

Heavy Rain Triggers Floods, Landslides And Infrastructure Damage Across Nagaland

Kohima, Aug 06: The Government of Nagaland today reported widespread flooding, landslides, and infrastructure damage across multiple districts following continuous heavy rainfall over the past several days. The situation has disrupted road connectivity, damaged public utilities, and affected thousands of residents. According to officials, several highways and rural roads have been blocked due to landslides, while bridges and culverts have sustained significant damage. Power supply and communication networks have also been disrupted in certain areas,

complicating relief operations. District administrations have been directed to remain on high alert and co-ordinate closely with disaster response teams. Emergency relief camps have been set up to provide shelter, food, and medical assistance to displaced families. The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, and local volunteers are actively engaged in rescue and relief efforts. Medical teams have been deployed to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases, and additional supplies are being mobilized to meet urgent needs. Chief Minister of Nagaland expressed deep



concern over the situation and assured that the government is committed to extending all possible support to

affected communities. “Our priority is to safeguard lives, restore essential services, and ensure timely rehabilitation. We urge citizens to remain cautious and follow official advisories during this period of heavy rainfall,” he said. The government has also requested assistance from the Centre to expedite restoration of damaged infrastructure and strengthen flood management systems. Long-term measures, including improved drainage, resilient housing, and enhanced disaster preparedness, are being considered to reduce vulnerability in the future. Citizens are advised to avoid unne-

cessary travel, particularly in landslide-prone areas, and to stay updated through official channels. The government reiterated its commitment to transparency and timely communication as the situation evolves. The Department of Irrigation and Flood Control has been tasked with conducting rapid assessments of river embankments and drainage systems to identify weak points. Preventive reinforcement work will be prioritized to reduce the risk of further breaches. The government is also coordinating with neighboring states to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities.

AHV&DD issues statewide FMD advisory



Itanagar, Aug 06: The Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department (AHV&DD) has issued a statewide advisory following confirmed outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) among Mithun across four districts of Nagaland. The advisory calls for immediate precautionary measures to contain the spread and safeguard livestock health. Officials reported that cases of FMD have been detected in multiple herds, with symptoms including fever, mouth lesions, and lameness. Veterinary teams have been deployed to affected areas to monitor the situation, provide treatment, and guide farmers on preventive practices.

The advisory urges livestock owners to avoid movement of Mithun between districts, maintain strict biosecurity measures, and report suspected cases promptly to local veterinary centers. Farmers are also advised to isolate infected animals, disinfect sheds, and refrain from participating in animal fairs or gatherings until further notice. AHV&DD emphasized that vaccination drives will be intensified in vulnerable zones, with priority given to districts reporting outbreaks. Veterinary staff have been instructed to conduct awareness campaigns to educate farmers on early detection and disease management.

Temporary bridge washed away Jharnapani–Molvom, traffic advisory issued

Kohima, Aug 06: The Government of Nagaland today confirmed that the temporary bridge connecting Jharnapani to Molvom has been washed away following heavy rainfall in the region. The incident has disrupted vehicular movement along this critical route, prompting authorities to issue a traffic advisory for commuters. Officials from the Public Works Department reported that the collapse occurred due to continuous downpours and rising water levels, which weakened the structure. Immediate steps are being taken to assess the damage and initiate restoration work. In the meantime, commuters



have been advised to use alternate routes until further notice. The traffic advisory highlights that heavy vehicles will be diverted through designated bypasses, while light vehicles are encouraged to avoid unnecessary travel in the affected

stretch. Police and district administration teams have been deployed to manage traffic flow and ensure public safety. Expressing concern over the disruption, the state government assured that all possible measures are being taken to restore

connectivity at the earliest. “The safety of commuters remains our top priority. Restoration work will begin immediately, and we request the public to cooperate with the advisory until the situation stabilizes,” a spokesperson said.

Arunachal athletes win gold, silver, bronze at Thailand Taekwondo

Kohima, Aug 06: The Government of Arunachal Pradesh proudly announces that athletes from the state have clinched gold, silver, and bronze medals at the prestigious International Taekwondo Championship held in Thailand. This remarkable achievement highlights the growing excellence of Arunachal’s sporting talent on the global stage. The athletes, representing India, showcased exceptional skill, discipline, and determination throughout the competition. Their victories not only brought glory to the state but also reinforced India’s presence in international martial arts. The gold medalist’s performance was particularly lauded for technical precision and resilience, while the silver



and bronze winners demonstrated outstanding fighting spirit against strong international contenders. Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh extended heartfelt congratulations to the athletes, describing their success as a source of inspiration

for the youth of the state. “This achievement proves that with dedication and hard work, our athletes can shine anywhere in the world. The government will continue to support sports infrastructure and training to nurture more champions,” he said.

Assam worker killed, another injured in Arunachal landslide project

Itanagar, Aug 06: The Government of Arunachal Pradesh today confirmed that one worker from Assam lost his life and another sustained injuries following a landslide at a hydropower project site in the state. The incident occurred during ongoing construction activities, triggered by heavy rainfall in the region. Authorities reported that emergency response teams were immediately deployed to the site to carry out rescue operations. The injured worker was rushed to a nearby medical facility and is currently receiving treatment. Officials have assured that all necessary medical support will be provided to aid his recovery. Expressing condolences



to the bereaved family, the state government described the incident as tragic and reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring worker safety at all project sites. “We deeply regret the loss of life and injury caused by this unfortunate landslide. The government stands with the affected families and will extend all possible support,”

a spokesperson said. The hydropower project management has been directed to conduct a detailed safety review and submit a report on precautionary measures being implemented at the site. The state government has also ordered an inquiry to determine whether lapses in safety protocols contributed to the incident.

Nagaland minister urges collective action, rejects blame over Assam floods

Kohima, Aug 06: Nagaland Minister today emphasized the need for unity and collective action in addressing the devastating floods in Assam, rejecting any attempt to assign blame. Speaking to reporters, the minister underscored that natural disasters demand cooperation across states and institutions, not finger-pointing. The minister stated that the floods in Assam have caused widespread damage, displacing thousands of families and disrupting livelihoods. He stressed that the priority must be to mobilize resources, extend relief, and support rehabilitation efforts for affected communities. “This is not the time for blame games. It is the time for solidarity and collec-



tive responsibility,” he said. Highlighting the importance of inter-state cooperation, the minister assured that Nagaland stands ready to assist Assam in every possible way. He noted that the Centre’s support, combined with co-ordinated efforts from neighboring states, will be crucial in ensuring timely relief and long-term recovery. The min-

ister also called upon civil society organizations, volunteers, and citizens to contribute to relief efforts. He emphasized that disasters of this scale require a whole-of-society response, where government action is complemented by community participation. Reiterating the commitment to collective action, the minister urged all stakeholders

to focus on rebuilding lives and infrastructure rather than engaging in divisive debates. He concluded by affirming that the government’s priority remains the welfare of the people and the restoration of normalcy in flood-hit regions. In addition, the minister urged agencies to focus on strengthening flood management systems and improving disaster preparedness across the Northeast. He pointed out that recurring floods highlight the need for better infrastructure, resilient housing, and coordinated planning between states to minimize future risks. The minister reiterated that the government’s priority remains the welfare of the people and the restoration of normalcy in flood-hit regions.

JP Nadda visits flood-hit Arunachal, pledges full central support

Shillong, Aug 06: BJP National President JP Nadda visited flood-affected areas of Arunachal Pradesh today to assess the damage caused by recent heavy rains and landslides. Accompanied by senior party leaders and local officials, Nadda interacted with affected families, inspected relief camps, and reviewed ongoing rehabilitation measures.

During his visit, Nadda assured that the Central Government stands firmly with the people of Arunachal Pradesh in this time of crisis. He emphasized that all necessary assistance, including financial support, manpower, and logistical resources, will be extended to the state to ensure swift relief and long-term rehabilitation. Nadda highlighted that



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed ministries and agencies to coordinate closely with the Arunachal Pradesh government to expedite relief operations. He noted that the Centre is committed to rebuilding dam-

aged infrastructure, restoring connectivity, and supporting farmers and communities whose livelihoods have been disrupted by the floods. The BJP President also praised the resilience of the people of Arunachal Pradesh

and the efforts of local authorities, disaster response teams, and volunteers who have been working tirelessly to provide food, shelter, and medical care to those affected. He reiterated that the government’s priority is to en-

sure safety, restore normalcy, and prevent further hardship. In his interactions, Nadda assured that special packages for rehabilitation and reconstruction will be considered, with a focus on strengthening flood management systems and improving disaster preparedness. He stressed that the Centre’s support will not be limited to immediate relief but will extend to long-term measures aimed at building resilience against future natural calamities. The visit underscores the BJP’s commitment to standing with citizens during emergencies and ensuring that no region is left behind in the nation’s development journey. Nadda concluded by reaffirming that Arunachal Pradesh will receive full central support to recover and rebuild stronger.

Nadda inspects Mon landslide-hit areas; assures Centre’s support

Dimapur, Aug 06: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda on Wednesday visited landslide-affected areas in Mon district and assured the Centre’s full support for relief and restoration, saying the government would “leave no stone unturned” to help the affected communities recover from the disaster.

According to a DIPR report, the union minister accompanied by Assam health minister Ashok Singhal and Nagaland Rajya Sabha MP, S Phangnon Konyak, inspected the worst-hit areas at Defence Colony and adjoining localities in Techa Ward before interacting with affected families at the Konyak Union office. Expressing solidarity with the victims, Nadda described the disaster as “very disheartening and painful” and told the affected families that they were not alone in



their time of crisis. The Union Minister praised the efforts of local authorities, disaster response teams, and volunteers who have been working tirelessly to provide shelter, food, and medical care. He noted that the Centre will coordinate closely with the Nagaland government to expedite relief operations and rebuild damaged infrastructure, particularly roads and healthcare facilities.

Highlighting the importance of preparedness, Nadda announced that the Ministry of Health will deploy additional medical teams to Mon district to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases and provide psychological counseling for affected families. He reiterated that the government’s priority is to safeguard lives, restore normalcy, and ensure that no community is left behind.

KHADC Faces Heat Over Trade Gate Allotments



Shillong, Aug 06: KHADC Chief Executive Member Winston Tony Lyngdoh is fighting back against claims of back-room deals. He insists the council used a transparent process to issue work orders for 11 new trade check gates. The council move aims to stop illegal collections and fix revenue leaks that have drained the treasury for years. Lyngdoh addressed reporters on Tuesday after the Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement accused the council of bypassing public tenders. He claims the party relied on flawed information from an RTI request. The council says it posted public notices for all 11 gates. Five of these units now sit in West Khasi Hills to replace sites long plagued by unauthorized activity. “The purpose of these check gates is to curb illegal collections and prevent revenue leakages. For years, revenue that should have accrued to the council was being lost through

unauthorised operations,” Lyngdoh said. The current system is a trial. The council plans to audit the gates once the lease expires to decide their future. But critics aren’t buying the explanation. KHNAM working president Thomas Passah demanded a formal Notice Inviting Tender system published in newspapers. He argues that posting notices on office boards lacks accountability. The party has pushed for reform since the previous administration. Passah highlighted that the council leased eight gates in 2021-22, nine in 2023-24, and 11 in 2026-27. He also flagged a lack of financial detail in the documents. No revenue amounts appear in any issued work order. KHNAM plans to grill the CEM during a scheduled meeting this coming Monday. The dispute centers on whether the council truly stopped illegal operations or simply put a stamp of approval on them.

Police forces are prepared and vigilant

In anticipation of the VPP march to the Secretariat, a call for tranquility has been made

Shillong, Aug 06: On the eve of its highly publicized march to the Meghalaya Secretariat, the Voice of the People Party (VPP) issued a robust appeal for peace and discipline on Wednesday, while the state government heightened police readiness and Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma firmly directed the party to the Assembly rather than the streets. VPP president Ardent Miller Basaiawmoit urged party workers and supporters gathering from across the state to ensure that the demonstration scheduled for Thursday at 11 am remains peaceful and devoid of any law-and-order issues. He emphasized that the party had deliberately opted for a democratic form of protest, despite its frustration and anger over what it perceives as the government’s failure to address numerous issues affecting the people of Meghalaya. Basaiawmoit cautioned that the movement should not be compromised by opportunistic



individuals and encouraged participants to prevent anyone from hijacking the protest or diverting it from its intended goals. He stated that the party would take stringent measures against anyone attempting to incite distur-

bances. Spokesperson Airpeace Rani indicated that supporters would be arriving in Shillong from various regions of the state, including Jaintia Hills, West Khasi Hills, and other

districts. Participants traveling from different directions would gather at designated locations such as the Civil Hospital area and Motphran before proceeding towards the Secretariat, with the procession becoming increasingly organized as the groups come together. The VPP has framed the march as a direct reaction to the government’s “indifference and inaction” and has made it clear that the protest aims to convey a strong message regarding the rising discontent among the populace. The party has specifically requested that the Chief Minister and Cabinet members be present at the Secretariat on the day of the protest to listen to the concerns being raised. While refusing to comment directly on the planned march, Sangma stated that the government’s doors are always open for dialogue and that the administration is prepared to engage on any relevant issues.

Students, parents cautioned against unrecognized institutions

Itanagar, Aug 06: The Arunachal Pradesh Allied and Healthcare Council (APAHC) has cautioned students, parents, and guardians against taking admission in unrecognized, unauthorized, or non-compliant allied and healthcare institutions, stating that qualifications obtained from such institutions may not be considered valid for registration with the APAHC. In an advisory, the council said it has observed that certain institutions are offering admissions to allied and healthcare courses without obtaining the necessary approvals, recognition, affiliation, infrastructure, faculty, clinical training facilities, and compliance with the provisions of the NCAHP Act, 2021 and the regulations framed. It stated that mere issuance of a certificate, diploma, degree, or any other qualification by any such institution does not automatically confer eligibility for professional registration. “Any candidate possessing qualifications from such institutions may be denied registration in the State Register of Allied and Healthcare Professionals, which may



adversely affect eligibility for professional practice, employment, higher education, and other related purposes,” the advisory said. Students have been advised to verify recognition, approval status, affiliation, and regulatory compliance of the institution(s) before seeking admission.

Sohra Tourist Sites Shut Down Over Violent Village Land Dispute

Shillong, Aug 06: Sohra officials shut down four major tourist spots on August 4 following a bitter ownership battle. The Sohra Civil Sub-Division issued prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita after violence threatened to erupt. Tensions between the villages of Laitduh, Umblai, Mawphu, and Laitlyndop under Hima Sohra are the cause. The affected locations are Weisawdong Falls, Daintlen Falls, Mawsawa Falls, and Arliang Riat View Point. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Mark A. Challam ordered a total stop to all sightseeing, commercial activity, and visitor entry at these spots and their approach roads. Authorities acted to stop potential clashes. “Immedi-

ate preventive measures are necessary to prevent danger to human life and property and to maintain public peace and tranquillity,” the order stated. No one may collect entry fees, parking charges, or user fees unless they have official authorization. Public gatherings of five or more people are now illegal. The ban excludes government personnel on duty. Officials also banned the possession of any weapons. The list includes firearms, traditional daos, swords, spears, bows and arrows, sticks, iron rods, catapults, and explosives. Violators face prosecution under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The restrictions are in effect until further notice.

Sikkim is set to automate the process of issuing travel permits for Nathula and North Sikkim

Itanagar, Aug 06: Sikkim is launching an AI-powered single-window system to manage travel permits for restricted zones. The move covers spots like Nathula Pass and North Sikkim. It aims to modernize tourism and fix visitor management. Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister T.T. Bhutia led a stakeholder meeting at Paryatan Bhawan to explain the plan. Attendees included Advisor Sudesh Kumar Subba, STDC Chairman Lukendra Rasaily, and IG Checkpost Hari Chettri. The platform uses geofencing to lock out unauthorized users. Only Sikkim-registered travel agencies can log in to generate permits. The system forces payment to local operators before any clearance happens. It also allows flexible vehicle allocation based on changing weather or terrain. Bhutia said



the platform was designed to simplify permit issuance while strengthening regulatory oversight. The portal also features

integrated payment tracking and simplified check-post exit verification. The state has also fixed standard fees for

garbage collection and conservation. This cuts down on confusing multiple charges across routes. Physical upgrades at Nathula Pass now include new stairways, escalators, and larger parking lots. Commissioner-cum-Secretary Raj Kumar Yadav detailed new rate charts for Baba Mandir, Doklam, Lachung, Lachen, Yumthang, and Gurudongmar. These changes stem from a November 2025 mandate by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang. Tourism Secretary Honda Gyaltsen said the change answers long-term demands from the industry. Stakeholders, including local police and transport groups, supported the transition during the session. Joint Director Sonam Rinchen ended the meeting with a formal vote of thanks.

