

Arunachal CM refutes Chinese intrusion claims, promises ground verification

Itanagar, Aug 10: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has denied reports of fresh intrusions by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), while assuring that the state administration will undertake a ground-level assessment to verify claims made by local border communities. Speaking to reporters in Itanagar, Chief Minister Khandu addressed allegations circulating on social media and raised by local organizations regarding alleged PLA cross-border activity in the Taksing and Limeking

sectors of Upper Subansiri district. Khandu stated that Indian Army personnel are actively deployed along the border maintaining territorial integrity, adding that no immediate evidence indicates a Chinese breach. However, he emphasized that the government would hear directly from border residents and consult military commanders to establish the ground facts. The Chief Minister's remarks follow assertions made by opposition leaders and regional organizations, including the Nyishi Welfare Society (NWS) and Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee



(APCC) president Bosiram Siram. They alleged that PLA troops crossed the LAC at multiple points near Pukarla and Olo, establishing temporary structures near Yaja and Togo villages in Taksing Cir-

cle. Opponents claimed these movements have created psychological insecurity among villagers and disrupted traditional grazing activities along remote pasturelands. Earlier, Arunachal Pradesh

Home Minister Mama Natung and Indian Army officials firmly dismissed the encroachment reports, terming them baseless social media rumors. Natung reaffirmed that Indian armed forces remain on high alert 24/7 along the international border, assuring that no foreign force has occupied Indian territory. The state government highlighted that routine military movements in the Nacho sub-division were part of standard security drills and infrastructure maintenance rather than a response to an ongoing face-off. Authorities noted that heavy mon-

soon-triggered landslides frequently necessitate road clearance and traffic diversions across the high-altitude terrain. While reiterating confidence in the armed forces, state authorities urged citizens and media outlets to refrain from spreading unverified information on digital platforms. The administration reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining border security, supporting frontier populations, and ensuring transparent communication regarding territorial defense. Beyond the immediate military assessment, local community

leaders have urged the central government to accelerate the Vibrant Villages Programme across Upper Subansiri to prevent border depopulation. They emphasized that improving last-mile road connectivity, telecommunications, and basic amenities in frontier hamlets is essential to keeping local populations anchored along the LAC as strategic sentinels. In response, state officials reiterated that security infrastructure development, civil-military coordination, and welfare measures in border districts remain a top national security priority.

Naga leaders call for cultural safeguards

Kohima, Aug 10: Naga leaders, civil society organizations, and tribal bodies gathered on World Indigenous Peoples Day to advocate for the strengthening of indigenous institutions, the protection of ancestral lands, and the preservation of customary laws in Nagaland.

The main observance, organized by regional tribal bodies and indigenous rights forums, brought together community elders, youth delegates, and intellectuals to reflect on the rights, cultural heritage, and self-determination of indigenous communities across the region. Speakers emphasized that constitutional mechanisms—specifically Article 371(A) of the Indian Constitution, which safeguards Naga customary law, social practices, and land ownership—must be vigorously defended and reinforced against emerging legislative and economic pressures.

During the proceedings, tribal leaders highlighted the pivotal role played by traditional village councils, or Gaon Buras, and customary judicial institutions in maintaining peace, social cohesion, and equitable resource management across Naga villages. They expressed concern over rapid urbanization, unmonitored commercial development.

Massive Siang River erosion threatens Borguly farmlands in Mebo

Dimapur, Aug 08: Continuous monsoon-triggered flooding and severe riverbank erosion along the Siang River have washed away vast tracts of fertile agricultural land, posing a critical threat to wet rice cultivation (WRC) fields in Borguly village under Mebo sub-division in East Siang district.



The relentless soil erosion has directly impacted the Kongkin WRC fields, which serve as the primary source of food security and agrarian livelihood for dozens of local farming families. Following the escalation of bank erosion, a joint

assessment team comprising officials from the East Siang District Administration and the Water Resources Department visited the affected sites at Borguly to evaluate the structural damage. Led by Pasighat Deputy Commissioner in-charge

Pebika Lego, Mebo Additional Deputy Commissioner Nancy Yirang, and WRD Assistant Engineer Bani Langkam, the team surveyed the washed-away riverbank alongside local Gaon Buras and community elders. The visiting team assured panicked villagers that a detailed damage report and technical proposals for urgent anti-erosion interventions would be submitted to higher authorities. Highlighting the recurring threat, Mebo MLA Oken Tayeng urged the state government and Centre to deploy immediate flood control measures.

TN Mannen urges Khamimu villagers to unite

Mokokchung, Aug 10: Nagaland MLA and Advisor for Law & Justice and Land Revenue, TN Mannen, has called upon the residents of Khamimu village to foster unity, exercise collective responsibility, and tap into emerging economic avenues to secure long-term progress for their community. Speaking at the inauguration of the newly constructed Panchayat Hall in Khamimu village under Mokokchung district, Mannen emphasized that sustainable development demands consensus-building and democratic decision-making. He stressed that progress requires respecting both majority consensus and individual voices, remarking, "When we decide together, we



move forward together". Addressing the gathering, the Advisor urged citizens to act as active guardians of public infrastructure built with government support, such as roads, community halls, healthcare centers, educational institutions, and water supply networks. He noted that common assets

belong to the whole community and should be preserved with the same care as private property through regular maintenance and cleanliness. Furthermore, he pointed out that neglect or misuse of shared public resources ultimately harms every family within the village.

