they have reached an agreement with Aston Villa to recruit England center-back Ezri Konsa for £51 million. The Spaniard continued, "We'll let you know when we're ready to announce something."



Additionally, Arteta denied rumors that the versatile Myles Lewis-Skelly would leave Arsenal, stating that he was "100% certain" the 19-year-old would stay. However, in the midst of rumors that Gabriel Martinelli, Gabriel Jesus, and Ethan Nwaneri might leave, the manager admitted that some players might have to go. "It's a really, really tough

moment ... but you have to face it with real honesty and transparency," he said. "We all know everything has a start and an end. When it ends, our job and duty is to do it in the best possible way, with respect and admiration for the player and the relationship. But at the end, we need to make difficult decisions."

Hussey is thinking about becoming England's batting coach following Fleming's unofficial contact

New Delhi: The legendary Michael Hussey of Australia is contemplating a position as England's batting coach after Stephen Fleming, the recently appointed Test coach, made a casual approach to him. For almost 15 years, Hussey and Fleming were colleagues and coaches for the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Hussey told Fox Sports, "Fleming and I clearly get along really well and work a lot together." Thus, it was merely a fleeting remark, essentially asking, "Look, what do you think? Would you consider taking on the role of batting coach?" Hussey, who is commonly referred to in cricket circles as Mr. Cricket, stated that wearing an England uniform would feel strange but would not completely rule it out.

"There is a lot of different things to consider. My short answer is I would not say no to anything really." "It would feel a bit weird – definitely – coaching for England against Australia in an Ashes series, no question," Hussey added. He also doesn't want to rush into making a decision. "I have a very close relationship with Stephen Fleming and that



has an impact on it as well. The time away from family is a real thing for me. I am not in a position to say yay or nay any time soon," he said. The 51-year-old has already done a brief stint with England during its T20 World Cup 2022 title-winning campaign. Hussey said he thought Fleming was a good choice as England's new coach and would make smart decision to keep the game moving forward. "He has a very good understanding of the game. Very shrewd operator who gets that balance between enjoyment and fun and relationships. He has a great chance to do well. He wants to keep the game moving forward but perhaps not as recklessly as England have been recently. He will try and be a bit smarter with it," Hussey said.