Assam Minister Inspects Doomdooma Waste Facility



Guwahati, Aug 06: Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs Minister Kaushik Rai toured the Material Recovery Facility and waste-to-compost center in Ushanmati on Wednesday. He led the inspection at Ward No. 1 alongside Doomdooma MLA Rupesh Gowala and MLA Prasanta Phukan. The team examined how the site turns municipal trash into compost while recovering recyclables. The project aims to lower local pollution levels. It also creates a sustainable framework for urban waste disposal. Officials stated that processing trash scientifically will help build a cleaner future for the entire

state of Assam. This work aligns with the broader environmental goals of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Rupesh Gowala praised the progress on site. “This facility is setting an example of how scientific waste management can transform communities. By converting waste into compost and ensuring the proper recovery of recyclable materials, we are taking a meaningful step towards a cleaner and healthier Doomdooma. Such initiatives will greatly benefit future generations,” Gowala said. The government plans to expand these practices to improve living standards for citizens across the region.

Pochury Hoho Demands Immediate Action on Stalled NH-29 Project

Kohima, Aug 06: The Pochury Hoho is demanding immediate action on the long-delayed NH-29 Package-II project. Work remains stalled at the Kikrumba site along the Kohima-Jessami Road. The delay persists despite repeated official assurances. This road serves as the primary lifeline for Phek, Meluri, Kiphire, and Shamator districts. It is the only path connecting these areas to the state capital. Bad road conditions are hurting everyone. Commuters, students, patients, traders, and government employees face rising costs and longer travel times. Safety is compromised. Essential services face constant disruption. Economic growth has slowed to a crawl. Pochury Hoho president Chonpa Jurry and secretary Thosiepa Katiry issued a statement on Wednesday. They expressed full support for the Chakhesang Public Organisation and the Public Interest Litigation cur-



rently before the Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench. They want the court to force a conclusion to the project. The group directed their call to the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd, the Nagaland government, and the contractor, Ratna Infrastructure Projects Pvt Ltd. They want a time-bound plan. They expect transparency and efficiency. The group claims that reliable connectivity is the only way to ensure better healthcare, education, and regional integration. “The people have waited long enough and deserve a safe,

dependable and all-weather highway that will promote sustainable development and improve the quality of life across the region,” the statement added. The Chakhesang Public Organisation (CPO) has expressed “strong displeasure and serious concern” over the prolonged delay and lack of tangible progress in the construction of the two-lane NH-29 Package-II (Kikrumba) under the Kohima-Jessami Road, and has called for immediate intervention to ensure completion of the project within the stipulated September 2026 deadline. In a press statement, the CPO

urged Ratna Infrastructure Projects Pvt. Ltd., the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor. National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to take immediate corrective measures and expedite the work. According to the organisation, the project was originally tendered in 2019 with a completion deadline of June 30, 2022. However, it stated that the contract with the previous EPC contractor was terminated after the agency failed to achieve the required progress.

Meghalaya Assam scramble to solve Jorabat flooding



Shillong, Aug 06: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma confirmed on Wednesday, August 5, that his government is investigating the root causes of chronic flooding at Jorabat. This stretch sits on the Meghalaya-Assam border and remains a primary bottleneck for thousands of daily commuters. Heavy rains frequently drown the road, stalling traffic between the two states. Sangma points a finger at ongoing road construction. He claims the work created a bowl-like depression beneath the main flyover that traps runoff and accelerates water buildup. The state is currently working alongside the Assam administration to manage the mess. Local deputy commissioners are coordinating efforts on the ground to handle the immediate fallout. The Ri-Bhoi district administration is already deploying a multi-pronged strategy to keep the highway open during downpours. Still, the site remains a major point of contention between the two states. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has previ-

ously blamed Meghalaya’s geography and its regional construction projects for waterlogging in both Jorabat and Guwahati. Officials are now weighing long-term fixes against quick-fix solutions to restore normal traffic flow. Sangma confirmed the scope of the investigation, stating, “We are studying all aspects and looking at whatever measures we can put in.” The government plans to review all findings before choosing a final path to stop the flooding for good. The Meghalaya government is examining the causes behind the recurring flooding at Jorabat along the Meghalaya-Assam interstate border, with ongoing road construction emerging as one of the possible contributing factors, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said on Wednesday, August 5. Jorabat, one of the worst flood-prone stretches on the interstate corridor, has witnessed repeated waterlogging during spells of heavy rainfall, disrupting vehicular movement and affecting thousands of commuters travelling between Meghalaya and Assam.

India Increases Diplomatic Efforts to Retrieve the Goddess Vagdevi Idol from the United Kingdom

New Delhi, Aug 06: The demand for Goddess Vagdevi's return is shifting from the courtroom and the politically delicate Bhojshala complex to an international diplomatic forum more than a century after an idol of the goddess was brought to Britain from Dhar.The most important Madhya Pradesh backdrop for talks on the return of cultural property at the BRICS Culture Working Group and Culture Ministers' meetings in Bhopal would be the potential repatriation of the ancient idol connected to Dhar's Bhojshala. India is anticipated to utilize the four-day talks to advocate for increased BRICS collaboration in the recovery of antiques, sculptures, and idols that were taken, smuggled, or removed during colonial times. But for Madhya Pradesh, the larger global debate has an immediate and emotionally charged local focus. Can the idol revered as Goddess Vagdevi finally return from the British Museum in London to Dhar? Following a request from the Madhya Pradesh government, Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal stated that the Center has already established ongoing engagement through institutional and diplomatic channels. "The Madhya Pradesh government sent us a letter requesting the return of the Goddess Vagdevi idol kept in the British Museum as soon as I became secretary of the Union Culture Ministry. Since then, we have been consistently working both at the museum level and through diplo-



matic channels," Aggarwal stated. He claims that there have been several written exchanges, especially through India's diplomatic channels in the UK.The talks started well before the significant May 15 ruling on the contentious Bhojshala-Kamal Maula complex by the Madhya Pradesh High Court. The Archaeological Survey of India's 2003 agreement allowing Muslims to pray there on Fridays was revoked by the court, which ruled the contested area of the complex to be a temple devoted to Goddess Saraswati or Vagdevi. It also requested that the government take into account petitions to have the idol returned from London. The white-marble sculpture dates to the Paramara period and carries an inscription linking it to 11th-century Dhar. It stands approximately 1.28 metres tall and weighs an estimated 250 kilograms. The museum records Major-General William Kincaid as the source from whom it was acquired and notes that it formally entered the collection in 1909. The Third BRICS Culture Working Group Meeting is being held in Bhopal on August 5 and 6. It will be followed by the BRICS Cultural Festival on August 6 and 7 and the Culture Ministers' Meeting on August 7 and 8. Ministers, deputy ministers and delegates from 10 of the 11 full BRICS member countries are expected to participate, with Saudi Arabia being the exception.India will enter the discussions with a significantly expanded record of recovering its cultural heritage from overseas. Official figures released in May stated that 653 antiquities had been repatriated since 2014, compared with only 13 recovered before that period. Another government release placed the total number of repatriated antiquities at 666, including 653 since 2014. Important Vijayanagara and Chola bronzes from the US have recently been returned. A 12th-century Somaskanda sculpture and a 16th-century portrait of Saint Sundaraj with Paravai were returned by the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art, and a Shiva Nataraja from the Chola period will return after a temporary exhibition arrangement is finished. Additionally, Australia has agreed to repatriate three artifacts from Tamil Nadu: a six-headed stone called Kartikeya, a metal trident with the image of Bhadrakali, and a stone called Nandi. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Australia in July, he welcomed their voluntary return.

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What Distinguishes Jharkhand Protests From Agitation In Jantar Mantar, Delhi

New Delhi, Aug 06: The nation's attention has turned to students protesting the paper leak and anomalies in the competitive exams in Ranchi, Jharkhand, following the conclusion of the Cockroach Janta Party-led (CJP) protest in Delhi.Many job seekers have been holding a sit-in protest at the Jaipal Singh Stadium in Ranchi since July 29 under the leadership of student leader Devendra Nath Mahto. They are calling for an investigation into alleged irregularities in the 14th Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) Civil Services Examination, the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level (JSSC-CGL) examination, and other recruitment tests. It is alleged that seats for these exams were sold to candidates, including those from outside Jharkhand, for Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore. The demonstrators are demanding cancellation of the 14th JPSC Civil Services Examination and an independent probe into the



alleged irregularities in the recruitment test either by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or by a panel of retired high court judges from outside the state. They have said that repeated incidents of examination malpractice are damaging the future of deserving candidates and reducing public confidence in the recruitment system. The demonstrators claimed that after numerous requests to the administration "failed" to result in any tangible action, they were had to resort to this extreme form of agitation.The Combined Civil Services Mains Examination, which was initially set

for July 25-27, has been postponed by the JPSC due to "unavoidable circumstances."The inconsistencies in NEET, the national entrance exam for medical colleges, and the call for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation were the main causes of the student protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar.The bulk of participants were Gen Z students because the NEET is administered following Class 12 examinations. On the other hand, the ongoing protest in Ranchi mostly involves senior students aged over 25.Hemant Soren, the chief minister, stated on Wednes-

day that the problem of question paper leaks is a national one and proposed negotiations to break the deadlock.He claimed that his government was taking the students' complaints very seriously in a post on X.He claimed that investigative teams were working nonstop and that those in charge of the purported anomalies were being imprisoned.The chief minister stated that the state government's doors were still open for students to voice their requests and recommendations. "Our goal is not just to investigate but to provide a permanent solution to students' concerns," he said. He promised that every issue would be thoroughly investigated and that a specific remedy would be revealed shortly.A five-person student delegation was invited to the chief minister's home for talks by Ranchi Sub-Divisional Officer Kumar Rajat and Additional District Magistrate (Law and Order) Dhananjay Kumar, who also visited the protest location.

Former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal is sentenced to ten years in prison for raping a colleague



New Delhi, Aug 06: After being found guilty in 2013 of raping a junior colleague, former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal was given a 10-year prison sentence. Tejpal was found guilty of rape by the Bombay High Court's Goa Bench on Thursday, overturning a trial court's 2021 acquittal.Tarun Tejpal was given two weeks by the court to turn himself in. Following the ruling, the former editor said to the court that he was a "victim of politics" and that he would file an appeal with the Supreme Court.

The case concerns claims made by a former junior colleague that during the ThinkFest event in Goa in November 2013, the seasoned journalist sexually assaulted her inside a hotel elevator. Trial began in Mapusa trial court in 2017 and Tejpal was acquitted in 2021 after which the state government appealed in High Court. A

division bench comprising Justices Dr Neela Gokhale and Amit Jamsandekar delivered the judgement following detailed arguments from both sides. Tejpal was represented by prominent counsel Abad Ponda, while Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta argued the state government's plea to overturn the acquittal.Mehta contended during the state's appeal hearing that the sessions court made a grave mistake by evaluating the complainant's actions according to preconceived ideas about what a victim of sexual assault ought to do.The trial court stated that the complainant did not exhibit any "normative behaviour" that a victim of sexual assault "might plausibly show" in its acquittal ruling.The Solicitor General stated that there is no general rule controlling a survivor's response because it varies based on a person's circumstances,

education, personality, and social background. After the conviction order, Tushar Mehta demanded Tejpal's immediate arrest. "Despite the victim being his daughter's age, he committed an offence. He was a father figure for the victim and should have not indulged into this (crime). A precedent must be set.

Victim refused but he kept advancing. This court must give out a clear message to the society that when a girl says no, it means no," Mehta argued in court. After being found guilty, Tejpal addressed the court, pleading for leniency on the grounds that he was a victim and needed time to appeal the ruling. "At sixty-two, I feel like a victim. There isn't much else to say except that I have a wife. I can only suggest that we go file an appeal. Please be forgiving of me. Rest of facts are brought on record," Tejpal stated in the court.

Asaram's medical bail is denied by the Supreme Court, although a 24-hour caregiver is permitted in jail

New Delhi, Aug 06: In a rape case where he is serving a life sentence, the Supreme Court on Thursday refused to grant self-described godman Asaram Babu bail on medical grounds. However, it did allow him to have a trained caregiver of his choice while incarcerated and to return to court if his condition worsened.The 86-year-old prisoner, who was given a life sentence in a rape case by a Rajasthan court, filed an appeal, and a panel of justices MM Sundresh and PB Varale issued the ruling.The bench took into consideration a report from the medical board of the All India Institute of



Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which suggested 24-hour observation due to his numerous medical conditions but did not suggest hospitalization. "We have taken note of the letter received from AIIMS dated July 31, 2026," the bench stated as it passed the decision. The petitioner will be free to have

a qualified caregiver of his choosing provide round-the-clock help.Asaram's attorney informed the court that his condition was getting worse and that he had several illnesses, such as thalassemia, coronary artery disease, and frequent blood loss. "The application stands adjourned with the liberty to

the petitioner to approach this court if his condition deteriorates," the court added. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Rajasthan government, opposed the bail plea, relying on the AIIMS report, which ruled out the need for hospitalisation. Mehta further informed the court that the petitioner had already obtained 20-day parole from the Rajasthan high court, a fact that had been suppressed before the Supreme Court. Asaram's counsel also submitted that the parole had been granted on account of his prolonged incarceration and advanced age, and not on medical grounds. Mehta

said that the high court had not been informed of the bail plea's pending status before the Supreme Court. The bench condemned the practice and made it clear that the AIIMS report was the only foundation for the ruling, not the case's merits. The self-described godman was found guilty of raping a woman at his ashram in Rajasthan in 2013 and given a life sentence. In addition to being convicted in a different case involving the rape of another lady in his Motera ashram in Gujarat, he has served more than ten years in prison. The Gujarat High Court is still considering his appeal in that case.

Rain hinders Delhi's civic infrastructure, causing traffic to stop once more

New Delhi, Aug 06: A spate of rainfall on Wednesday flooded much of the Capital and slowed traffic, trapping commuters in winding snarls across numerous important highways. Just 16 mm of rain was enough to bring Delhi to a standstill once more.The influx of Kanwariyas into the Capital and the Public Works Department's (PWD) start of construction on the Modi Mill flyover near Okhla and the Savitri flyover near Greater Kailash, two projects that are anticipated to drag on for years and impair traffic on Outer Ring Road and its surrounding sections for the foreseeable future, both contributed to Wednesday's mess. The mess is likely to continue, with the volume of Kanwariyas set to swell through the week and the weather agency forecasting more showers for Thursday.The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Wednesday's rain was triggered by the monsoon trough shift-

ing back over north India. Between 8.30am and 5.30pm, the Safdarjung station received 15.6mm of rain. Lodhi Road was Delhi's wettest station, clocking 38.7mm of showers. Even while authorities were still working on construction, it was plenty to reveal the city's shaky traffic and civic infrastructure, with the showers also creating dents and craters in a number of areas.PWD blocked a portion of the highway near the Meriton Hotel, straining the already packed Outer Ring Road, particularly the segment between the Chirag Delhi crossing and the Okhla NSIC Metro station."On Tuesday, work began. Digging has begun, and earth-movers have been brought in. Additionally, the Modi Mill flyover underpass is undergoing repairs. According to a Delhi traffic police officer, "this is affecting traffic movement and will continue for a long time."