First Rain Foundation marks one year of Mental Health Camps, calls for stronger community support

Kohima, Aug 10: The First Rain Foundation, in partnership with MITA, the ant, marked the first anniversary of its mental health camps in Mokokchung on August 7 at Sangtemla Ward Multipurpose Hall, with speakers highlighting the importance of community-based mental healthcare, early intervention and creating an environment where people can seek help without fear or stigma. The anniversary programme brought together mental health professionals, counselors, volunteers, community members and beneficiaries of the camps to reflect on the first year of the initiative and its

wider significance for mental health awareness in the community. In her keynote address, Lanusenla Jamir said every community has "two stories"—the story that is visible through its hills, churches, schools, markets, institutions and development, and another story carried privately by people, which often remains hidden behind everyday achievements and routines. Reflecting on the first year of the mental health camps, she said the greatest achievement was not simply conducting 12 camps, but that the community had "given us permission to listen." She said First Rain had

conducted a youth mental health baseline survey in 2025 involving approximately 600 respondents and a community needs assessment in 2026 involving 141 respondents. The youth survey found that more than half of respondents experienced stress or anxiety, nearly one in three reported symptoms of depression, and more than half had no mental health support. Most concerning, she said, 17.3 percent reported having personally attempted self-harm or suicide. The 2026 community assessment similarly identified unemployment, emotional distress and substance abuse as major challenges, while 56



percent of respondents felt that life in the community had become worse over the previous five years. Jamir said the findings had

changed her understanding of mental health, arguing that mental well-being is not shaped only inside hospitals and counselling rooms but by

what she described as "psychological infrastructure"—the environments created in homes, schools, churches and workplaces. "Long before someone enters a counselling room, they have already been shaped by these environments," she said, adding that psychological infrastructure is built "conversation by conversation, relationship by relationship and choice by choice." According to Jamir, when such infrastructure is strong, people seek help earlier, families recognise illness sooner and teachers are more likely to notice when students begin withdrawing. However, when

it is weak, shame and silence increase, treatment is delayed and people may suffer alone. She said 78 individuals between the ages of 16 and 85 had sought help through the camps during the past year, while more than 20 young volunteers had contributed their time consistently. Jamir also acknowledged the challenges faced during the early stages of the programme, including financial difficulties, slow growth in participation and the absence of a resident psychologist. She credited reduced consultation and medicine costs, awareness broadcasts by All India Radio, Puducherry, and faith-based

support for helping make mental healthcare more accessible. She said the camps had gradually helped challenge stigma, with people who had received treatment and experienced improvement subsequently encouraging their families, friends and neighbours to seek help. "The greatest advertisement for compassionate care is compassionate care itself," she said. Speaking on behalf of MITA, the ant, Dr Mintu Moni Sarma said he felt privileged to be part of the anniversary programme in Mokokchung, which he described as an intellectual centre of Nagaland.

Nagaland Cabinet reviews oil, foothill road, disaster response measures

Dimapur, Aug 10: The Nagaland Cabinet has undertaken a comprehensive review of three critical issues—oil exploration, the Foothill Road project, and disaster response preparedness—underscoring the state government's focus on infrastructure, resource management, and public safety. During the meeting, ministers discussed the progress of oil exploration initiatives in Nagaland, a subject that has long been debated due to its potential economic benefits and environmental concerns. The Cabinet emphasized the need for transparent agreements with exploration companies, ensuring that local communities benefit from revenue sharing while ecological safeguards are strictly enforced. Officials noted that oil resources could significantly boost state finances if managed responsibly, but stressed that community consent and environmental



sustainability must remain central to the process. The Foothill Road project, designed to connect districts along Nagaland's foothills and improve regional mobility, was another major agenda item. The Cabinet reviewed construction updates, funding allocations, and land ac-

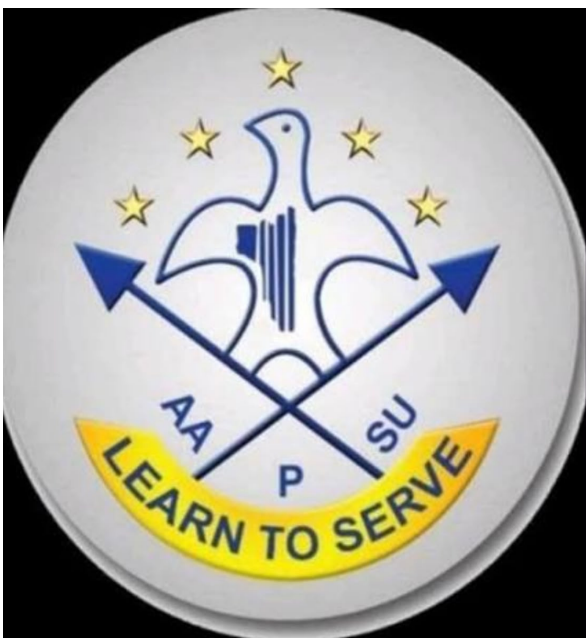
quisition challenges. Ministers highlighted the project's importance for trade, tourism, and emergency access, particularly in remote areas where connectivity remains limited. The government reiterated its commitment to completing the project in phases, while address-

ing concerns raised by local stakeholders about compensation and alignment. Disaster response preparedness also featured prominently in the discussions, especially in light of recent monsoon-related landslides and floods across the Northeast. The Cabinet examined existing

protocols, availability of relief materials, and coordination between state agencies and district administrations. Plans were outlined to strengthen early warning systems, improve evacuation routes, and train local volunteers for rapid response. The government stressed that disaster resilience must be integrated into infrastructure planning, ensuring that roads, bridges, and public facilities are built to withstand extreme weather events. By reviewing oil exploration, the Foothill Road project, and disaster response together, the Nagaland Cabinet signaled a holistic approach to governance—balancing economic development with environmental responsibility and public safety. The decisions taken are expected to shape long-term strategies for resource utilization, connectivity, and resilience, reflecting the state's broader vision of sustainable growth.

Arunachal HPC accepts AAPSU job reservation recommendations

Itanagar, Aug 10: The High-Powered Committee (HPC) on the 80:20 job reservation policy in Arunachal Pradesh has concluded its final meeting, formally accepting the recommendations put forward by the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU). This marks a significant step in addressing long-standing concerns over equitable employment opportunities in the state. The 80:20 reservation framework, which reserves 80 percent of jobs for local candidates and 20 percent for others, has been a subject of intense debate among policymakers, student bodies, and civil society groups. AAPSU had consistently advocated for stricter enforcement of the policy to safeguard indigenous employment rights while maintaining a balanced approach to external recruitment. During the concluding session, the HPC reviewed submissions from various stakeholders, including district representatives, community leaders, and administrative officials.



The committee acknowledged that AAPSU's recommendations reflected the broader aspirations of the youth and aligned with the state's vision of protecting local interests. Key points accepted included stricter monitoring mechanisms, transparent recruitment processes, and periodic reviews to ensure compliance.

The Cabinet is expected to integrate these recommendations into official policy guidelines, thereby strengthening the legal and administrative framework around job reservations. Officials noted that the move would not only safeguard indigenous employment but also foster trust between the government and student organizations.

Heavy Vehicles Moving Again After Phesama

Shillong, Aug 10: Heavy vehicles started rolling on Asian Highway-1 near Phesama village at 7 p.m. Sunday. Crews cleared enough of a massive mudslide to reopen the route after a three-day shutdown. The blockage, triggered by relentless rain last Friday, buried 250 metres of the road near the Naga Heritage Village exit at Kisama. Authorities had previously diverted light vehicles through the Rhododendron Resort road. They kept heavy trucks parked for safety, fearing the soggy ground might give way under the weight. Now, officials are carefully escorting unloaded trucks and 10-tyre vehicles headed toward Manipur through the debris zone. Drivers have paid a steep price for the

closure. Devinder, a truck driver hauling 14 tonnes of tiles from Delhi to Manipur, spent ten days on the road total. “I spent five days travelling from Delhi to Dimapur but another five days stranded in Nagaland, including three days at Phesama,” he said. Another driver, Jiyabur, had been stuck for two days while hauling chicken feed to Ukhrul. He reported a total lack of basic amenities like food, toilets, or places to sleep. Work continues on the highway. Two excavators are digging out the remaining sludge and shoring up the damaged section from both ends. Officials have not set a firm date for full, unrestricted traffic flow, promising only a gradual return to normal as the road stabilizes.

Congress Demands 24-Hour Pollution Monitoring

Shillong, Aug 10: Meghalaya Congress secretary Manuel Badwar wants round-the-clock pollution monitoring in Byrnihat. He argues that current periodic inspections fail because factories receive advance notice. This allows industrial units to hide their true emission levels during checks. Badwar demands immediate reform. Badwar proposes installing sensors at every factory. These devices would transmit real-time data to an independent monitoring system for public view. He suggests displaying this air-quality information on large LED screens at the Deputy Commissioner’s Office in Nongpoh. Industries should pay for these monitoring systems themselves. The Congress leader claims existing oversight is weak. “The government could no longer rely on older approaches when technology capable of continuously monitoring pollution is available globally,” Badwar stated. He warned

that the financial and health costs of this pollution fall squarely on the public. The pollution problem persists on both sides of the Meghalaya-Assam border. Badwar dismissed previous efforts by an inter-state action committee as ineffective. He insists that manufacturing and processing facilities must operate proper chimneys. The government must move past bureaucratic delays and hold specific industrial sources accountable for environmental damage.

Congress Demands Joint Meghalaya-Assam Plan

Shillong, Aug 10: Meghalaya Congress officials are pushing for a unified plan between their state and Assam to stop recurring floods in Jorabat. The road serves as a critical link between Shillong and Guwahati. Travelers face constant chaos here. Patients and tourists often find themselves stranded for up to 13 hours during major weather events.State Congress Secretary Manuel Badwar said, “The problem cannot be effectively resolved by Meghalaya alone and requires co-ordinated action with Assam.”Constant finger-pointing between the two state governments has failed to produce results. The flooding has only worsened over time as urban sprawl consumes natural drainage.Construction and rapid development have destroyed swampy areas that once soaked up excess water. Badwar wants the two states to use LiDAR and terrain mapping to track water flow. He also pushed for stricter oversight of local quarrying. Both sides rely on the area for stone and gravel, but uncontrolled digging hurts drainage systems.The Congress proposal asks both governments to share data and conduct a joint technical study. Maintenance of existing drainage channels from Jorabat to Khanapara remains a priority. Badwar says the tools to fix the corridor exist today. Leaders just need the political will to stop talking and start digging.



Damaged section of the Shillong Dawki road is scheduled to reopen



Shillong, Aug 10: The Laitlyn-gkot-Lyngkyrdem segment of the Shillong-Dawki Road (NH-206) will be reopened to all types of vehicular traffic starting Monday, following several weeks of interruptions due to landslides and safety issues. However, restrictions during nighttime will remain in effect. This decision comes after a joint inspection conducted on August 8 by officials from NHIDCL, PWD (Roads) Pynursla Division, and the district ad-

ministration. In a public announcement made on Sunday, SDO (Civil) Pynursla, Gautam Warjri, stated that the section from Km 24+00 to Km 37+00 would be accessible to all vehicles from August 10. The current night closure, which is in place from 10 pm to 5 am, will continue until further notice.Warjri urged travelers to adhere strictly to traffic regulations, emphasizing that the ongoing monsoon season still presents risks of landslides, rockfalls, and road

instability. The public is advised to refrain from non-essential travel during heavy rainfall, immediately following rainfall, and at night. Emergency vehicles, including ambulances, fire services, and police vehicles, may be permitted during the closure period, contingent upon on-site safety assessments.The Pynursla Civil Sub-Division has requested the cooperation of the public to ensure safety and facilitate the smooth progress of the ongoing road works.

Mahila Congress rejects mandatory

Shillong, Aug 10: The Meghalaya Pradesh Mahila Congress has opposed the mandatory use of E20 petrol, demanding that consumers be allowed to choose fuel based on their vehicles’ compatibility. In a statement on Sunday, MPMC president Joplyn Scott Shylla said vehicle owners, especially those with older models, should not be forced to bear extra costs from a fuel policy that lacks adequate safeguards. While newer vehicles are being manufactured for E20, concerns persist over damage to fuel systems, reduced mileage and higher maintenance costs for older ones. Shylla noted that the government has admitted a possible drop in fuel efficiency and that no formal assessment exists of how many vehicles in India are compatible with E20. “Consumers should not be forced to bear the financial burden of a policy without adequate safeguards and clear information,” she said. The MPMC demanded a choice of fuel according to vehicle compatibility, and an independent assessment of E20’s long-term impact. It also stressed that consumers should not be compelled to replace perfectly functioning vehicles simply because of a change in fuel policy. The Meghalaya Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee on Saturday staged a demonstration at the Congress Bhavan on Thana Road to protest against the increase in fuel prices. The women’s wing of the state congress shouted slogans and displayed placards, slamming the Centre and demanding that the prices are reduced soon. ‘The voice of the poor will reverberate across the country’ and ‘No More price hike’ were some of the messages on placards as the committee members said the price rise has badly hurt the poor people across the county.