MK Stalin's Criticism on Vijay's Hollow Budget



New Delhi, Aug 06: MK Stalin, the president of the DMK and a former chief minister of Tamil Nadu, dubbed the state's agriculture budget "hollow" and urged the government led by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay to "wake up" Thursday.He said in a post on X that the TVK government's first budget disregarded problems such farmers' crop losses and drought.He commented in Tamil, "The Tamil Nadu Agriculture Budget 2026 was merely a platform to sing praises and shower the chief minister with flattery rather than address the drought."The new government, he claimed, had "merely rebranded existing schemes" rather than implementing significant policies for farmers. Referring to the DMK administration's initiatives, he asked, "Does this government believe its job is done simply by slapping the label 'success' onto Dravidian model schemes?"The farmers in the Delta region, whose Kuruvai crop has been impacted and who are waiting for government

assistance, receive nothing from this agricultural budget. Stalin declared, "It is a completely empty budget."The drowsy government needs to awaken and offer explanations. We need to get answers," he continued.Udhayanidhi Stalin, his son and the Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, likewise called the agriculture budget "absolute nothing" and accused Vijay of "betraying" farmers and breaking important electoral pledges. Speaking to reporters outside the Assembly, Udhayanidhi, who was briefly jailed last week due to alleged insults against actor Trisha, stated, "Absolutely nothing," regarding the budget.On the Cauvery and Mekedatu concerns, we have repeatedly called for an all-party meeting. We must show that Tamil Nadu's political parties are united on this issue. However, the chief minister says nothing and won't answer, as usual, according to Udhayanidhi. He criticized the TVK government's unfulfilled electoral promises, pointing out that the state had consistently broken its promise to fully eliminate crop loans for farmers with up to five acres.Farmers still want the full waiver that was first offered, according to Udhayanidhi, even though the initial waiver cap was declared at Rs 50,000 and later changed to Rs 75,000 due to strong demand.

Delhi Seizes Banned Imported Cigarettes Worth Rs 1 Crore, Arrests Four

New Delhi, Aug 06: In a significant crackdown on the illicit tobacco trade, Delhi Police confiscated over 2.82 lakh forbidden imported cigarettes valued at over Rs 1 crore from northeast Delhi, leading to the arrest of four people, an officer said on Thursday.According to him, the seizure took place in two stages, with police first retrieving shipments from Karawal Nagar and then a warehouse in the Budhpur Industrial Area during subsequent operations.According to police, the operation started on August 4 after a team was tipped off about the supply of illegal imported cigarettes in the Karawal Nagar area. Acting on the information, a police team laid a trap in Shiv Vihar. At around 4.30 pm, three men arrived on a motorcycle carrying gunny bags and waited for a customer. When no one turned up and they attempted to leave, the police intercepted and apprehended them. "The accused were identified as Karawal Nagar locals Ankit (35), Vishal (28), and Rahul (36). 12,640 imported cigarettes made in Indonesia were found in 79 boxes during the

search, according to a senior police official.

The officer added that the cigarette packages were illegal to sell in India since they lacked the necessary health warnings mandated by the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA).Additionally, a motorcycle that was purportedly used to carry the illegal goods was confiscated."Based on the recovery, an FIR was registered at Karawal Nagar police station under relevant provisions of the COTPA. During interrogation, the arrested men disclosed the identity of their supplier. Acting on the leads, the investigating team traced and arrested the alleged supplier, Neeraj Kapoor (55), from Delhi on Wednesday," the officer said. Approximately 2.70 lakh more illegal imported cigarettes of various brands were found during a subsequent operation at a location in Budhpur Industrial Area, according to the police.With the most recent seizure, 2,82,640 illegal imported cigarettes worth more than Rs 1 crore were recovered in the case, according to the officer.

CM Suwendu Adhikari is eager to invest in Bengal's tea and textile industries

New Delhi, Aug 06: Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari stated on Thursday that the central government is eager to invest in the growth of West Bengal's textile and tea industries.When I visited Delhi on July 4, I spoke with Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. At the opening of the fourth Kolkata Couture Expo in Kolkata, he stated, "Aside from the talks we had about the state's financial situation, she said that she has a lot of interest in two sectors and she wants to help Bengal."It is anticipated that the two-day event will bring in about ₹1,000 crore. "One is the tea sector. We should do something for the tea garden workers. At least 25 tea gardens are lying closed. The



other is textile. I have huge interest in these two sectors. Ahead of the state assembly elections, I went to Purbasthali in East Burdwan and Shantipur in Nadia, where there are several weaver families. The products are of very high quality. We should do something," Adhikari said while quoting Sitharaman. The Union minister is expected to visit the state in the last week of August. The chief minister

promised all assistance from the state government and encouraged the textile industry to invest in the state."Sitharaman is considering Bengal's textile sector. This is a fantastic chance. I'm Amrit Kaal. Make the most of it," he continued.Additionally, the chief minister demanded that the state's law and order situation be strengthened.You've noticed that the weather has changed during the past three months. We will not put up with hooliganism. The textile industry will receive every assistance from the state. Adhikari urged business executives to submit ideas for the growth of the state's textile industry. "If necessary, some changes can be made in the state legislative assembly."

North East Chronicle

AUGUST 07 2026 VOL 02 NO. 164



Rethinking Solow in the Age of AI

In February 1956, US economist Robert Solow published a model to understand economic growth, which was followed by Australian economist Trevor Swan in November that year. The nine-month delay and Swan’s inhibitions led the model to be dubbed as the Solow model. On its 70th anniversary, it remains central to current debates around the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the global economy. It is a remarkable coincidence that the term AI was coined by the computer scientist, John McCarthy, in 1956. The question of growth has occupied attention of most economists since Adam Smith published a book in 1776 with the title An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations. Smith’s wealth of nations was driven by division of labour and freer markets. In 1798, Thomas Robert Malthus’s pessimistic prognosis overshadowed everything. Malthus opined that as land is limited, growth in agriculture will be lesser than growth in population, leading to widespread hunger and poverty.

Malthusian thought, even though highly despised, was not wrong as there was barely any growth for most part of human history. Growth engines started sputtering after the industrial revolution in the 18th century and gained pace in the 19th century. High growth led to the rise of large industries, and it was characterised by unequal growth. The debates shifted to Marxism which argued that large-scale-driven capitalism is doomed to fail. Marx was later joined by Joseph Schumpeter who argued that creative destruction will destroy capitalism. The above mentioned growth descriptions were based on a grand narrative combining history, politics, society, and economics.

In the inter-war period, the narrative approach gradually gave way to building mathematical models to estimate growth. In the 1930s, economist Simon Kuznets developed a measure to estimate national income. After World War II, Keynesian economics became central to economic policy with questions of reviving growth becoming central. Paul Samuelson had joined the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1940 and was writing textbooks based on Keynesian economics using the mathematical approach. The first growth model was developed by two economists, Roy Harrod and Evsey Domar, independently of each other in 1939 and 1946 respectively. The model based on Keynesian economics links economic growth directly to savings and capital. It states that the rate of growth depends on the savings ratio divided by the capital-output ratio.

The 1956 Solow model built on Harrod-Domar by adding that like capital, labour is also an important factor of growth. So, if a country had higher labour resources it could substitute labour for capital and vice versa. However unlike

Harrod-Domar, the Solow model says that capital accumulation faces diminishing returns. So by simply adding more capital a country cannot generate higher growth. Instead, a country has to make technological progress — a major breakthrough for the model. Until then, while it was understood that technological progress was important for growth, it was not formally a part of the economists’ toolkit. Solow was duly awarded the Nobel Prize in economics in 1987. The model gave three major insights on the wealth of nations. First, capital accumulation cannot sustain long-term growth because of diminishing returns. As the capital grows, new investment replaces depreciated capital until the economy reaches a steady state where capital per worker stops growing. So higher savings and investments can lead to higher income but not long-term growth. Second, to break out of the steady state, the economy needs a new technological shock. The model did not explain where the technology comes from and assumed it is an exogenous factor. Third, the model explains that if both poor and rich countries deploy the same amount of capital, it is the poor ones that will grow faster than the rich nations. This is because rich countries face diminishing returns on capital accumulation whereas poor countries do not face diminishing returns at the start of their growth journey. It also cautions that rich countries which do not strive for technological progress will stagnate, as is the case with most developed countries.

Future economists worked on the limitation of the Solow model — assuming technological shock is manna from heaven. In the 1980s, Paul Romer (2018 Nobel Prize winner) said growth is driven by internal factors such as education and research and development. According to him, even if capital and land diminish, new ideas to organise economic activity remains unlimited. Robert Lucas, the 1995 Nobel Laureate, emphasised the importance of human capital in an economy’s growth, enriching the models. William Nordhaus, a co-winner of the Nobel with Romer, built on the Solow model to add environmental costs of production. The history of growth models from a depressing Malthus to cheering Solow is, in essence, the economic history of humanity as well. To conclude, how does the Solow model help us assess the impact of AI? Current discussions hover around whether AI is a technology, a capital-augmentation investment, or a labour-replacement shock. Once debates settle which of the three is better suited to AI, we can think about the impact of AI on economic growth. As of now, we find AI everywhere but not in growth. To paraphrase Solow’s famous quip on computers in 1987, “You can see the AI age everywhere but in the productivity statistics.”

Lessons from Operation Sindoor and epic fury: air supremacy sets the tone of war

At 1:15 in the morning on 28 February 2026, American and Israeli aircraft opened a campaign against Iran that would run for more than two months. Within the first minute, Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, and roughly 40 senior officials were dead. Within 24 hours, more than a thousand sites had been hit. The Pentagon called it Operation Epic Fury; Israel called the same campaign Operation Roaring Lion. By the time a ceasefire took hold in early May, the two air forces had flown thousands of sorties, dropped tens of thousands of munitions, wrecked most of Iran’s air defence network, and pushed Israel to mobilise 70,000 reservists for a war that, notably, never needed a single soldier to set foot in Iran.

It was, in almost every particular, a repeat performance. Eight months earlier, in June 2025, Israel had opened a shorter campaign against the same adversary, Operation Rising Lion, killing Iranian commanders and destroying nuclear infrastructure in an opening strike synchronised across 200 aircraft operating nearly 2,000 kilometres from home. Two months before that, India had responded to a terror attack in Pahalgam with Operation Sindoor, striking nine terror camps and 11 Pakistani airbases with cruise and precision-guided missiles, again without a single soldier crossing the Line of Control. And in the background, for four years running, Russia and Ukraine have fought a war increasingly decided in the air, and in the narrow band of altitude just above the trench line, where cheap drones now do work once reserved for artillery. Something has changed in how states go to war. Air power used to be the instrument of escalation, the thing a state reached for once diplomacy had failed and limited measures had been tried and found wanting. Increasingly, it is the opening move instead. Not the last resort. The first.

Septsics could once dismiss any single case as an outlier. Rising Lion was Is-

rael doing what Israel does. Sindoor was a punitive strike against a familiar adversary, bounded by decades of custom. But Roaring Lion and Epic Fury make it harder to treat 2025 as an anomaly. Here was the same basic script — decapitation strike, no ultimatum publicly exhausted, no ground invasion — run a second time, at greater scale, against the same country, within a single year. Israeli officials say the follow-on campaign destroyed the bulk of what remained of Iran’s air-defence architecture and hunted down its navy in the Caspian Sea and the Gulf. American officials describe

ble. The first is precision itself, now mature enough that a state can achieve real strategic effect, killing a regime’s leadership, wrecking its missile production, degrading its command structure, without the mass casualties or drawn-out campaigns that once made air power politically costly. Sindoor’s strikes on terror infrastructure specifically avoided Pakistani civilian and economic targets. The opening strike of Roaring Lion is reported to have relied on continuous real-time monitoring to keep the attacking force’s own losses at zero. The second is the collapse of the kill chain.

drones in 2025. A war that once required squadrons of expensive aircraft can increasingly be fought, at least at its margins, with machines that cost a few hundred dollars apiece. That arithmetic does not stay confined to state air forces forever; it eventually reaches militias, insurgents and proxies who have never operated an air force in their lives.

None of this means air power has permanently replaced escalation as war’s opening chapter. India’s Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, captured the underlying incentive last year: governments increasingly reach for force because

and more front-loaded as combatants race to win before defences adapt; a parallel trend toward longer, layered contests, visible in how Russia’s drone-and-missile tactics evolved through 2025 and 2026 from blunt saturation into something more calibrated; and the spread of cheap first-strike capability to actors who have never had to think about escalation control at all.

Some of this evolution genuinely earns credit. Precision that avoids Pakistani civilian infrastructure while degrading terror camps, or that lets an air force claim zero losses during a strike that killed a country’s top

both 2025 and 2026; a state without deep pockets cannot sustain that trade for long. There is a psychological risk too—a shared sense of success without resolution that tends to raise, not lower, the odds of a repeat.

None of these campaigns were won by aircraft alone. Cyber operations and internet blackouts degraded Iranian command coherence before Israeli jets ever crossed the border. Space-based and open-source satellite imagery gave analysts near real-time battle-damage assessment that used to be the preserve of state intelligence agencies. Electronic warfare shaped how air defence performed, with fire-control radars switched on only briefly to defeat direction-finding. Increasingly, these domains do not merely support a strike campaign; they decide whether one can be launched as the first move at all. For the Indian Air Force, the past two years offer several unglamorous but important lessons. Networked and layered air defence pays off. Patient indigenous integration, however slow, beats dependence on imports. BrahMos took years to mature but became Operation Sindoor’s decisive strike system. Munitions and interceptor stockpiles now need to be treated as a first-order planning question, not a peacetime afterthought. The Iran campaign burned through precision stocks. And a multi-vendor fleet, drawn from Russia, France, Israel and domestic industry, will keep creating integration friction until India builds a clearer architecture for sharing sensor data across platforms never designed to talk to each other.

The broader lesson is that war’s opening move has changed. States that once spent weeks signalling intent before committing aircraft are now doing so within hours of a decision being taken. Whether that makes the world more stable, because conflicts end faster, or more dangerous, because the threshold for starting one has quietly dropped, is the question the next decade will answer.



the great majority of Iran’s defence-industrial base, including its missile and drone production, as destroyed. Whatever the precise figures, and battlefield claims are always worth treating cautiously, the direction is unmistakable: the second air campaign against Iran in under a year was not smaller or more restrained than the first. It was bigger. That is the pattern worth studying, not because any one campaign proves a rule, but because four cases in two years, across three different adversarial relationships, now point the same way.

Three things have converged to make this possi-

Modern sensor networks compress what used to take days of planning into hours. The opening salvo of Epic Fury synchronised bombers, fighters, refuelling aircraft and electronic-warfare platforms into a single strike package that reportedly hit hundreds of targets within its first day. In Ukraine, the same compression happens at a smaller, cheaper scale: a first-person-view drone can go from launch to strike in minutes, guided by an operator watching a video feed from a trench a few kilometres away. The third is cost. Ukraine alone is thought to have set a production target of roughly 4.5 million

political objectives can now be met through short campaigns rather than long ones. But four data points, however striking, are not a settled theory of war. Sindoor was a counter-terror strike. Rising Lion and Roaring Lion were counter-proliferation and regime-degradation campaigns against a state with a crumbling air-defence network. Ukraine is grinding interstate attrition of an entirely different character. The honest reading is that the trend is real and still forming, not a finished doctrine. Where it goes next probably depends on three things happening at once: campaigns growing shorter

leadership, is more discriminating than the air campaigns of earlier generations. India’s own layered air defence held against more than 600 Pakistani drones launched in a single wave during Sindoor, proof that defence can keep pace with offence when the investment is made early. What deserves real worry is the economics running the other way. Interceptors cost vastly more than the drones and missiles they shoot down, and that gap widens every year drone production gets cheaper. Israel and the United States burned through finite, expensive stocks defending against Iranian retaliation in

The case for continued cautious monetary policy

The global economic landscape remains fraught with uncertainty, forcing emerging economies such as India to navigate an increasingly volatile external environment. Persistent geopolitical tensions, elevated energy prices, fragile supply chains and unpredictable financial markets have compelled the Reserve Bank of India to continue its cautious monetary policy approach. Reflecting these concerns, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously decided to keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 5.25% for the fourth consecutive policy review. The decision underscores the RBI’s preference for prudence over premature policy action. With the global outlook clouded by the prolonged West Asia conflict, renewed inflationary pressures and trade uncertainties, the central bank has chosen to preserve policy flexibility until there is greater clarity on the trajectory of inflation and global growth. The RBI has projected a healthy GDP growth of 6.7% for 2026-27, an improvement over its previous estimate, despite external headwinds. The decision to contin-



ue the neutral policy stance reflects the central bank’s preference to wait for greater clarity on inflation and global developments before making its next move. Elevated oil prices pose inflationary risks for India, as the country imports a significant portion of its crude oil requirements. By holding the repo rate steady, the RBI aims to balance the need to support economic

growth while ensuring that inflation remains within its target range amid an uncertain global environment. The RBI has flagged risks to the agriculture sector, which employs over 46% of the workforce and contributes nearly 18% to the country’s GDP.