Mukul warns FCRA could severely impact welfare organizations

Shillong, Aug 10: Leader of the Opposition Mukul Sangma has called on the Centre to pay attention to the concerns being expressed nationwide regarding the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. He cautioned that the changes, in their current form, could have significant repercussions and potentially undermine organizations that provide education, healthcare, and other vital services.Sangma emphasized that the effects would not be limited to Meghalaya but could resonate throughout the country, risking the dislocation of organizations from their welfare and service missions.These concerns have already been communicated to the Union Government, yet the possible consequences necessitate thorough consideration before any amendments are enacted. He noted that the issue could



particularly impact organizations linked to minority communities, many of which have been operational for decades and have proven their resilience over time.In a democratic framework, there should be a spirit of accommodation, especially when proposed changes could disrupt institutions that have

been engaged in public service for generations.The Opposition Leader highlighted that numerous institutions in Meghalaya, which have contributed to the State for over a century, rely on contributions from international agencies governed by the FCRA.While he acknowledged that some funds received through

the FCRA may have undergone scrutiny as part of standard governance practices, Sangma questioned the fairness of imposing a sudden requirement for organizations to provide extensive historical documentation when such scrutiny had not been previously enforced by the authorities. He cautioned that organizations could find themselves in an “Agni Pariksha”-like predicament if they are compelled to supply detailed information spanning several years. Challenging the decision to implement retrospective requirements, Sangma contended that the government could have opted to frame the amendments in a prospective manner instead.He argued that retrospective scrutiny could lead to practical challenges, as organizations may not be equipped to comply with such demands.

Hek is pursuing legal clarity from Centre concerning

Shillong, Aug 10: Senior BJP leader and MLA A.L. Hek has said verbal assurances on the proposed Foreign Contribution Regulation Act amendments are not enough and must be backed by clear legal provisions and fair implementation if charitable and religious institutions are to continue their work without fear of disruption. Speaking in a televised interview, Hek said the assurance that the proposed provisions would not be applied retrospectively was welcome, but the real issue went far beyond retrospectivity. The central question, he maintained, was whether the new law would strike a genuine balance between regulating foreign contributions and protecting the constitutional freedoms of institutions that have served the country for generations.Hek made it clear he had no objection to transparency and accountability for every organisation dealing with foreign funds. His concern was whether the proposed framework would take account of the longstanding contribution of NGOs, missionary organisations and Christian institutions that run schools, hospitals, old-age homes, leprosy centres and other social services, particularly for vulnerable communities in remote and tribal areas. “The Christian community is not looking for

assurances alone,” Hek said. He stressed the need for legal clarity and uniform, non-discriminatory implementation, warning that confidence in the system would depend on how the law is worded and enforced. He rejected any suggestion that raising these concerns amounted to opposing his party or the government. Internal discussion, he said, was healthy in a democracy and could help improve legislation before it was enacted. Hek revealed that he had written several letters and repeatedly contacted the Union Home Minister’s office seeking a discussion, but had so far received no positive response. He had also conveyed his concerns in writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. The Prime Minister’s Office, he said, had acknowledged receipt of his representation. On the number of NGOs that could be affected, Hek said he could not give an exact figure, but insisted that genuine charitable institutions must be able to continue their work without uncertainty over interpretation or enforcement. He welcomed the claim that the legislation would remain religion-neutral, but added that the effectiveness of any such assurance would ultimately depend on the actual text of the law and its implementation on the ground.

Currently, TUR has expressed its opposition to the Shillong Ropeway project, labeling it as a mere ‘tourism gimmick’

Shillong, Aug 10: A day after the Raid Laban Dorbar Pyllun expressed its support for the proposed Shillong Peak Ropeway Project and committed to facilitating its prompt execution, the Rs 151-crore initiative has encountered new challenges as Thma u Rangli Juki (TUR) has joined the increasing opposition against it.Highlighting environmental and governance issues, TUR member Angela Rangad stated that the removal of 545 trees for the ropeway would have significant repercussions on the region’s delicate ecosystem and water security.“Forests serve as ecological sponges, and the removal of canopy cover disrupts subsurface aquifers and local microclimates. The clearing of continuous forest cover on steep slopes alters runoff behavior throughout the entire ecosystem,” Rangad explained.TUR contended that the removal of hundreds of trees would have a lasting impact on the catchment area and local streams that provide water



to various parts of Shillong, which is already experiencing severe water stress. They argued that compensatory afforestation in different

locations would do little to restore ecological balance. The organization also cautioned about the heightened risk of landslides on the steep,

high-rainfall slopes.Questioning the justification for the project, Rangad inquired, “Do we truly need this ropeway?” She emphasized

that opposition should not be interpreted as anti-development. “We oppose thoughtless, short-sighted infrastructure projects that are merely tourism gimmicks jeopardizing the water security and safety of residents,” she stated.TUR asserted that Meghalaya’s charm lies in its natural beauty, which is being supplanted by steel towers and concrete structures. They suggested that the funds could be more effectively allocated to sustainable tourism initiatives, such as forest trails and livelihood opportunities for local youth. Justifying an expenditure of over Rs 151 crore on a “luxury tourist ride” is challenging when residents are grappling with water shortages, poor road conditions, and insufficient public transport. The organization rejected claims that the ropeway would alleviate traffic congestion, arguing that a standalone 896-meter cable line could instead draw more vehicles into already congested residential areas.

On August 13, the SC will consider Tamil Nadu’s request for Karnataka’s cooperation

New Delhi, Aug 10: On Thursday, the Supreme Court will consider Tamil Nadu’s request for Karnataka to follow the Cauvery Water Management Authority’s (CWMA) order to release 3,500 cusecs of water per day from the Kabini and Krishna Raja Sagara reservoirs for a period of 15 days.Senior attorney CS Vaidyanathan, who was representing Tamil Nadu, urgently mentioned the case before Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, who consented to schedule it on Thursday.On the same day, the DMK’s suit for identical directives against Karnataka is probably going to be heard. Tamil Nadu has petitioned the Supreme Court, claiming that Karnataka had “wilfully” dis-

regarded the CWMA’s July 30 ruling, which supported the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee’s (CWRC) recommendation to release 3,500 cusecs per day for 15 days starting on July 29.In order to guaranty that the required release reaches the interstate border at Billigundulu and that Karnataka also makes up the cumulative deficiency in releases, the state has requested instructions.Tamil Nadu claims that in accordance with the CWMA’s directive, Karnataka must release 4.536 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water by August 12, which is equal to 3,500 cusecs per day for 15 days. However, the state has asserted that using the distress-sharing method would still result

in a significant shortage. It has requested that Karnataka provide an extra 26.954 TMC, which Tamil Nadu claims is its pro rata allocation between June 1 and August 12.

According to the state, Karnataka has not even followed the restricted 3,500-cusec directive. The application claims that actual flows at Billigundulu between July 29 and August 2 were significantly lower than the required daily discharge, ranging from just 158 cusecs to 530 cusecs. According to Tamil Nadu, “it is evident that Karnataka has wilfully not complied with the directions of the CWRC/ CWMA.” The dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu centers on water re-

lease from Karnataka’s reservoirs, critical for Tamil Nadu’s paddy crops. Karnataka claims sufficient water storage, with 77.537 TMC as of August 3, while Tamil Nadu’s DMK has sought court intervention for compliance with water release obligations.Reports indicate that timely water release is vital for Kuruvai and Samba crops in the Cauvery Delta. Tamil Nadu argues that the 3,500-cusec release ordered for 15 days is insufficient compared to its annual entitlement of 177.25 TMC. The ongoing situation reflects historical compliance issues from Karnataka during water distress periods, exacerbated by a recent CWMA decision endorsing a limited release strategy.

Amit Shah will address Parliament, and the government says it is prepared to discuss student demonstrations

New Delhi, Aug 10: On Monday, the Union administration informed the opposition that it is prepared to discuss the students’ concerns in Parliament and that Home Minister Amit Shah would respond.Government officials, including Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, pledged to discuss the concerns of the students during Monday’s Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, which was presided over by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.Rijiju stated during the meeting that the Union Home Minister would respond to the discussion.Many view the government’s offer as an attempt to break the two-week impasse that hindered both Houses’ ability to operate and resulted in the adoption of multiple laws amid commotion. Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, called for Shah to make a non-negotiable statement in the House regarding the police action against students protesting the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test



(NEET) paper leak during the Cockerroach Janta Party’s “Sansad Chalo” march on July 20.The leaders of the Opposition agreed to keep up protests in order to demand Shah’s statement during this morning’s strategy meeting.A government manager said that the opportunity to discuss the students’ protest ought to have “fulfilled the Opposition’s demand as they had been asking for Amit Shah to make a statement.” ”The offer made by the government is very clear, that it is ready to have a full and detailed dis-

cussion on students’ movement and activities related to it,” Rijiju told reporters.”My only point made to the Opposition is that the Opposition should not create disturbances to prevent the statement of the Home Minister while the discussion and a reply are being made,” he continued. They have to hear the government’s and the Home Minister’s response. We need to have a threadbare discussion once it starts. Some Opposition leaders view the government’s plan as a strategy to split their ranks, particularly concerning the Samajwadi Party’s interest in discussing alleged donation theft. The Opposition has demanded that both the issues of student protests and donation theft in Ayodhya be addressed. Congress’ chief whip Gaurav Gogoi reiterated that neither issue is optional, emphasizing their significance. Protests by the Opposition have caused interruptions and adjournments throughout the ongoing monsoon session, which concludes on August 13.

TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee is permitted by SC to travel overseas for eye surgery



New Delhi, Aug 10: On Monday, the Supreme Court let Abhishek Banerjee, a member of the Trinamool Congress, to travel abroad for three weeks in order to have eye treatment.

While considering the Diamond Harbor MP’s appeal of a Calcutta High Court ruling that had denied him permission to travel overseas for medical treatment, a bench made up of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justices Joymalaya Bagchi, and V Mohana issued the verdict, according to the news agency.After his request was denied by the Calcutta High Court on August 5, Banerjee went to the Supreme Court. He refused to come before the medical board at the state-run SSKM Hospital the next day for an evaluation of his health, the high court had remarked. The high court had stated that if Banerjee had appeared before the medical board and sought

an evaluation from medical professionals regarding the necessity of receiving treatment abroad, the case might have been taken into consideration.”In view of submission made on behalf of the applicant (Banerjee) that applicant will not appear before the medical board at SSKM Hospital, Kolkata, this court finds the issue which is agitated before this court by filing application... ought not to be kept pending further,” the high court stated as it dismissed his application.

The court pointed out that if Banerjee had been before the medical board, its assessment could have been useful in determining whether he required to travel overseas for medical care.On August 3, the Supreme Court ordered the Calcutta High Court to review Banerjee’s request for authorization to go overseas for eye care within a week. The Supreme Court was

informed by senior lawyer Gopal Sankaranarayanan, who was representing Banerjee, that the plea asked for the high court’s previous ruling to be modified so that the MP could receive medical care abroad.

In a case involving alleged remarks made against leaders and employees of a competing party during a public rally on April 27, before to the second phase of the West Bengal assembly elections, the Calcutta High Court had already extended Banerjee’s temporary protection from coercive action until October 6.In addition to granting the relief, the high court prohibited Banerjee from traveling overseas without the court’s consent and instructed him to assist with the inquiry.

The temporary protection was prolonged by the court until October 6 or until further orders were issued, whichever came first. Additionally, it stated that although no date had been set, Banerjee’s request to have the terms of the interim protection modified would be heard in August. Prior to this, the high court had stated that it was not inclined to allow Banerjee to travel overseas while the probe was ongoing. It also mentioned that Kolkata had a number of reputable eye clinics.