A meeting of the six-member MPC, chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, unanimous-

ly opted for continuation of the neutral policy stance to balance inflation control with economic stability. Inflation is expected to rise in the coming months amid uncertainty surrounding the southwest monsoon, El Niño conditions, geopolitical tensions and global trade policies. The MPC revised its inflation outlook and projected consumer price index (CPI) infla-

tion at 5 per cent for FY27. Headline inflation is likely to increase in the near term before peaking in the third quarter and moderating thereafter. A stronger US dollar, higher bond yields and fragile public finances in several major economies are cited as downside risks to global growth. However, India’s economy has continued to perform strongly despite global challenges. Private consumption remained robust during the first quarter, while investment activity was supported by healthy construction activity, capital goods demand and strong bank credit growth. The central bank also noted that services exports remained strong and merchandise exports had recovered. A sustained momentum in the services sector, continued government infrastructure spending, stable employment conditions and healthy credit growth are expected to support domestic demand in the coming months. Rather than relying on rate hikes to stabilise the currency, policymakers appear to be focusing on creating multiple, targeted channels for durable capital inflows.

Bajaj Life offers simplified priority claims process for Assam flood-affected policyholders

Guwahati: Bajaj Life Insurance has announced a special claims assistance programme for policyholders affected by the floods in Assam, introducing a simplified and fast-tracked claims settlement process to help families receive insurance benefits without unnecessary delays.

The initiative covers policyholders in the flood-affected districts of Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat and Golaghat. The company said it has established a dedicated claims settlement desk, with eligible death claims to be processed on the highest priority.

To make the process easier, nominees or legal heirs need to submit proof confirming death due to floods from the local municipal authority, designated government officials or hospital authorities,



along with a claim intimation form, bank account details and KYC documents. If a death certificate is not immediately available, Bajaj Life Insurance said it will also accept official lists issued by hospitals, police, armed forces or State and Central government authorities, wherever applicable.

Policyholders and beneficiaries can seek assistance by calling the customer care helpline at 020 6712 1212, visiting the nearest Bajaj Life Insurance branch, emailing claims@bajajlife.

com or contacting the designated nodal officer, Suhass Vibhute, at 020 66439027.

Formerly known as Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, Bajaj Life serves over 3.47 crore customers through 598 branches and more than 1.61 lakh insurance consultants. The insurer manages assets exceeding Rs 1.40 lakh crore and reported an individual claim settlement ratio of 99.33 per cent in FY2025-26, reinforcing its commitment to timely customer support during emergencies.

Lok Sabha Clears Taxation Bill to Support Electronics Manufacturing, Introduce UPI MDR Provision

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CCPA Fines Nine Digital Platforms Nearly Rs 20 Lakh Over 'Dark Patterns'

Mumbai: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has penalised nine digital platforms with fines totalling nearly ₹20 lakh for allegedly using “dark patterns” — deceptive online design practices that can influence consumers into making choices they may not have intended.

The action covers companies including Zepto, BookMyShow, IndiGo, Physics Wallah, FirstCry, PharmEasy, McAfee, SpiceJet and Anuj Jindal. The penalties imposed by the consumer watchdog ranged from ₹1 lakh to ₹7 lakh, based on the nature of the violations identified.

Zepto was issued the highest penalty after the regulator raised concerns over additional charges appearing during the checkout process and the automatic inclusion of certain services without clear consumer consent. The platform was also flagged for practices categorised as “drip pricing” and “basket sneaking”.

Other platforms were found to have used methods such as pre-selected donation options, hidden charges, forced subscription prompts, misleading urgency messages and confusing opt-out choices. BookMyShow was directed to remove a pre-selected donation option, while Physics Wallah faced action over similar donation-related practices.

IndiGo was also cited for using a “confirm shaming” approach, where consumers declining optional travel protection were shown a message designed to influence their decision. The airline later modified the opt-out process following regulatory intervention.

The CCPA’s action comes under the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023, which identify several misleading digital practices affecting consumer autonomy. The government said the enforcement measures are aimed at improving transparency, strengthening consumer protection and ensuring fair business practices in India’s growing digital economy.

RBI Proposes Uniform Interest Rate Framework for Banks, NBFCs

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a common interest rate framework for banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to bring greater transparency in loan pricing, improve monetary policy transmission and ensure uniform treatment of borrowers across the financial sector.

The proposed framework seeks to harmonise the way regulated lenders determine lending rates by introducing standardised benchmark-based pricing for loans, particularly in the retail and micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) segments.

Under the proposal, the new norms will apply to all non-bank lenders regulated by the RBI, including Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) and Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). The move is aimed at creating a level playing field between banks and NBFCs while reducing disparities in lending practices.

At present, commercial banks price loans using

structured benchmark systems such as the External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) and the Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR). In contrast, most NBFCs follow board-approved Prime Lending Rates (PLRs), giving them greater flexibility in determining borrowing costs.

The RBI has proposed that NBFCs should shift to recognised external benchmarks, such as the RBI’s repo rate or Treasury Bill yields, for retail and MSME loans.

Alternatively, lenders may adopt formal internal benchmark models that comply with the central bank’s proposed framework.

The regulator has also suggested uniform timelines for resetting interest rates to ensure that changes in policy rates are transmitted more fairly to borrowers. The proposal seeks to address a long-standing concern that lending rates often rise quickly after policy rate hikes but take longer to decline when rates are reduced.



According to the draft framework, loans linked to external benchmarks will have to undergo interest rate resets at least once every three months. For loans linked to internal benchmarks, the maximum interval between resets will be limited to one year.

To strengthen transparency, the RBI has proposed that all loan agreements clearly specify the applicable benchmark, the frequency of interest rate resets and the exact reset dates. This is expected to provide borrowers with greater clarity regarding changes in their loan repayments and im-

prove predictability over the tenure of the loan.

The central bank believes a harmonised interest rate regime will improve the transmission of monetary policy decisions across the financial system, promote fair lending practices and reduce inconsistencies in pricing among regulated entities. Once finalised after stakeholder consultations, the revised framework is expected to bring greater consistency to India’s lending landscape while enhancing consumer protection and ensuring that policy rate changes are reflected more efficiently in borrowing costs.

Government Raises Rs 31,552 Crore Through LIC Stake Sale in Record OFS

Mumbai: The Central government has raised ₹31,552 crore through the sale of a 6.5 per cent stake in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), completing the country’s largest Offer for Sale (OFS) transaction in the equity market and significantly increasing public shareholding in the state-owned insurer.

The divestment attracted strong investor interest, with demand exceeding the number of shares offered, underscoring continued confidence in LIC despite volatile market conditions.

Under the transaction, the government sold 82.2 crore shares, including the green-shoe option. The issue received bids for approximately 111.3 crore shares, reflecting healthy participation from institutional as well as other categories of investors.

The shares were allotted at ₹383.69 apiece, marginally above the floor price of ₹382, enabling the government to mobilise ₹31,552 crore through the stake sale. The transaction is the largest OFS conducted in the Indian stock market to



date. Officials said the successful divestment forms part of the government’s broader disinvestment strategy aimed at enhancing public participation in state-owned enterprises while raising resources through capital markets.

Following the completion of the sale, the government’s holding in LIC has declined, resulting in an increase in the insurer’s public shareholding to 10 per cent.

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Arunish Chawla said the stake sale has enabled LIC to meet the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) requirement relating

to minimum public shareholding ahead of the prescribed timeline.

Achieving the 10 per cent public shareholding threshold marks an important regulatory milestone for LIC, which was listed on the stock exchanges in 2022. Compliance with SEBI’s Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) norms is expected to improve trading liquidity, broaden the investor base and enhance price discovery in the company’s shares.

The successful completion of the record-breaking OFS is also expected to provide a boost to the government’s disinvestment programme while reinforcing investor confidence in India’s capital markets.

Sensex Gains Nearly 170 Points; Swiggy, Chemicals and Defence Stocks Lead Market Buzz

New Delhi: Indian equity markets traded on a mixed-to-positive note on Thursday, with the BSE Sensex gaining nearly 170 points during the session, supported by buying interest in defence, specialty chemical and select growth-oriented stocks. The NSE Nifty 50 remained largely steady as investors balanced positive domestic cues with sector-specific profit booking.

The Sensex touched an intraday high of 78,904.37, reflecting cautious optimism among investors following supportive global market signals and strength in select sectors. Market activity remained focused on individual stocks, with several companies witnessing sharp movements following business updates, earnings announcements and strategic developments.

Among the major stocks in focus was Swiggy, which gained around 5.2 per cent to trade near ₹305 after the company presented its long-term growth roadmap at its Capital Markets Day 2026 event. The food delivery and quick-commerce company outlined an ambitious vision for FY31, targeting ₹10,000 crore in adjusted EBITDA and aiming to expand consolidated Gross Order Value (GOV)

at a growth rate of more than 30 per cent CAGR.

Swiggy expects its consolidated GOV to reach around ₹2.5 lakh crore by FY31, compared with approximately ₹67,734 crore in FY26, as it focuses on scaling its food delivery, quick-commerce and other consumer businesses.

Specialty chemical company Navin Fluorine International also attracted strong investor interest, with shares rising more than 10 per cent to around ₹8,419. The stock touched a fresh 52-week high and all-time high following positive market sentiment around its growth prospects, supported by expansion plans and favourable views from global brokerages.

Neuland Laboratories witnessed a sharp rally, gaining about 11.7 per cent to ₹22,490 after reporting a strong quarterly performance. The company’s net profit surged nearly 10 times, or 962 per cent year-on-year, to ₹148 crore in the first quarter, while quarterly revenue more than doubled to ₹642 crore, boosting investor confidence.

Real estate developer Kolte Patil Developers also remained in focus after its shares climbed more than 10 per cent to ₹432.25. The

rally followed the company’s announcement that it had secured six redevelopment projects in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), with a combined Gross Development Value (GDV) of approximately ₹6,000 crore.

Defence and aerospace-related company PTC Industries gained around 2.5 per cent to ₹18,540 after its subsidiary Aerolloy Technologies signed an agreement with Airbus to manufacture and supply fully machined titanium castings for major aircraft programmes, including the A320neo, A330neo and A350.

Meanwhile, Power Grid Corporation emerged as one of the key laggards in the market, declining around 3.5–4 per cent during intraday trade. The stock came under pressure due to profit booking after recent gains in the power transmission sector.

Market participants continued to monitor corporate developments, global market trends and sector-specific triggers for further direction. Analysts said stock-specific movements are likely to remain prominent as investors assess earnings growth, business expansion plans and valuation levels across companies.

Hospital Stock Gains Investor Attention After Delivering 90% Return in 2026

Mumbai: A hospital sector stock has emerged as one of the notable performers in the equity market after delivering a remarkable 90.28 per cent return in 2026 so far, significantly outperforming benchmark indices and highlighting the growing investor interest in healthcare companies.

The strong performance comes at a time when hospital and healthcare stocks are witnessing increased buying interest due to improving industry fundamentals, steady demand growth and expectations of sustained earnings expansion. Investors have been closely tracking the sector as healthcare companies continue to benefit from rising patient footfall, higher occupancy rates and expansion of medical facilities across major cities and smaller urban centres.

Analysts said the hospital industry has gained momentum due to several structural factors, including increasing healthcare awareness, higher spending on medical services, growth in lifestyle-related diseases and rising demand for specialised treatments. The expansion of organised healthcare networks and improved access to quality medical facilities have further strengthened the sector’s long-term growth prospects.

One of the key factors sup-



porting hospital companies has been the improvement in operational performance. Higher bed utilisation, better pricing power and growth in Average Revenue Per Occupied Bed (ARPOB) have helped healthcare providers improve revenue generation. The increasing contribution from speciality procedures, advanced medical treatments and elective surgeries has also supported profitability.

The sector has additionally benefited from the steady growth of medical tourism, with India emerging as a preferred destination for affordable and quality healthcare services. Hospitals in major cities have witnessed rising demand from domestic and international patients, providing additional growth opportunities for established healthcare players.

Investors have also shown interest in hospital stocks as defensive growth assets, given the relatively stable nature of healthcare demand compared with other sectors

that are more sensitive to economic cycles. Companies with strong balance sheets, expansion plans and diversified healthcare services have attracted greater market attention.

Market analysts believe that continued investments in new hospitals, expansion of bed capacity, adoption of digital healthcare solutions and improvement in operational efficiency could support further growth for the sector. However, they have cautioned that valuations, regulatory changes and broader market volatility remain important factors that investors need to consider.

The featured hospital stock’s near 90 per cent year-to-date gain reflects strong market confidence in the healthcare segment’s future growth potential. While the sector outlook remains positive, investors are advised to evaluate company fundamentals, financial performance and risk factors before taking investment decisions.

Ola Electric Opens Sales and Service Network to Dealers Ahead of Diwali Push

Mumbai: Ola Electric has announced a major shift in its retail strategy by opening its sales and service network to third-party dealer partners, moving away from its earlier direct-to-consumer (D2C) model as the electric two-wheeler maker prepares for a nationwide expansion ahead of the Diwali festive season.

Since entering the electric vehicle market, Ola Electric had primarily operated through company-owned, inventory-led sales and service hubs. The company is now planning to build a wider dealership network to increase customer access, strengthen after-sales support and improve service availability, particularly in tier-2, tier-3 cities and rural markets.

Under the new approach, dealer partners will support sales operations, spare parts distribution and vehicle servicing across Ola Electric’s product portfolio, including its S1 electric scooter range and Roadster motorcycle series. The company aims to establish thousands of retail and service touchpoints across India before Diwali 2026.

The move marks a significant change in Ola Electric’s business model, which had focused heavily on direct engagement with customers through its own experience centres. By bringing in ex-

ternal dealership partners, the company expects to expand its physical presence faster while reducing the capital investment required for setting up and operating company-owned outlets.

The broader retail network is also expected to help Ola Electric improve customer experience by enabling quicker service response, easier access to spare parts and stronger local support. The company is looking to address one of the key challenges faced by electric vehicle manufacturers — building reliable after-sales infrastructure as adoption expands beyond major cities.

The dealership expansion comes as Ola Electric faces increasing competition from established two-wheeler manufacturers such as TVS Motor Company, Bajaj Auto and Hero MotoCorp, which already have extensive dealer networks across the country.

With the festive season traditionally accounting for a significant share of vehicle sales in India, Ola Electric is aiming to strengthen its market presence and improve accessibility for customers through the expanded dealership model. The company believes the transition will support long-term growth by combining wider distribution reach with improved service capabilities.

More than 1,100 people convicted of illegal arrival in UK since 2022

UK: More than 1,100 people, including survivors of torture and trafficking, have been convicted of illegally arriving in the UK since 2022, according to freedom of information data.

The Home Office introduced the offence of illegal arrival in 2022 in a bid to deter those planning to come to the UK by small boat or by other irregular means such as lorries.

The decision was widely condemned at the time because the refugee convention states that those seeking sanctuary should not be criminalised for the way they travel, as they often do not have the option to move legally from an unsafe country to a safe one.

Fol data obtained from the Home Office by the criminologist Dr Victoria Taylor, a research fellow at the Univer-

sity of Manchester, reveals 1,109 people were prosecuted for illegal arrival between July 2022 and January 2026.

The data shows 628 arrived on a small boat, 296 of whom were captured on surveillance drone footage steering a dinghy. Others had previous immigration history in the UK.

Just 12 people have been convicted of the separate offence of facilitation, after steering the dinghies they arrived on. It is harder for the Home Office and Crown Prosecution Service to secure evidence that people on a dinghy were involved in organising a journey across the Channel than to prosecute them for illegal arrival. People have been identified as having their “hand on the tiller” for many reasons, including having boating experience, steering in return for



discounted passage, taking it in turns, or being under duress.

In one illegal arrival case, the Home Office settled a judicial review relating to a trafficking survivor from

South Sudan who was forced at gunpoint to pilot a small boat. Officials have now agreed to ensure greater protection for trafficking victims in these cases.