Supriya Sule discusses her discussion with PM Modi, including the name of the Navi Mumbai airport, the drought, and other topics

New Delhi, Aug 10: On Monday, Members of Parliament from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) associated with the Sharad Pawar faction met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address several issues, including the FCRA bill. Despite the meeting’s significance, NCP-SP MP Supriya Sule clari-

fied that no political discussions took place during the 15-minute meeting. Instead, the MPs presented specific concerns from their constituencies, which included pressing matters such as drought conditions, rising onion prices, and pollution in the Chandra Bhaga River. Sule emphasized the ur-

gency of these discussions, noting that the House was not operational. Additionally, NCP MP Dr. Amol Kolhe proposed that the new Navi Mumbai airport be named after Diba Patil (DB Patil) and advocated for giving the Bharat Ratna to notable figures such as Jyotiba Phule, Savitri Phule, Shahir Anna

Bhau Saathe, and Saint Tukdoji Maharaj. Dr. Kolhe highlighted other important topics raised by the MPs, including proposals related to the Pune-Nashik metro project, PM Gate Shakti in Sambhaji Nagar, developments at the JNPT port, and the introduction of a railway line connecting Kalyan to Murbad.

A UP woman claims that the father of an IPS officer gave her instructions to fire at her house

New Delhi, Aug 10: According to police on Sunday, a woman has accused the father of a trainee IPS officer of planning a shooting at her home in an effort to seize control of a contested plot of property in the Maholi neighborhood.

Shobhana Shukla claims that she paid about Rs 1.5 crore for a piece of land on the Adhuri Bypass in 2018 and has been residing with her family in a house built on a portion of that land.She asserted that she also owns the remaining portion of the land. According to Shukla, the trainee IPS officer’s father, Vipin Bajpai, is also claiming ownership of the land thru a sale deed that his father registered in 2022.Since then, the disagreement over this property has continued. She further claimed that a decision by the Maholi tehsil authorities about two months ago favoured her ownership claims.

However, she alleged that individuals on the opposing side have continued efforts to take possession of the land. According to Shukla, about 24 or 25 persons showed up at her residence on Sunday in a car, mistreated



her, and then allegedly started shooting.Shukla claimed that Vipin Bajpai was responsible for the entire firing episode in a video that went viral. The group, according to her, was deployed to threaten her and enable an attempt to seize the contested territory.According to Maholi Circle Officer Nagendra Choubey, police arrived at the location after learning of the shooting and found empty cartridges. A number of suspects were taken into custody for interrogation.The woman has filed a formal grievance. A case

will be filed. Empty ammunition were found on the scene by the police. Every accusation, including the termination, is being looked into, according to Choubey. He pointed out that there have already been court cases pertaining to the property and that this issue concerns a land dispute between two parties.

The head of the Maholi police station is conducting a comprehensive inquiry into every element. Based on the investigation, more steps would be taken, the officer stated.

Manik Sarkar claims that no legitimate voter should be left off the voter list

Agartala, Aug 10: Manik Sarkar, a senior CPI(M) politician and former chief minister, has voiced worry that many legitimate voters’ names would be removed from the voter list as the Election Commission prepares to start the Special Intensive Revision on September 5. Based on the experiences of other states, especially West Bengal and Bihar, he voiced worry and asked the commission to make sure that no legitimate voter is left off the list. “Our primary demand is that under no circumstances should the names of legitimate voters be removed from the voter list. In a similar vein, the names of those who have reached the age of 18 must be on the list, he stated. After visiting an event in Agartala, he was speaking with reporters. He claimed that the people’s voting and consumer rights were under jeopardy and voiced serious worry about their increasing hardship. He claimed that the government’s complete failure was demonstrated by the ongoing protests in various sections of the state over disparities in power bills and bad road conditions.Regarding the power issue, he asserted that there was no real electricity deficit in Tripura and stated that the incompetence of the government was costing the people. According to him, the government needs to put aside its flaws, errors, apathy, and “empty propaganda” and act quickly to address the issues facing consumers.

Meghalaya Congress protests against proposed FCRA amendments in Shillong

Shillong, Aug 10: On August 10, the Meghalaya Pradesh Congress Committee organized a nonviolent protest march in Shillong against the proposed changes to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), citing concerns about how they might affect churches, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other organizations that receive donations from outside sources.Participating in the march with party flags and placards, Congress employees voiced their opposition to the planned FCRA Amendment Bill, which the party feels might have significant ramifications for organizations that rely on foreign funding. Speaking to the crowd, prominent Congressman Vincent H. Pala asserted that the BJP had issued a whip and would probably present the Bill to Parliament before its August 13 recess. Pala stated, “The BJP has issued a whip and they are likely to bring the Bill either today, tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow.”Calling in the proposed legislation “one of the most dangerous bills in history,” Pala claimed

that some of its provisions would have a negative impact on organizations that receive funding from overseas, including churches, schools, and non-governmental organizations.He claimed that the protest was intended to raise awareness of what he saw as a serious danger to organizations that had traditionally benefited from foreign donations.But Pala made it clear that neither the nation nor the Center were the target of the protest.”We do not oppose India or the Indian government. Our goal is to collaborate. India will be powerful if its citizens, minorities, churches, and non-governmental organizations cooperate, he stated. He maintained that India’s strength is found in the collaboration of various institutions and people, and he said that policies that negatively impact civil society organizations and minorities would harm rather than enhance the nation.Additionally, Pala expressed specific concerns about the draft legislation’s Clause 16A.He claimed that if an organization’s FCRA registration was not renewed, canceled, or willingly sur-



rendered, it might be subject to property attachment.He claimed, “This is a bill where they will take your property if you cannot renew the FCRA, if they cancel your FCRA, or if you surrender the FCRA.” He went on to say that the clause might have an impact even in cases where foreign donations accounted for a very modest percentage of an institution’s funding.”The entire property will be attached if your church, school, or any other property is funded by even a small percentage,” Pala stated.Pala stated that the Congress had no objections to rules meant to stop the abuse of foreign contributions and accepted that the FCRA had been in effect for many years. He contended, howev-

er, that the proposed changes might go beyond controlling foreign funding and even endanger organizations that rely on such contributions. Congress employees carried signs and chanted anti-proposed amendment slogans as they marched thru portions of Shillong.