Emily Soothill, partner

at Deighton Pierce Glynn, who represented the man, said: “Unfortunately it is clear from our client’s case that potential victims of trafficking are regularly being convicted for illegal arrival

and imprisoned for many months. The concessions made in our client’s case underline the need for a robust and consistent application of the UK’s modern slavery framework to prevent survi-

vors of trafficking from being wrongly treated as criminals.”

Some of those convicted of the various offences were survivors of torture and trafficking, and there were at least 30 age-disputed children among them, 19 of whom had spent time in adult prisons.

The organisation Captain Support UK has worked with hundreds of people imprisoned in illegal arrival cases, all of whom sought asylum in the UK in the hours before they were arrested.

A spokesperson said: “We see first-hand the negative impact these prosecutions have on people and their families. We urgently call on the government to stop imprisoning people on the move. No one should be put in prison for seeking safety and a better life.”

Taylor said: “The process of who is selected for prosecution is arbitrary and cruel.”

She added that the most of those imprisoned for illegal arrival since 2022 had claimed asylum in the hours before they were arrested. Many have been granted asylum since their release or have been recognised as victims of trafficking, or both.

“There are serious questions about the compatibility of these prosecutions with the refugee convention, which was drafted to prevent states from penalising refugees for how they seek safety. There is no evidence to support the government’s claims that these prosecutions will ‘deter’ people from attempting to cross the Channel,” Taylor said.

The Home Office has been approached for comment.

Woman arrested after four men stabbed in London’s Covent Garden

London: A woman has been arrested after four men were stabbed in Covent Garden, central London, police said.

The Metropolitan police said the men, aged 34, 39, 42 and 52, were found with stab wounds. They were taken to a major trauma centre after the lunchtime incident on Endell Street.

Two of the men were being treated for injuries that were not believed to be life-threatening or life-changing and the other two had been discharged.

A 47-year-old woman remained in custody after being arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon, believed to be a pair of scissors, and assault.

Ch Supt Jason Stewart, who leads policing in the area, said: “Officers responded within minutes of this incident after receiving a number of reports. While still at an early stage of the investigation, we would like to reassure the community that we currently believe this to be an isolated, mental health-related incident.

“A visible police presence will remain in the area while evidence is gathered at the scene and we thank the pub-



lic for their understanding.”

A London ambulance service spokesperson said: “We sent an ambulance crew, a paramedic in a fast-response car and an incident response officer. We also dispatched London’s air ambulance. We treated four patients at the scene and took them all to a major trauma centre as a priority by road.” One witness said the stabbing happened outside the Shaftesbury Theatre before the woman al-

legedly made her way down Endell Street, a popular location for eating and drinking in the area.

The witness, who wanted to remain anonymous, said: “We noticed she stabbed three people with scissors by the theatre then she came down here and the police were here.”

One of the victims ran into a barber shop and took his shirt off, revealing a large gash in his back, workers

there said.

Arjan Gjorga, who works at the Rock and Sole Plaiçe restaurant and witnessed the attack, said a woman involved in the incident was known to people who worked on the street.

He said: “I see her all the time, she’s a homeless person. She walks up and down asking for help, she visits the church at the top of the street.” Gjorga, who did not have to close his restaurant,

said: “We all saw a commotion, people were running away. It was totally random, just random people. She suddenly started stabbing them. The police reacted immediately, they arrested her right away.” Matt Bishop, 42, who works at a consultancy firm next to the cordon in Covent Garden, said he had seen a woman having a “standoff” with three police officers and waving a weapon around.

Andrea, the manager of Da Mario restaurant on the same street, said the attack happened in the middle of lunch service.

Gesturing at a pair of men enjoying cocktails on the shaded terrace, he said: “They saw it all but they weren’t fazed. They had a police cordon right over their heads but they kept on enjoying their lunch. It’s just another day in London.”

He also recognised the alleged perpetrator, saying: “She’s often on the street. We’ve seen her do things like this before, she’s recently got in an argument with a mate and thrown a bottle of vodka on the floor and it smashed outside the restaurant.”

By 3.30pm, the area was calm with the cordon down.

Palantir paid just £2m corporation tax in UK in 2024

UK: The software group Palantir paid just £2m in corporation tax in the UK in 2024, despite holding public sector contracts worth hundreds of millions, thanks to tax breaks that are likely to reduce its contributions to governments around the world for years to come.

The US-headquartered company, which has harnessed AI to secure lucrative work for the NHS and the Ministry of Defence, is growing exponentially.

Palantir’s shares bounced 17% in early trading on Tuesday after its chief executive, Alex Karp, forecast worldwide revenues would almost double this year to \$8bn (£5.95bn), a result that he described as “otherworldly”.

Andrea Egan, general secretary at the trade union Unison, which commissioned the report, said: “Systems that enable tax to be shirked on an industrial scale clearly have to change. The likes of Palantir need to stump up what’s due. Tech giants raking off billions in profit shouldn’t be free to pay what they please. Ministers shouldn’t award contracts to run public services to firms that are starving them of cash.” The UK is Palantir’s biggest market outside the



US, with £247m of revenues declared by the company for 2024, the most recent year covered by the report, while the majority of its non-US workforce – about 750 employees – are based in Britain. As of 2026, Palantir holds an estimated £670m in government contracts. A three-year, £240m deal with the MoD was awarded last December without a competitive tender.

In 2024 the company paid just £2.1m in UK corporation tax, despite declaring profits of over £25m, giving an effective tax rate of just over 8%, researchers found. The UK corporation tax rate was 25% that year and remains at that level.

Despite the size of the UK market, tax collected here was less than in South Korea, Japan, France or Germany.

One reason, according to the researchers, is that Palan-

tir is accounting for its UK revenues in the US, a practice sometimes referred to as transfer pricing. “A major pattern emerges of Palantir shifting revenues and profits from contracts in Europe to the US parent company to take advantage of the massive tax shelter it has created there,” they said.

While 26% of all Palantir revenue is sourced from customers outside the US, only 4% of revenue is booked abroad. The reason for this is not clear, but researchers said they believed contracts with customers were signed with Palantir’s US companies, which in turn paid a service fee to local country subsidiaries to deliver the work.

For example, Palantir disclosed £159m of revenues in its UK company filings for 2024, but disclosed £247m of UK revenues in its stock market filings.

Student Unrest Spreads Across Bangladesh as Rival Student Groups Clash from Rangpur to Dhaka

Dhaka: Educational institutions that symbolised Bangladesh’s democratic awakening during the July uprising under the government of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have, two years later, turned into battlegrounds. Within the past two days, violent clashes between activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir spread from Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur to Jagannath University, Dhaka College and Government Madrasa-e-Alia in the capital, Dhaka. The violence prompted university authorities to launch investigations and deploy additional police personnel. The clashes come amid es-

calating tensions between rival student organisations over ideology, campus influence and organisational dominance.

According to a report by the Dhaka Tribune, the first major clash erupted on Monday evening at Begum Rokeya University during an exhibition organised to mark “July Uprising Day.” University authorities said the violence began after activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal objected to a banner titled “Judicial Killing,” which displayed photographs of six leaders from Jamaat-e-Islami and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) who had been convicted of crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Lib-



eration War. The dispute quickly escalated into large-scale violence, with clashes involving sticks and rods continuing on the campus for more than five

hours.

Eyewitnesses said activists from both student organisations were armed with sharp weapons, hockey sticks, iron rods,

bamboo poles and helmets. Traffic outside the university campus came to a standstill during the violence. Both organisations blamed each other

for provoking the clashes. The university administration later constituted a five-member committee to investigate the incident.

The unrest spread to Dhaka by Tuesday morning. Rival student groups clashed during the screening of a documentary at Jagannath University in the capital. Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Prof. Dr Mamun Ahmed, was also present at the event.

Eyewitnesses said tensions began when members of the Jagannath University Central Students’ Union and Jatiya Chhatra Shakti attempted to enter the auditorium carrying placards demanding the immediate implementation of several

campus-related demands.

The situation deteriorated after activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal intervened, eventually triggering large-scale violence. The clashes later extended to the National Medical College Hospital, where injured students had been taken for treatment. Doctors said that more than 70 injured people had received medical care by Tuesday evening.

Leaders and activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Islami Chhatra Shibir, Jatiya Chhatra Shakti and the university’s Central Students’ Union, along with several journalists, were injured in the violence.

Dhaka College also wit-

nessed violent confrontations. Eyewitnesses reported clashes, stone-pelting and the open display of sticks and iron rods. Around 20 people were injured in the incident.

By the afternoon, violence had spread to Government Madrasa-e-Alia in Bakshi Bazar, where several people, including the principal, sustained injuries.

A heavy police presence has since been deployed at educational institutions across the capital. On Tuesday night, the administrations of Begum Rokeya University and Jagannath University announced separate inquiry committees to investigate the incidents.

Experiencing Pimples Across Your Face During This Monsoon Season



During the monsoon, sweat, oil, and pollution can accumulate rapidly. It is advisable to cleanse your face twice a day using a mild, non-comedogenic cleanser to eliminate excess oil and impurities. If your skin suddenly starts breaking out every

rainy season, you're not alone. High humidity, excess sweat and increased oil production can clog pores, creating an ideal environment for acne-causing bacteria. A few simple skin-care habits can help keep monsoon breakouts under control. Cleanse Twice a

Day—But Don't Over-wash: Sweat, oil and pollution can build up quickly during the monsoon. Wash your face twice daily with a gentle, non-comedogenic cleanser to remove excess oil and impurities. Avoid washing too often, as it can strip the skin's natural bar-

rier and trigger even more oil production. Moisturiser Is Still a Must: Many people skip moisturiser in humid weather, thinking it will make their skin oilier. Dermatologists recommend using a lightweight, oil-free and non-comedogenic moisturiser to keep the skin hydrated without clogging pores. Well-hydrated skin is less likely to overproduce oil.Don't Skip Sunscreen on Cloudy Days: Ultraviolet (UV) rays can penetrate clouds even when the sun isn't visible. Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher every morning and reapply if you're outdoors for long periods. Choose a gel-based or non-comedogenic formula if you have oily or acne-prone skin. Keep Your Hands Off Your Face: Touching or picking at pimples can transfer bacteria, increase inflammation and raise the risk of scarring. Also, clean

your phone screen regularly and change pillowcases every few days to reduce the buildup of oil, sweat and germs that come into contact with your skin. Use Acne-Fighting Ingredients Wisely: If you're prone to breakouts, look for products containing salicylic acid to unclog pores or benzoyl peroxide to reduce acne-causing bacteria. Introduce one active ingredient at a time and use it as directed. If acne is severe, painful or persistent, consult a dermatologist instead of self-treating. Small Lifestyle Habits Matter Too: Healthy skin starts beyond your skin-care routine. Drink enough water, eat a balanced diet, remove makeup before bed and avoid sharing towels or makeup products. If your pimples continue to worsen despite good skincare or leave scars, seek medical advice—early treatment can help prevent long-term skin damage.

Every “I have nothing to wear” moment will be avoided with these simple t-shirts

A fundamental t-shirt, whether fitted or oversized, ensures both versatility and comfort. Regardless of whether you are going out for a casual day or heading to the office, basic t-shirts can seamlessly adjust to any occasion. From classic crisp whites to oversized styles and polo t-shirts, these are the essential basic t-shirts you need to create a functional and stylish wardrobe. How to choose the perfect basic t-shirt for yourself? Before adding another basic tee to your cart, keep these factors in mind: Fabric: Choose breathable materials like cotton or cotton blends for maximum comfort.Fit:Select a fit based on your lifestyle: Regular fit for everyday wear. Relaxed fit for comfort. Oversized fit for casual styling.Neckline:Crew neck for a timeless look. V-neck for a more flattering silhouette.Scoop neck for a softer appearance. The Classic White T-Shirt A white T-shirt is a wardrobe essential that never goes out of style. Clean, minimal and endlessly versatile, it pairs just as well with tailored trousers as it does with denim shorts or joggers. Style it with:Blazer and trousers for work. Denim and sneakers for casual outing.Linen pants when travelling. The Black Crew Neck T-Shirt If there's one T-shirt that can instantly make any outfit look more put together, it's a well-fitted black tee. It's flattering, easy to style and ideal for both day and night. The Oversized Cotton T-Shirt These kind of t shirt for women are perfect for travel days and relaxed weekends, this fit offers breathability while giving



your outfit a modern edge. Neutral shades like beige, cream and taupe bring a sophisticated touch to everyday dressing. They pair effortlessly with almost every colour in your wardrobe. The V-Neck T-Shirt A V-neck offers a flattering neckline that works especially well under jackets, cardigans and blazers. Easy ways to style a basic t-shirt One T-shirt can create multiple outfits with just a few styling tweaks. For Work: Pair a fitted T-shirt with tailored trousers, a structured blazer and loafers for a polished office look. For Travel: Wear an oversized cotton tee with joggers, comfortable sneakers and a crossbody bag for effortless airport style. For Weekends Style your favourite tee with denim shorts, wide-leg jeans or a flowy skirt for a relaxed yet chic outfit. For Evenings Layer a basic T-shirt under a blazer or leather jacket and finish the look with statement jewellery and ankle boots.

10 Cost-Effective Replicas That Resemble Each Other Closely

Luxury lipsticks consistently secure a place on every beauty enthusiast's wish-list. How often have you gazed at a classic shade, placed it in your cart, and whispered to yourself, “Perhaps next payday”? Fortunately, that wait may soon be reduced. If Charlotte Tilbury, Dior, and MAC have lingered on your wishlist for an extended period, these affordable alternatives closely resemble them without the extravagant price tag. 1. Charlotte Tilbury Pillow Talk: There's a reason Pillow Talk has reached cult status. The rosy nude somehow flatters almost everyone and works just as well for brunch as it does for a wedding. If you don't want to spend ₹3,500 on a lipstick, Maybelline Color Sensational Creamy Matte in Touch of Spice comes surprisingly close. 2. MAC Ruby Woo: Some lipsticks become icons, and Ruby Woo is definitely one of them. That blue-based red has lived in makeup bags for years, and for good reason. Maybelline Color Sensational Creamy Matte in Rich Ruby captures a very similar classic red without the luxury price tag. 3. Dior Rouge Dior 999: Few red lipsticks have the legacy of DIOR Rouge Lipstick – 999. Rich, bold and timeless, it's the kind of shade that never feels out of place. Lakmé Ab-



rich rosy mood without the splurge. 6. MAC Mehr: Not every lipstick needs to be loud. Mehr's muted mauve-pink has become a favourite be-

cause it works just about everywhere, from office meetings to wedding functions. Maybelline Color Sensational Creamy Matte in Nude Nuance comes surprisingly close. 7. Huda Beauty Interview: Finding the perfect nude is harder than it looks, and Huda Beauty's Interview has cracked the code. If you're after that warm peachy nude, Lakmé Forever Matte Liquid Lip Colour in Nude Dream deserves a spot in your makeup pouch. 8. MAC Diva: Berry lips always find their way back into trend cycles, and MAC Diva never really left. If deep wine shades are your weakness, Faces Canada Weightless Matte Lipstick in Berry Brave delivers a very similar finish for a fraction of the price. 9. Dior Lip Glow: Technically a balm, but ask any beauty lover and they'll tell you it's much more than that. Dior Lip Glow gives lips a natural flush while keeping them hydrated. Nivea Cherry Shine Lip Balm offers a similar “your lips but better” finish for everyday wear. 10. Charlotte Tilbury Red Carpet Red: Nothing says classic Hollywood quite like a bold red lipstick. Charlotte Tilbury's Red Carpet Red has become a favourite for exactly that reason. L'Oréal Paris Color Riche Moist Matte in Lincoln Rose gives you a very similar glamorous finish without the designer price.