Prior to the proposed legislation’s anticipated discussion in Parliament, the Meghalaya Congress stated that the demonstration was meant to raise public awareness and offer a democratic platform for opposing its provisions. The demonstration coincides with the Center’s attempts to move forward with the suggested FCRA modifications prior to Parliament’s August 13 recess.

Ex-Exam Chief Arrested, Lathi-Charged, and Tear-Gassed Protesters in Jharkhand

New Delhi, Aug 10: When the student demonstrators in Ranchi broke thru the barriers to go to the Jharkhand assembly today, the police used tear gas, water cannons, and lathi charges to scatter them. This is in spite of Chief Minister Hemant Soren’s claim that all domestic issues can be resolved thru discourse rather than force.In relation to purported anomalies in the recruitment examinations, the state CID has also detained L Khiangte, the former chairperson of the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC).

On July 22, Khiangte tendered his resignation.Thousands of students showed up to the assembly to demand changes to the recruitment process, which led to the arrest. Devendra Mahto, a hunger-striking student leader, participated in the march as well. Some students began dancing in front of the flowing

water as the police used water cannons to put an end to the demonstrators, mirroring memories from the NEET protests in Patna.To take part in the protest, thousands of students traveled by bus, train, and other means from several districts to the state capital this morning. Sensing problems with law and order in the city, the administration has erected barricades at important crossroads and sensitive locations. Large numbers of police officers are on duty, and security measures are in place to prevent any unfavorable circumstances. In Ranchi, the majority of schools are still closed today.The police had also been inspecting busses and private automobiles on district borders, key routes, and highways in an effort to reduce the number of students traveling to the capital.In the meantime, BJP leaders also held a demonstration outside Chief Minister Soren’s home.

Drive along the Byrnihat-Khanapara roadway to prevent careless parking



Shillong, Aug 10: The Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Ri-Bhoi carried out an inspection drive along the route from Byrnihat to Khanapara in order to control

the movement of public vehicles, especially those that are unlawfully parked along the roadside, creating traffic congestion and endangering road safety.Assistant Commissioner of Ri-Bhoi Akash Marak oversaw the inspection campaign, which was coordinated with representatives from the Transport Department, Police Department, and PWD. Several public vehicles, espe-

cially trucks, were penalized for parking carelessly along the National Highway during the inspection.The goal of the combined enforcement campaign was to make sure that public vehicles, particularly trucks, don’t park carelessly by the side of the road because this hinders traffic flow and might lead to terrible events, such as fatal traffic accidents. It is anticipated

that the highway that passes across the Ri-Bhoi region will enable easy and unfettered traffic flow, especially after the construction of the four-lane highway. However, the unlawful parking of cars, particularly trucks, along the Byrnihat-Jorabat stretch has caused problems for drivers and seriously jeopardizes the safety of people passing thru the area.

EDITORIAL

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Editorial

The global media's Kashmir blind spot

A few weeks ago, pellet-firing shotguns made international headlines again, not from Srinagar, but at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Foreign news outlets that had not filed a Kashmir report in years suddenly had their pellet-gun explainer ready to go. Kashmir, after all, still gets clicks.

In the report, an anonymous source said, “No three-year-old kid was killed in Delhi, but that was done in Kashmir. No students sitting in their homes got hit by pellet guns, but in Kashmir that had happened.” These two places did share a story of pellet guns, but there is no comparison for the history of pain. The useful story, which should have been about the weapon's usage otherwise, like how it was introduced, and on what scale it was used during the 2016 unrest, and how its re-appearance in New Delhi became a pointer to recall Kashmir, was lost in between this reporting. What was worth examining is the reflex that followed these protests. It was the fastest a Kashmir story has moved through the Western news cycle in a long time. It just happened not to be about Kashmir.

To understand this lag, we must go back to history and understand how urgently vocabulary was earned. In the winter of 1989-90, when Kashmir's armed insurgency took place after a rigged state election, years of political friction between Srinagar and New Delhi, and covert backing from across the border, with the help of non-state actors, pushed a generation of young Kashmiris toward militancy. That same winter saw the beginning of the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits, the Valley's Hindu minority, driven out by targeted killings and explicit threats after decades as one of Kashmir's oldest communities. The times that followed in the 1990s were marked by enforced disappearances, cordon-and-search operations, and counter-insurgency operations that left thousands of men unaccounted for. Hence, the term “half-widow” emerged: women whose husbands disappeared into custody, leaving them without closure and in a legal and emotional limbo between wife and widow, some still waiting decades later. The term itself deserves more scrutiny than ever, because this term “half-widow” measures a woman only against an absent man's fate, reducing her to a position of marital status rather than seeing her as a person who has an existence in the community, spent decades building a life, raising children, and holding a household together around that absence. This term was not coined by any national institution but came into light through local portage and later took a turn through the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) founded by Parveen Ahangar in 1994.

A 2011 report by APDP titled “Half Widow, Half Wife” is where much of the vocabulary was formalised,

disseminated and travelled internationally. This vocabulary remains largely unchanged even in the current times. In January 2025, an article by Brown History opened with the same phrase and cited the 2011 APDP report. Whether a label imposed from outside is the right or only way to refer to these women at all or whether it quietly keeps repeating the pattern of erasure it claims to describe is a question such international reporting has largely avoided. Pellet-firing shotguns arrived later, introduced in 2010 and then following the killing of militant commander Burhan Wani, though none of this is old news for the people who lived it, and none of it should be flattened into a cliché to make room for a fresher story or newsroom vantage points. A woman who has spent nearly thirty years not knowing whether her husband is alive does not get to retire or reduce that grief because the news cycle has moved on or wants to create a new piece out of it.