Purchased complete skincare collection for under ₹1500, and you can do the same

Creating a skincare regimen need not be financially burdensome. For a considerable period, I was under the impression that effective skincare was invariably associated with high costs. Each time I browsed through social media, I encountered costly serums, high-end moisturizers, and premium sunscreens. However, I decided to challenge myself to assemble a complete skincare routine for less than ₹1,500. To my astonishment, I discovered products that performed admirably, felt pleasant on my skin, and addressed all the fundamental steps of skin-care. If you're on a budget like I was, here's the skin-care routine I put together without spending more than ₹1,500. A gentle face wash The first product I picked was a gentle cleanser because every skincare routine starts with clean skin. Instead of choosing a fancy face wash, I went for a mild cleanser that removes dirt, oil, sunscreen, and light makeup without making my skin feel dry. A good cleanser with ingredients like rice water or neem keeps the skin hydrated while cleansing. I realised that spending more on a face wash isn't always necessary because it stays on the skin only for a short time.Budget: I preferred face washes under ₹300. A face serum Next, I wanted a serum

that would add hydration and give my skin a healthy glow. I found an affordable vitamin C serum that fit perfectly within my budget.Vitamin C helps brighten dull skin, supports an even-looking complexion, and gives the face a fresh appearance over time. Some affordable options also include hyaluronic acid, which helps retain moisture and makes the skin feel plump. I apply just a few drops every morning after cleansing, and it has become one of my favourite steps.Budget: I preferred face serums under ₹300. A moisturiser is something I never skip, regardless of the season. I chose a lightweight cream enriched with ceramides and glycerin because these ingredients help strengthen the skin barrier and lock in moisture.The cream absorbs quickly, doesn't feel greasy, and works well under sunscreen. Even during humid weather, it keeps my skin feeling comfortable throughout the day. I realised that an expensive moisturiser isn't always better. What matters is choosing ingredients that suit your skin type. Budget: I preferred moisturisers under ₹350. Sunscreen that doesn't feel heavy If there's one product I was willing to spend a little more on, it was sunscreen. I picked sunscreens that offered broad-spectrum protection without leaving a noticeable white cast. A good sunscreen protects the skin from harmful UV rays, tanning, pigmentation, and premature signs of ageing. I wear it every single day, even when I'm indoors for most of the day. There are several affordable sunscreens available today with lightweight gel or fluid textures that are comfortable enough for everyday use.Budget: I preferred sunscreens under ₹400.Lip care Healthy skin isn't just about the face, so I also included a nourishing lip balm in my budget.I chose one enriched with shea butter and serum-infused lip balm. It keeps my lips soft, prevents dryness, and works well under lipstick. Since lip balms are affordable, adding one to my routine didn't stretch my budget.Budget: I preferred lip balms under ₹150.How I stayed within budget Instead of buying products because they were trending, I focused on essentials. I compared ingredient lists, checked customer reviews, and waited for online discounts before placing my order. I also avoided buying multiple products that served the same purpose. One good cleanser, one serum, one moisturiser, one sunscreen, and one lip balm were enough to build a complete routine.

Everyday makeup routines have been revolutionized by tinted sunscreens



For many years, I adhered to the fundamental principle of skincare: always apply sunscreen. Each morning, I meticulously applied SPF prior to my makeup, convinced it was the sole method to shield my skin from early signs of aging, pigmentation issues, and sun damage. However, as time passed, I discovered that I was increasingly neglecting to apply sunscreen beneath my makeup, more frequently than I would care to acknowledge. No, it wasn't because I suddenly thought sunscreen was unnecessary. Instead, tinted sunscreens took over my interest in normal sunscreens. Applying tinted sunscreens actually simplified my morning routine, helping me skip the requirement of applying sunscreen and loading up with foundation or BB creams. It also gives me a supple and not-so-heavy glow, which is perfect for my daily office schedule. Moreover, now, instead of carrying loads of makeup products, I carry my latest love, tinted sunscreens, in my bag daily. What is a tinted sunscreen? A tinted sunscreen is a sunscreen that contains skin-friendly pigments to provide light coverage while protecting your skin from harmful UV rays. Most tinted sunscreens are formulated with broad-spectrum SPF 30 or SPF 50 and help even out skin tone, blur minor imperfections and create a natural-looking base. Unlike heavy foundations, they usually feel lightweight and comfortable enough for everyday wear. 5 tinted sunscreens 1. Bioderma Photoderm Crème Claire SPF 50+ PA++++ Tinted Sunscreen with 8H Hydration | In Vivo Tested: Bioderma Photoderm Crème Claire SPF 50+ PA++++ Tinted Sunscreen offers very high broad-spectrum sun protection while providing a natural tinted finish that helps even out skin tone. Its lightweight cream texture blends comfortably and leaves the skin looking radiant without feeling greasy. Key ingredients include Cellular Bioprotection™ complex, Titanium Dioxide, Iron Oxides, Glycerin, and UV filters that defend against UVA and UVB rays. It is suitable for daily wear and works well as a makeup base for sensitive skin. 2. Uniqaya Tinted Sunscreen Spf 50 PA+++|Tinted Sunscreen for Men & Women Sunscreen for Oily Skin & Dry Skin: Uniqaya Tinted Sunscreen combines SPF protection with sheer coverage to deliver a fresh, even complexion. Its lightweight formula helps blur minor imperfections while protecting the skin from harmful UV rays. It is ideal for everyday wear and offers a natural-looking finish without feeling heavy. Key ingredients include Zinc Oxide, Titanium Dioxide, Niacinamide, Vitamin E, Iron Oxides, and hydrating agents that soothe the skin while providing broad-spectrum sun protection. 3. RE' EQUIL Sheer Zinc Tinted Sunscreen, 100% Mineral-Based Sunscreen UVA: RE' EQUIL Sheer Zinc Tinted Sunscreen is a mineral sunscreen designed to protect sensitive and acne-prone skin while reducing white cast with its universal tint. The matte finish makes it suitable for oily and combination skin. Its formula contains 25% Zinc Oxide, Titanium Dioxide, Iron Oxides, Silica, and skin-conditioning ingredients that offer broad-spectrum UVA and UVB protection while helping absorb excess oil for a smooth finish. 4. WishCare Daily Fluid Tinted Sunscreen SPF50 PA++++| L102 | Broad Spectrum Protection for all skin types: WishCare Daily Fluid Tinted Sunscreen features an ultra-light fluid texture that blends effortlessly into the skin, offering sun protection and light coverage for everyday use. It delivers a fresh, natural finish without clogging pores. Key ingredients include Niacinamide, Hyaluronic Acid, Ceramides, Iron Oxides, modern UV filters, and moisturising ingredients that help strengthen the skin barrier while shielding against harmful UVA and UVB rays. 5. Foxtale SPF 50 PA++++ Tinted Sunscreen, 01 Nude | In-Vivo Tested & UVA/B Protection: Foxtale SPF 50 PA++++ Tinted Sunscreen provides high sun protection with a skin-evening tint that enhances your natural complexion. Its lightweight formula spreads smoothly and layers comfortably under or instead of makeup. The sunscreen contains Niacinamide, Vitamin

E, Iron Oxides, advanced UV filters, and hydrating ingredients that help reduce dullness while protecting the skin from UVA and UVB damage. It leaves a healthy-looking finish suitable for everyday wear. Tips for using tinted sunscreens correctly Choose SPF 30 or higher with broad-spectrum protection. Apply enough product to cover the entire face and neck evenly. Allow it to settle before applying concealer or powder. Reapply sunscreen every two hours if you're outdoors for extended periods. Powder or spray SPF products can make reapplication easier over makeup. Pick a shade that blends naturally into your skin tone. When do you need a separate sunscreen? Tinted sunscreen isn't always a complete replacement. A separate sunscreen may be a better choice if:You're spending several hours outdoors. You're going to the beach or hiking. You're exercising in direct sunlight. You need water-resistant protection. You prefer applying makeup in lighter layers after adequate sun protection. In these situations, applying a dedicated sunscreen first and then using makeup products over it is usually the better option. Who should use tinted sunscreens? Tinted sunscreens are ideal for: People who prefer a natural makeup look Busy professionals looking to simplify their routine. College students who want quick everyday makeup. Those with uneven skin tone or mild redness. Anyone who dislikes the feel of heavy foundation.

ENTERTAINMENT

Karan Deol shares childhood memories and addresses strict parenting by father Sunny Deol



Mumbai : Actor Karan Deol had the audience giggling during the Ahmedabad promotions of his upcoming film Batwara 1947 after he shared a candid response about growing up with his superstar father Sunny Deol. In the same breath, Karan replied, “Pitai to kabhi nahi hui, bas ishara hi kaafi hota tha.” (I was never beaten,

but just a look from him was enough) His one-line response left the audience laughing, while Sunny and Preity also giggled.Talking about Batwara 1947, the movie directed by Rajkumar Santoshi and produced by Aamir Khan under the banner of Aamir Khan Productions, is set against the backdrop of the Partition of India in 1947.

The period drama explores the human lives and trauma during Partition through themes of displacement and compassion. The film stars Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta, Shabana Azmi, Karan Deol, Ali Fazal and Abhimanyu Singh. The trailer that was unveiled a few days ago has generated strong buzz ahead of the film’s release, and has received a great response from the audiences and critics alike. The film also marks Preity Zinta’s return to the big screen with a big bang after an eight-year break.Batwara 1947 reunites Sunny Deol and Preity Zinta on screen after many years. The duo has previously worked together in films such as The Hero: Love Story of a Spy, Heroes and Bhaiaji Superhit. Off-screen too, Preity shares a warm bond with the Deol family. Over the years, she has frequently been regarded as one of Bobby Deol’s closest friends in the industry. The two have shared screen space in films including Soldier, Hum To Mohabbat Karega, Jurm and Jhoom Barabar Jhoom. Talking about Karan, who made his acting debut with Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas, is Sunny Deol’s elder son. Sunny and wife Pooja Deol are also parents to Rajveer Deol, who made his Bollywood debut with Dono in 2023.

Imran Khan supports Jharkhand protests



Mumbai : Bollywood actor Imran Khan has voiced support for the ongoing student protests in Jharkhand. He shared a sarcastic post on social media that read, "Students protesting in Jharkhand. Let's all ignore them, what could possibly go wrong." The remark comes just days after he joined a student protest in Mumbai. Imran made his acting debut as a lead in 2008 with Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na, directed by Abbas Tyrewala. Before that, audiences had seen him as a child actor in films starring his uncle, Aamir Khan, including Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak and Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikander. In an interview with Filmfare last year, Imran reflected on his early years in the industry. He said he would tell his younger self to be less fearful and more open to adventure and experimentation. According to the actor, early success often brings advisers with strong opinions about what is right or wrong, leading young actors to believe those voices always know best. He added that true creativity flourishes in freedom rather than in trying to meet others' expectations.

Shivangi Joshi looks upset at Farah Fhan’s party



Mumbai : Filmmaker and Lock Upp host Farah Khan hosted a glittering success party to celebrate the grand success of the reality show’s season 2 on Wednesday night. While the evening was filled with laughter, dancing and reunions, a brief moment involving first runner-up Shivangi Joshi was caught on camera. As the camera on the party floor moved around recording the celebrations, most of the guests were seen chatting, laughing and enjoying the evening. However, as the camera panned across the room, Shivangi Joshi was briefly seen standing in a corner with two guests. She appeared quiet and reserved compared to the rest of the crowd.As soon as the camera turned towards her, the actress graciously smiled and acknowledged it with a warm wave before blending back into the celebrations. Farah Khan, who put up the iconic song,

‘Om Shanti Om’ from her superhit movie of the same name as the background score, captioned her party video as, “Epic success party for an epic season!!” Meanwhile, Apoorva Mukhija was spotted engrossed in a fun conversation with producer Ekta Kapoor, while actors Arjun Kapoor, Mouni Roy, Riteish Deshmukh, Genelia Deshmukh, Shweta Tiwari, Maheep Kapoor, Dheeraj Dhoopar, Vinny Arora, and many others added star power to the bash. The celebration also saw the presence of almost the entire Lock Upp Season 2 family, including winner Shreya Kalra, Harshad Chopda, Apoorva Mukhija, Yogesh, Shreshtha Iyer, Madhuri Grover and other contestants. Shreya Kalra’s boyfriend was also present at the celebration, cheering for the winner.Despite the intense rivalry that took place inside the Lock Upp house during the tenure of the show, the success bash painted a different picture altogether. Otherwise, in-house rivals Shivangi Joshi and winner Shreya Kalra were later seen dancing their hearts out together during a fun girls’ dance, twirling to the music as fellow contestant Harshad Chopda too joined them. Harshad was also seen warmly hugging Shreya.

Amitabh Bachchan reveals he pulled a 24-hour work shift for ‘KBC’

Mumbai : Megastar Amitabh Bachchan made a surprising yet inspiring revelation of how he recently completed a gruelling 24-hour work shift for the upcoming season of his quiz reality show, Kaun Banega Crorepati. The actor quipped that missing the schedule would have meant "a job replacement" for him. Taking to his regular blogs, the 83-year-

old cine icon shared that he worked continuously from 7 a.m. from day 1 to 7 a.m. on day 2, stressing that the assignment was too important to be delayed. He wrote, "Aaaahhhh... got hold of time in time... finished work at 7 am this morning... of work that began at 7 am yesterday... but the importance of its presentation and its timely work was necessary... so DID IT... (sic)The veteran

actor said he was relieved to reconnect with his daily blogging routine after wrapping up work. "But more the relief of having connected with the daily routine of the Blog and the EF... I shall retire now, get some food in the belly... hit a pillow for a while for, tomorrow the 6th Aug is another early call..." Sharing that the premiere date of the popular quiz show has now been announced, Bachchan

Emraan Hashmi Returns in intense revenge saga as Awarapan 2 trailer drops

Mumbai : Nearly two decades after Awarapan became a cult favourite, Emraan Hashmi is stepping back into one of his most-loved roles. The trailer of Awarapan 2 is finally out, bringing back Shivam Pandit for another emotionally charged chapter that blends action, revenge and redemption. Directed by Nitin Kakkar, the sequel is set to hit theatres worldwide on August 14, 2026. The trailer picks up with a transformed Shivam Pandit, who now carries the scars of his past while confronting a fresh set of enemies. Unlike the first film, where the character was battling his own inner conflicts, the sequel hints at a larger mission driven by revenge and unresolved emotions. Emraan Hashmi reprises the role with an older, more hardened screen presence, while the trailer suggests that the emotional weight of the original story continues to shape Shivam’s journey. Joining the Awarapan uni-



verse for the first time is Disha Patani, who plays Zara. While the trailer keeps her character’s backstory under wraps, it hints at her playing a significant role in Shivam’s journey.Veteran actor Shabana Azmi also features prominently as Nafisa, adding another powerful presence to the film. The supporting cast includes Puran Gabbi as Zorawar, Anirudh Rawal as Sikan-dar, Surendar Vicky as Jaideep, Vijayant Kohli as Mehmood and Atul Kumar as Samarth, indicating that the sequel has expanded its ensemble considerably. The soundtrack has been

composed by Mithoon, Jeet Gannguli, Amaal Malik, Ankit Sachdev and Wasif Ahmad, while lyrics have been penned by Sayeed Qadri, Rashmi Virag, Akhil Sachdeva and Sachin Singh Chandel. Songs including Ve Junoon, Yeh Awarapan and Toh Phir Aao have already been released ahead of the film and have generated considerable buzz among fans.Running through the trailer is Tera Mera Rishta, composed by Mithoon and sung by Saaj Bhatt and Subodhh Sharma. The track lends an emotional layer to the action-heavy visuals, echoing the musi-

cal identity that made the original Awarapan memorable. resented by Mukesh Bhatt and Vishesh Films, Awarapan 2 has been produced by Vishesh Bhatt and written by Bilal Siddiqui, with Nitin Kakkar directing the project.The original Awarapan, released in 2007, gradually attained cult status thanks to Emraan Hashmi’s performance, its music and emotionally driven narrative. The sequel appears to build on that legacy while introducing new characters and a fresh conflict. With the trailer now out, fans have finally got their first glimpse of Shivam Pandit’s return. Going by the footage, Awarapan 2 promises a mix of high-octane action, emotional storytelling and a soundtrack that stays true to the franchise’s identity. The film is scheduled to arrive in cinemas worldwide on August 14, 2026, with Pen Marudhar handling its theatrical distribution in India.

Ranveer Singh’s Dhurandhar becomes world’s top non-english Netflix film

Mumbai : Ranveer Singh, R Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, Sara Arjun, Rakesh Bedi, and Sanjay Dutt’s Dhurandhar, directed by Aditya Dhar, turned out to be a massive commercial success. The franchise went on to break several box office records. The film’s popularity, however, didn’t end with its theatrical run. It went on to attract a significant global audience after arriving on Netflix. Ted Sarandos, Netflix’s Co-CEO, recently spoke about the film and revealed that it was one of the Indian titles that performed exceptionally well on the streaming service, proving that its appeal extended far beyond cinemas. While speaking at The Indian Express’s Express Adda, Ted Sarandos was asked whether Indian films and shows have begun enjoying the same kind of worldwide cultural impact as the Korean phenomenon Squid Game. He said that Aditya Dhar’s Dhurandhar was the most-watched non-English movie in the world this year. He shared, “Dhurandhar was the most-watched non-English movie in the world this year. Bigger than every other English [movie] and second only to the US and the UK in terms of



watching.” During the conversation, Sarandos said people often ask him when India will witness a global cultural phenomenon comparable to South Korea’s Squid Game or Spain’s La casa de papel (Money Heist). He responded by saying that India is already producing globally successful content on a regular basis, adding that such moments happen “all the time.” He further said that Indian films have a strong chance of leaving a lasting impact on audiences worldwide. Ted said, “It’s much more likely to be in cinema. I think, right now, because there is this enormous, beautiful, rich,

long history of movies in India. I think when we came in and made Sacred Games, it was a whole different kind of television, so through most of the history and all that that’s coming through, it’s likely to come through in the form of cinema.”He went on to continue, “We have had an Indian movie or series in the global top 10 every week since 2024. And this is the result of an algorithm that helps you find things, and that’s intuitive, that I am going to love. So in that number, with 3.5 billion hours of watching Indian content on Netflix around the world this year.”

First teaser of Karthik Subbaraj’s Dorothy promises an emotional tale of friendship and loss

New Delhi : Just a day after unveiling the title of his much-anticipated 10th directorial venture, Karthik Subbaraj has released the first teaser of Dorothy, offering audiences a glimpse into the emotional world of the period drama. Rather than giving away the plot, the teaser focuses on establishing its central relationships. Set against a nostalgic backdrop, it introduces Karthi and Subbu as two inseparable friends who spend their days getting into mischief. Their carefree camaraderie, however, appears destined to change with the arrival of Dorothy, played by Keerthy Suresh.As the teaser unfolds, it hints at growing tensions between the two friends, suggesting that Dorothy’s presence



could become the catalyst for an emotional rift. Without relying on lengthy dialogues or dramatic reveals, the teaser builds intrigue through expressive visuals and understated moments, leaving much of the narrative open to interpretation. Ilaiyaraaja’s evocative score complements the film’s vintage setting, lending the teaser a sense

of warmth, longing and melancholy. The visuals, coupled with the music, point towards a character-driven drama that places equal emphasis on emotion and atmosphere. Sharing the teaser on X, Keerthy Suresh described the film’s emotional core, writing, “Some journeys begin long before the road. Some calls can never be

undone. And some bonds are tested by a world determined to tear them apart. This is not just a story of friendship. It’s a story of everything that stands in its way.” The teaser follows Wednesday’s announcement, when Karthik Subbaraj revealed Dorothy as the title of his landmark 10th feature. The filmmaker also confirmed that the film will have its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival before arriving in theatres on September 25.While Karthik directs the film, he is also producing it under his Dhammam Films banner alongside Guneet Monga and Achin Jain of Sikhya Entertainment. Jyoti Deshpande is producing on behalf of Jio Studios.

Rajpal Yadav’s Shahjahanpur home under auction for Rs 16.61 crore dues

Mumbai : Actor Rajpal Yadav is facing fresh financial trouble after the Central Bank of India initiated recovery proceedings over an unpaid loan linked to his production company. The bank has issued an attachment notice on his ancestral property in Uttar Pradesh and warned that the mortgaged assets could be auctioned if the outstanding amount is not cleared within the stipulated period. According to reports, the dues now stand at ₹16.61 crore. If the repayment is not made within 34 days, the bank will proceed with an online auction scheduled for September 9. The latest development comes shortly after the actor’s legal setback in a long-running cheque bounce case connected to the same loan. The attachment notice has reportedly been pasted on Rajpal Yadav’s ancestral residence in Kundra village of Shahjahanpur district. Another property in Shahjahanpur has also been included in the recovery proceedings.Reports suggest the combined

value of both properties is around ₹3.19 crore, though the bank is seeking recovery of a significantly larger outstanding amount. The notice states that the properties were mortgaged against the loan and could be sold through an e-auction if the dues remain unpaid.Despite the notice, Rajpal Yadav’s family maintains that discussions with the bank are ongoing.Speaking to Dainik Bhaskar, the actor’s elder brother, Shripal Yadav, described the issue as an old one and said efforts were underway to settle it. “This is an old matter. Talks are underway with the bank regarding loan repayment. The matter will be resolved soon. Currently, there is no situation like property auction,” he said.The bank has also acknowledged that this is not the first recovery action in the matter. Central Bank manager Anuj Verma confirmed that a similar notice had been issued nearly two years ago before both sides reached an under-



standing over repayment.“A notice has been put up on the building located in Kundra, the ancestral village of Shahjahanpur. The bank had also pasted a notice in this matter about two years ago. At that time, an agreement was reached between Rajpal Yadav and the bank regarding loan repayment,” he said.

The killer of a Haryana cop is apprehended by Delhi police For 28 years, he was on the run

New Delhi, Aug 06: A renowned proclaimed offender who had been eluding law enforcement for about 28 years after fleeing police custody has been apprehended by the Crime Branch of Delhi Police in a significant development. The defendant, Rajinder Bairagi, aliasThe 53-year-old Rajinder Singh Yadav, also known as “Dr. Jhatka,” was wanted in relation to many attempted murders, the murder of a Haryana Police officer, and a bold escape from police custody while shackled.The Crime Branch’s Northern Range-1 (NR-1) squad made the arrest after a multi-state operation that ended in Mungaoli town in the Ashok Nagar district of Madhya Pradesh. Police said the accused had successfully lived under a false identity for decades, managing to establish a new life while remaining on the run from authorities. According to Delhi Police, the operation began as part of a special drive to trace and apprehend long-missing proclaimed offenders involved in serious crimes in Delhi.Investigators initially focussed on two cases registered at Janakpuri Police Station in June 1997. These included FIR No. 658/1997 under Sections 307, 324, 506, and 34 of the IPC



relating to a violent knife attack in Uttam Nagar, and FIR No. 659/1997 under Sections 307 and 34 of the IPC pertaining to an attempt-to-murder case.Rajinder had evaded arrest for years in both cases and was subsequently declared a proclaimed offender by the Rohini Courts in 2008. However, during the course of the investigation, police uncovered a far more extensive criminal history, including his alleged involvement in the murder of a Haryana Police official and his escape from police custody in 1999. Police officials said establishing the accused’s true identity

posed a significant challenge because he had successfully blended into society under a new name and had acquired multiple local identity documents.Through extensive field Intelligence, technical surveillance, and analysis of digital footprints, investigators confirmed his identity, mapped his movements, and tracked his location.Once his whereabouts were verified, a team led by Inspector Sanjay Kaushik, along with SI Deepak Kumar, ASI Ramesh Rana, HC Sanjeev Kumar, and HC Sanjeev Jakhar, conducted a raid in Mungaoli under the supervision of ACP Suresh Kumar of Northern Range-1. The accused was apprehended and later produced before the Judicial Magistrate Court in Mungaoli. After obtaining transit remand, he was brought to Delhi and produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in Dwarka.During interrogation, Rajinder revealed that he had been a kabaddi player in his youth and gradually came into contact with criminal elements. Police said that on the night of May 10, 1998, he and five armed associates were involved in a violent incident at a wedding function in Saiyan Khera village in Haryana’s Sonipat district.

Neeraj Chopra talks about his heartbreaking struggles after missing out on CWG 2026 Gold



Glasgow: Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra opened out about the fitness problems he has been dealing with for almost a year, saying the past ten months have put him to the test in unexpected ways. The 28-year-old two-time Olympic winner, who last week added a silver medal from the Commonwealth Games to his already impressive collection, was mostly hindered by an adductor muscle ailment and

a few other aches. Despite having a delayed start to the season, he found his groove in the CWG in Glasgow, where he set a season-best time of 85.83m. ”There are throws that travel far, and then there are moments that carry the weight of an entire journey. The past 10 months has tested me in ways I never expected,” he posted on instagram on Tuesday alongside a short clip of his CWG performance.“Recovering from multiple in-

juries, rebuilding my body, finding my rhythm again, and learning to be patient when all I wanted was to compete. I was training every day without knowing if I will even have a season to compete this year,” he revealed. Chopra, who won gold in the 2018 Games in Gold Coast in Australia with a throw of 86.47m, missed the 2022 edition due to an injury. He sustained a lower back injury just before the World Champi-

onships in September last year and he had competed in just one event before the CWG.At the Games, Chopra was bested by current world leader Rumesh Tharanga Pathiraje of Sri Lanka (89.75m) amid difficult windy conditions. The former world champion expressed his gratitude towards his support staff for helping him make a comeback.“To be back competing at this level feels good. None of this would have been possible on my own. I’m deeply grateful for the people who never stopped believing in me. My physio, Ishaan (Marwaha) ji who has been by my side every step of the recovery, helping me get back to doing what I love.”Jai Chaudhary, my coach, has been with me since I first took up a javelin. My family, who never waver in their support of me. “One step at a time, the season continues,” he remarked.

MK Stalin's jab at Vijay on the “hollow” budget: “Wake Up And Respond”

Chennai, Aug 06: MK Stalin, the head of the DMK and a former chief minister of Tamil Nadu, dubbed the state’s agriculture budget “hollow” and urged the administration led by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay to “wake up” Thursday. He said in a post on X that the TVK government’s first budget disregarded problems such farmers’ crop losses and drought.He commented in Tamil, “The Tamil Nadu Agriculture Budget 2026 was merely a platform to sing praises and shower the chief minister with flattery rather than address the drought.”The new administration, he claimed, had “merely rebranded existing schemes” rather than implementing significant policies for farmers. Referring to the DMK administration’s initiatives, he said, “Does this government believe its job is done simply by slapping the label ‘success’ onto Dravidian model schemes?”The farmers in the Delta area, whose Kuruvai crop has been impacted and who are waiting for government assistance, receive nothing from this agricultural budget. Stalin declared, “It is a completely empty budget.”The drowsy government needs to awaken and offer explanations. We

need to get answers,” he continued. His son and the Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Udhayanidhi Stalin, also termed the agriculture budget as “absolute nothing”, accusing Vijay of “betraying” farmers and failing to deliver on key election promises. ”Absolutely nothing.” Udhayanidhi, who was briefly detained this week over alleged remarks against actor Tri-sha, said about the budget while addressing reporters outside the Assembly.“We have been consistently calling for an all-party meeting on the Cauvery and Mekedatu issues. We need to demonstrate that all political parties in Tamil Nadu stand united on this front. But as usual, the chief minister remains silent and refuses to respond,” Udhayanidhi said. He criticized the TVK government’s unmet electoral promises, pointing out that the state has consistently broken its promise to fully eliminate agricultural loans for farmers with up to five acres.Farmers still want the full waiver that was first offered, according to Udhayanidhi, even though the initial waiver ceiling was declared at Rs 50,000 and then changed to Rs 75,000 due to strong demand.

Delhi is prepared to host the best-ever world championships at the fully renovated IGI Stadium

New Delhi:The Badminton Association of India (BAI) said on Thursday that the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium has undergone a thorough restoration and is prepared to host the “best-ever” edition of the BWF World Championships, after criticism of the facilities during the India Open earlier this year. Players had concerns over the venue’s hygiene, training facilities, and air quality, which led to criticism of the India Open. Unusual disturbances also occurred throughout the competition, including a monkey entering the spectator stands and matches being temporarily stopped owing to bird droppings. The controversy erupted after Danish shuttler Mia Blichfeldt criticised the condition of the warm-up and practice areas at the K.D. Jadhav Indoor Hall and the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium during the India Open, drawing attention to the poor state of the facilities.“We’ve worked on every issue that came up then,

and I’m happy to say those problems have been resolved completely. I’m confident this will be one of the best World Championships ever,” BAI secretary general Sanjay Mishra told PTI on the sidelines of the draw ceremony for the World Championships, which begin in New Delhi on August 17. ”I would especially like to thank the Sports Ministry and SAI because they’ve worked very hard. Under the guidance of our president, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, all the preparations are progressing well,” he added. Mishra said the India Open had served as a “test event” ahead of the World Championships, helping the organisers identify shortcomings and address them well in advance. “The stadium is almost ready for the tournament. The India Open was essentially a test event for the World Championships. If we hadn’t conducted that test event, we wouldn’t have known what difficulties we were likely to face,” he said.

After a quick phase at St. Louis, R Praggnanandhaa leads, followed by Blitz



St. Louis: With a score of 12 out of 18 in the quick portion of the St. Louis quick and Blitz, Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa maintained his chances of making it to the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) finals later this year. The Indian, who is no longer competing in the 2026 World Championship, showed some flawless technique, accuracy, and a strong desire to win in the nine-round quick segment of this yearly event that has been a staple of professional chess for a number of years. Praggnanandhaa lost the ninth and final round in

the rapid section to Dutch GM Jorden van Foreest but still managed to retain a one-point lead, finishing ahead of Uzbekistan’s Javokhir Sindarov, who will challenge D. Gukesh in the World Championship title showdown later this year. However, the GCT’s last rapid and blitz event is not just based on the rapid section but there are 18 more blitz games to be played before the winner is determined for the USD 200,000 prize pool out of which USD 50,000 goes to the champion.Had Praggnanandhaa defeated van

Foreest, he would have entered the blitz section with a more comfortable lead, a margin that could have proved crucial in his pursuit of the overall title. Four wins, each worth two points, and four draws helped Praggnanandhaa finish atop the standings with 12 points despite a solitary loss in the final round. With the rapid section behind him, the Indian will now turn his attention to the 18-game blitz segment, where each win carries one point.Sindarov is followed by Wesley So of the US on 10 points followed by a pack of four players -- Levon Aronian of United States, Anish Giri of Holland, Cuban-turned-American Leinier Dominguez Perez and Vincent Keymer of Germany -- who all have nine points apiece and will fancy their chances in the faster version of the game. While Sindarov remains a huge threat being just a point behind Praggnanandhaa, Keymer is the other Grandmaster who can make anyone bite the dust when he is in good form.

Asmita Dey, the gold medallist in CWG Judo, takes on Uttar Pradesh Question about Reward Eligibility



Glasgow: Asmita Dey of India made history by capturing the nation’s first-ever gold medal in judo at the Commonwealth Games. In a thrilling Golden Score match in Glasgow, she made a valiant comeback to win first place in the women’s 48kg final, defeating Heidi Quach of Canada. Early in the final, the 23-year-old from Tripura was down after giving up a yuko and then getting a penalty, which gave Quach the upper hand. But just beyond the halfway

point of the four-minute match, Asmita replied magnificently, attacking with more intensity and leveling the scores at 1-1. Neither judoka could find the decisive score during regulation time despite a series of intense exchanges, forcing the match into the Golden Score period, where the first scoring action determines the winner. Maintaining her composure under pressure, Asmita launched a decisive attack in sudden-death overtime and earned another yuko

to seal a memorable victory and hand India the gold medal.The triumph capped an impressive campaign for the young judoka, who showed remarkable resilience to recover from an early deficit and outfight her Canadian opponent in a gripping final. Days after her victory, the Indian judoka finds herself in a bit of controversy over her eligibility for Uttar Pradesh’s state athlete benefits. It is worth noting that Asmita, who hails from Tripura, represents Uttar

Pradesh in judo events. So, is she eligible for UP’s state rewards according to the August 2024 order?If Asmita gets a green signal, she will receive a massive sum of Rs 1.5 crore for her achievement at the Games in Glasgow.The August 2024 UP government order sets three criteria for athletes to be eligible for the state’s rewards. The athlete must be a bonafide domicile of Uttar Pradesh and must have enrolled in a recognised UP college/university for at least two years, apart from representing the state in international sporting events. In Asmita’s instance, it is practically difficult to evaluate the eligibility requirements. The judoka represents Uttar Pradesh in national and international competitions despite being from Tripura. Since 2023, she has also worked with the UP Police as a sub-inspector.The state’s Sports Director, RP Singh, stated on Tuesday that they are in the process of finalizing the list of all winners and participants at CWG 2026 in Glasgow while discussing the list of sportsmen scheduled to get awards from the UP government.

Delhi Seizes Banned Imported Cigarettes Worth Rs 1 Crore, Arrests Four



New Delhi, Aug 06: In a significant crackdown on the illicit tobacco trade, Delhi Police confiscated over 2.82 lakh forbidden imported cigarettes valued at over Rs 1 crore from northeast Delhi, leading to the arrest of four persons, an officer said on Thursday.According to him, the seizure took place in two stages, with police first retrieving shipments from Karawal Nagar and then a warehouse in the Budhpur Industrial Area during subsequent operations.According to police, the operation started on August 4 when a team was tipped off about the supply of illegal imported cigarettes in the Karawal Nagar neighborhood. Acting on the information, a police team laid a trap in Shiv Vihar. At around 4.30 pm, three men arrived on a motorcycle carrying gunny bags and waited for a customer. When no one turned up and they attempted to leave, the police intercepted and apprehended them. ”The accused were identified as Ankit (35), Vishal (28) and Rahul (36), all residents of the Karawal Nagar area. During the search, police recovered

79 cartons containing 12,640 imported cigarettes, manufactured in Indonesia,” a senior police officer said.The officer further said the cigarette packets did not carry the mandatory statutory health warnings required under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), making them prohibited for sale in India.A motorcycle allegedly used for transporting the contraband was also seized. ”Based on the recovery, an FIR was registered at Karawal Nagar police station under relevant provisions of the COTPA. During interrogation, the arrested men disclosed the identity of their supplier. Acting on the leads, the investigating team traced and arrested the alleged supplier, Neeraj Kapoor (55),

Punjab Congress Chief Raises Stakes: “Field Me Against Bhagwant Mann”

New Delhi, Aug 06: Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, the leader of the Punjab Congress, expressed his desire to run against Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in the 2027 Assembly elections on Wednesday. He urged the party leadership to either field him against the AAP politician or not at all.He made these comments only hours after senior Congressman Kulbir Singh Zira suggested that Warring run against Sukhbir Singh Badal, the head of the Shiromani Akali Dal.Speaking to Punjab Congress leader Bhu-pesh Baghel during the party’s “Har Booth Congress Mazboot” campaign, Warring stated that the party high leadership had the ultimate say, but he made it apparent what he preferred. ”Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge will decide where I contest from. But either don’t field me as a candidate or field me against Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann,” Warring said from the stage. The statement comes at a time when Warring has repeatedly faced allegations from within his own party that he has a tacit understanding with the AAP leadership. Senior Congress leader Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa has publicly accused Warring of being a “compromised” leader and alleged that he shares a political understanding with Bhagwant Mann. In light of this, Warring’s public challenge to run against Mann directly seems to be intended to undermine the narrative that his critics are constructing.The comments were made just hours after Kulbir Singh Zira suggested that Warring run against SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, claiming that in order to produce high-stakes elections in 2027, the Congress should place its heavyweights against the most prominent members of other parties. However, Warring turned the attention directly onto the ruling AAP, suggesting that the Congress’s main political goal is it gets ready for the next Assembly election should be to defeat Bhagwant Mann rather than only take on the Akalis.



Mitchell Starc nears Kapil Dev’s Test tally, stays grounded despite milestone



New Delhi: Mitchell Starc is on the cusp of joining one of Test cricket’s most exclusive clubs, but the Australian pace spearhead isn’t getting carried away. The left-arm quick needs just one more wicket to draw level with Indian legend Kapil Dev on the all-time list of Test wicket-takers. With 433 wickets in 105 Tests, Starc is poised to equal Kapil’s tally of 434 when Australia begin their two-Test series against Bangladesh in Darwin on August 13. Should he pick up seven wickets across the series, Starc would also

move past South African great Dale Steyn, who finished his illustrious career with 439 Test scalps. For a fast bowler who has been Australia’s strike weapon across all formats for well over a decade, the milestone is another testament to his remarkable longevity. Yet, Starc insists individual records are far from his mind. “It means I’ve played a bit,” Starc told Australian Associated Press when asked about closing in on Kapil’s landmark. “It’s cool and very humbling to be spoken about with those guys. But

that stuff doesn’t mean a whole lot while you’re still playing. You don’t get too far ahead.” Starc’s rise up the wicket charts has been one of consistency as much as brilliance. Since making his Test debut in 2011, the left-armer has terrorised batters with his trademark pace, late swing and deadly yorkers. Among Australian bowlers, only the legendary Shane Warne (708), Glenn McGrath (563) and current off-spinner Nathan Lyon (567) have taken more Test wickets than Starc. The 36-year-old also heads into the Bangladesh series in red-hot form. He is the leading wicket-taker in the current World Test Championship cycle with 46 wickets from just eight Tests, underlining his importance to Australia’s pace attack. Starc believes the biggest reason behind his longevity has been his willingness to adapt. Now 36 and in his 16th year of international cricket, the veteran says he has continued to refine his craft rather than relying solely on raw pace. “When you’re 36 and you’ve been

around for 16 years, you’d like to think you’ve improved or got better at something,” Starc said. “You’re also around that long because you’re able to develop and learn and improve.” The Australian also pointed to technical changes, including the addition of the wobble-seam delivery, as key reasons behind his sustained success. “And you add in a few things like the wobble seam, consistency and other things. I have a pretty clear mindset on it all,” he said. Having skipped the latter part of the franchise season after a brief IPL stint earlier this year, Starc enters the Bangladesh series well-rested and with another significant milestone within touching distance. Matching Kapil Dev would further cement his place among the greatest fast bowlers of the modern era. But if Starc’s comments are anything to go by, personal milestones can wait. For now, his focus remains firmly on helping Australia begin the new World Test Championship cycle on the right note.

Badminton: Tanvi Sharma continues golden run, enters Korea Masters quarterfinals

New Delhi : India’s teenage badminton prodigy Tanvi Sharma continued her sensational form on the international circuit, storming into the women’s singles quarterfinals of the Korea Masters Super 300 tournament. Fresh off a breakthrough title victory, the 17-year-old Punjab shuttler demonstrated tactical maturity and grit to maintain her winning streak. Seeded third in the tournament, Tanvi opened her campaign with a clinical 21-16, 21-15 victory over China’s Yuan Anqi in 36 minutes. She followed it up in the round of 16 with a hard-fought three-game battle against compatriot Shriyanshi Valisshetty, prevailing 21-16, 17-21, 21-13 to secure her place in the final eight. Guided court-side by former national coach Park Tae-sang, Tanvi’s signature combination of steep cross-court smashes and deceptive net drops proved decisive in crucial rallies. Tanvi will take on fellow Indian Rakshitha Sree in the quarterfinal on Friday. The quarterfinal qualification marks yet another milestone in a rapid rise that has seen Tanvi make a significant leap in the BWF global rankings. Her stellar string of performances propelled her past the World No. 30 threshold, firmly establishing her as one of the most promising young talents in senior women’s singles. The foundation for this golden run was laid just days earlier at the Taipei Open Super 300, where Tanvi clinched her maiden



en BWF World Tour title. Entering the tournament unseeded, the youngster put on a masterclass throughout the week, culminating in a dominant 21-16, 21-16 victory over Vietnam’s sixth seed Nguyen Thuy Linh in the summit clash. The 36-minute final saw Tanvi dictate rallies with her trademark steep drop shots and sharp attacking angles, becoming the youngest finalist in the tournament’s history. Her historic triumph in Taipei made her only the fourth Indian women’s singles player, after Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu, and

Devika Sihag, to lift a BWF Super 300 or higher crown. More symbolically, she became the first Indian since her idol Saina Nehwal in 2008 to win the Taipei Open women’s singles title. The title marked a major career breakthrough for the former World Junior No. 1, providing the momentum for her current campaign in South Korea. Tanvi, however, will not be in action in the World Championships, starting August 17. India will be represented by PV Sindhu and Unnati Hooda in women’s singles.

Payal Kanodia hails India’s para-athletes after historic CWG campaign

Gurugram: Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) Chairperson Payal Kanodia on Wednesday hailed the country’s para-athletes for their medal-winning performances at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, saying they deserve recognition for bringing pride to India. She said honouring the athletes would boost their confidence, inspire future success and help showcase India’s Paralympians on the global stage, especially with the country set to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030. Six of 16 athletics medals, including three gold medals, came

from para-athletes, while a bronze medal in the men’s heavyweight para-powerlifting category by Jhandu Kumar marked this as the best CWG campaign ever for para-athletes, with a total of seven medals. “It is a moment of immense pride for India that our para-athletes have won medals at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. It is important to appreciate and felicitate our Paralympians to motivate them to achieve even greater success and win more medals for the country in the future, as such recognition boosts their confidence and morale,” Kanodia told



ANI. “With India set to host the Commonwealth Games, we must continue to highlight our Paralympians on global platforms and celebrate their achievements. This ceremony was organised with the aim of encouraging our athletes and recognising their contributions. As a tribute, we have also planted hundreds

of trees in the names of our Paralympians,” she added. Soman Rana said winning Commonwealth Games gold has strengthened his confidence, but his focus has already shifted to the Asian Games as he continues his long-term pursuit of a medal at the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics. Rana created history by winning India’s first-ever gold medal in the men’s F57 shot put at the Commonwealth Games. Rana capped a memorable campaign in Glasgow by producing a best throw of 13.40m to clinch gold in the men’s F57 shot put final. “My immediate focus is

on the Asian Games. I won a silver medal at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, and now that the Commonwealth Games are over, I have started preparing for the next challenge. I have already won medals at both the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games, and my ultimate goal is to win a medal at the 2028 Olympics. That remains my main focus,” Rana told ANI. Compatriot Shubham Juyal secured silver with an effort of 13.28m, completing India’s first-ever one-two finish in the event at the Commonwealth Games. Juyal credited the

Paralympic Committee of India’s meticulous planning and a 40-day training camp in Bengaluru for India’s successful Commonwealth Games campaign. “There are several important events ahead, including the Paralympic Games and the World Championships next year, but my ultimate focus is the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympics. The immediate target is the World Championships, where I want to perform well. Since the World Championships provide an opportunity to earn Paralympic quotas, it is a very important event for me at this stage,” Juyal said.

Commonwealth record day ends tragically for Olympic legend Chad le Clos

New Delhi : On the day of setting a Commonwealth Games record in Glasgow, a personal tragedy hit Olympic legend and South African swimmer Chad le Clos. The swimmer has now revealed that his home in South Africa was destroyed by a fire on July 30. Le Clos etched his name into Commonwealth Games history in Glasgow, becoming the most decorated athlete in the competition’s history. The South African reached 21 medals after helping his country secure bronze in the men’s 4x100m medley relay, moving past Australia’s Emma McKeon on the all-time list. The 34-year-old added three medals to his collection at the 2026 Games. Along with the bronze in the men’s 4x100m freestyle relay, he also claimed silver as part

of South Africa’s mixed 4x100m medley relay team. Only a few days later, Le Clos revealed in an Instagram post that his Sea Point residence in Cape Town, where he had lived for over 10 years, was ravaged by a fire. The blaze also claimed the life of a neighbour. “It has taken me a while to process this heartbreaking tragedy,” the 2012 Olympic gold medalist said on Instagram. “On the evening of 30 July, amid breaking the all-time Commonwealth record, a fire started in my apartment block, which quickly spread to my home. Sadly my home, where I’ve lived for more than a decade, burnt down and there is nothing left to salvage.” Le Clos also remembered the neighbour he had known for years, who lost their life in the blaze.



He expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the deceased’s loved ones, extending his deepest condolences to the family and friends. “No words can truly ease a loss like this, but I hope the family knows that the thoughts of an entire community are with them,” the Durban-born swimmer said. “To my

fellow neighbours whose homes and lives have been severely affected by this fire, please know that you are not alone. This is a tight-knit community and it is in moments like these that we lean on one another.” Le Clos, best known for defeating Michael Phelps in the 200m butterfly at the 2012 London

Olympics, has now turned his attention to supporting those impacted by the devastating fire. The South African swimmer said he has started a fundraising drive to assist neighbours who were affected by the blaze. South African Olympic swimmer Chad le Clos set a Commonwealth Games record in Glasgow, becoming the most decorated athlete with 21 medals, including three at the 2026 Games. Shortly after, his Sea Point home in Cape Town was destroyed by a fire that also killed a longtime neighbor. Le Clos expressed condolences and solidarity with the community, launching a fundraising effort to support those affected, highlighting resilience amid personal tragedy following his historic sporting achievement.

India vs Sri Lanka warm-up: Live streaming and TV guide details

New Delhi: India will take on Sri Lanka A in a crucial three-day warm-up match at the Nondescripts Cricket Club Ground in Colombo from August 7 to 9. A full-strength squad, led by Shubman Gill, will face a Sri Lankan side with a good mix of youth and experience, with as many as seven players from the team that took on the visiting India A side in June-July featuring in the game. India will be without Sai Sudharsan, who is expected to join the squad in Colombo only midway through the practice match. The left-handed batter, who scored a hundred in each of the two four-day matches for India A in Sri Lanka in June-July, has been recovering from a niggle in his foot. With India missing Jasprit Bumrah and Washington Sundar, the



warm-up match will provide the team with a valuable opportunity to settle on their bowling combination. While Mohammed Siraj will lead the pace attack, the return of Ravindra Jadeja and the emergence of Manav Suthar hold the team in good stead. Off-spinner Saransh Jain, who has earned his maiden Test call-up, will also be keen to make a mark. The 33-year-old, who featured in the India A tour of

Sri Lanka last month, took seven wickets across four innings. All eyes, however, will be on the batting group, led by Gill. While India won their last two Test series in Sri Lanka in 2015 and 2017, the hosts have proved a formidable challenge for touring teams in recent years. With India also having lost two home Test series over the last two years, the spotlight has firmly been on the batters’ ability to negotiate spin.

England enter post-Bazball era, announce squad for first two Pakistan Tests

New Delhi, : England have started their life after Bazball by naming a 16-member squad for the first two Tests against Pakistan on Thursday, August 6. Joe Root will be captaining the side with batter Dan Lawrence being added to the Test squad for the first time in two years. The series will be part of the ongoing World Test Championship cycle. Root will be taking over as captain from Ben Stokes, who retired from international cricket following the end of the series against New Zealand. This also signalled the end of the tenure of Brendon McCullum as the Test team coach, with former CSK boss Stephen Fleming taking over. However, the former New Zealand captain won’t be taking charge of his new side during the Pakistan series, with assistant coach Marcus Trescothick being at the helm. England have suffered a big blow as Jacob Bethell has been ruled out of the entirety of the series against

Pakistan. Bethell sustained a right knee injury during the ODI series against India and will be replaced by Jordan Cox at No.3. Lawrence, the second-leading runscorer in



Division One of the County Championship this season, will be batting at No.6. Ollie Pope and Brydon Carse return to the squad for the first time since the Ashes series loss to Australia. “Dan Lawrence returns following an exceptional season so far with Surrey and we believe he has the right level of experience, maturity and skill to complement our middle order,” said England national selector Marcus North. “Jordan Cox is well regarded as one of the most

exciting talents in English cricket and will have the opportunity to bat at three in place of Jacob Bethell, who sadly misses this series through injury.” The impressive Sam Cook is also included in the side after making his debut during the one-off Test against Zimbabwe last summer. The series will begin on August 19 in Headingley as Root will be leading the team for the first time since 2022 in front of his home crowd. England named a 16-member Test

squad for their first two matches against Pakistan starting August 19, marking a new era after adopting the Bazball approach. Joe Root takes over as captain from Ben Stokes, with Marcus Trescothick acting as interim coach following Brendon McCullum’s departure. Key changes include the inclusion of Dan Lawrence and Jordan Cox, replacing injured Jacob Bethell. Ollie Pope and Brydon Carse return, with the series contributing to the ongoing

World Test Championship cycle. Fleming, 53, arrives with one of the most decorated coaching resumes in world cricket. The former New Zealand captain spent 18 years with Chennai Super Kings, guiding the franchise to five Indian Premier League titles and 10 finals. He has also coached Southern Brave to the men’s Hundred final in 2023 and worked with CSK’s affiliate teams in South Africa and the United States, in addition tobourne Stars.