But that is not the argument here. The argument is that this vocabulary has become the only vocabulary, and that a single frame is now standing in for a place that has kept moving while the cameras stayed pointed at 2016. A recent example of this is Insha Mushtaq, who was blinded by pellet guns in 2016. This year, a Bollywood movie Chauhaan drew backlash from the community for glorifying the usage of pellet guns. Immediately after this, Al-Jazeera stepped in, revisiting Mushtaq's case, quoting Kashmiri people with the same old stock of pictures. The report might be accurate, but it asked her to relive 2016 and her entire story. This pattern is not only limited to Mushtaq's case. But certain developments in Kashmir, whether the area getting its first multiplex, or the Emaar multi-crore project, which was Kashmir's first Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), or high tourist footfall in 2024. None of this is hidden and runs daily in regional and national media. Although Al-Jazeera covered it, in the same breath it called a series of laws and policies an attempt at demographic change, citing anonymous locals. Widely cited research by Durga Ray at the University of Florida tracked US media coverage of Kashmir for more than 15 years in different stages, where the US constantly emerged as a neutral party, focused on regional peace. By the final two stages, the earlier frame of a Kashmiri separatist insurgency against India had increasingly given way to one centred on India and Pakistan as competing states, with Kashmiri secession fading as the organising theme. The more striking figure comes from the same study's sourcing data: Kashmiris were the only group for whom unauthorised sources outnumbered official ones throughout, while official sources dominated coverage of India, Pakistan, and the US in every phase.

Imran Khan and the fallacy of US democracy promotion

Three years after his arrest, Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan remains incarcerated, with no definitive indication that his release is imminent. Although recent speculation has centred on the possibility of a medical release, these discussions remain contingent on broader political calculations rather than legal momentum.

At 73, Khan continues to be held primarily in solitary confinement at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, serving sentences in multiple cases, including the Toshakhana and Al-Qadir Trust convictions, which both he and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) insist are politically engineered by Pakistan's military establishment in concert with the Shehbaz Sharif government. Khan continues to face dozens of additional legal proceedings, ensuring that even favourable outcomes in individual cases would not necessarily secure his freedom. His deteriorating health has injected new urgency into the debate. Reports throughout 2026 suggest that Khan has suffered severe vision loss in one eye following central retinal vein occlusion, with his family and advisers attributing the damage to delayed medical intervention. They have also repeatedly highlighted prolonged isolation, restricted access to lawyers and family members, and worsening overall health. Against this backdrop, PTI has sought to mobilise public opinion through nationwide protests, particularly around the symbolic three-year anniversary of Khan's imprisonment. Recent media reports suggest that informal discussions are underway regarding a possible release on humanitarian or medical grounds. This would resemble political accommodations extended to figures such as Nawaz Sharif. Yet, the prospects remain uncertain. The government insists that Khan's fate rests with the judiciary while rejecting the case

for medical bail. Equally significant is the widespread belief that Khan is unlikely to accept conditions such as political silence or exile, while the military establishment appears reluctant to release a leader who continues to command significant popular support and has consistently resisted political compromise. Given the slow pace of judicial appeals and the absence of a broader political settlement, claims of an imminent release remain speculative.

The trajectory of US-Pakistan relations has become increasingly detached from Pakistan's domestic political contestation. Since Donald Trump's return to office, bilateral engagement has been rebuilt primarily through Pakistan's military leadership rather than its civilian political class. Army chief Asim Munir has emerged as Washington's principal interlocutor, reflecting a broader shift toward a security-driven relationship centred on counterterrorism cooperation, regional crisis management, and military engagement, including continued support for Pakistan's F-16 fleet. Within this framework, Khan's potential release would matter less as a democratic milestone than as a variable affecting Pakistan's internal stability. A carefully negotiated release, particularly one accompanied by political restraint or temporary exile, could help reduce domestic polarisation and recurring political mobilisation that continue to complicate governance and economic recovery. Such an outcome would likely be viewed in Washington as contributing to the stability of a strategically useful partner without fundamentally altering existing patterns of bilateral cooperation.

Conversely, a politically empowered Khan returning to active politics would introduce fresh uncertainty into Pakistan's internal balance of power. His popularity could chal-

lenge the military-backed political order that has underpinned Pakistan's recent engagement with the US. While some Republican lawmakers and figures close to the Trump administration have advocated Khan's release, official US policy has treated his legal predicament as an internal Pakistani matter. Washington's broader strategic engagement has remained anchored in State-to-State, and increasingly military-to-military, relations rather than support for any particular political actor. US-Pakistan relations remain driven far more by strategic utility than by democracy promotion or human rights conditionality. A managed political accommodation would be viewed more favourably than a release that precipitates renewed confrontation between Khan and the military establishment. Khan has consistently argued that his removal through the April 2022 no-confidence vote was facilitated by US pressure arising from disagreements over Pakistan's foreign policy, particularly his independent approach toward Russia and broader geopolitical positioning. Central to this narrative has been the so-called diplomatic “cypher,” documenting a March 2022 conversation in which US official Donald Lu reportedly suggested that bilateral relations would improve following Khan's removal. While the US has denied orchestrating regime change, this has remained a defining feature of PTI's political narrative.

Ironically, Khan's imprisonment has coincided with an improvement in US-Pakistan relations. As Pakistan's military leadership restored close ties with Washington, external pressure over Khan's detention steadily diminished. Although the Biden administration witnessed congressional concern, human rights criticism, and international scrutiny, including findings by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention,

these concerns never fundamentally altered the strategic calculus governing bilateral relations. Under the second Trump administration, this trend has become even more pronounced. Engagement has increasingly focused on Pakistan's military leadership, elevating security cooperation and regional diplomacy over governance concerns. While individual American lawmakers and political figures have continued to advocate Khan's release, official US policy has largely prioritised maintaining constructive relations with the country's existing power structure. Khan's own history of anti-American rhetoric has further limited the emergence of bipartisan support for him within Washington. As US-Pakistan ties have deepened through military channels, international leverage over Khan's incarceration has correspondingly weakened.

The debate surrounding Imran Khan's possible release reflects the broader realities of Pakistan's political system. Legal arguments and humanitarian considerations remain secondary to the calculations of the country's civil-military balance. Any meaningful change in Khan's status will thus emerge through political negotiation rather than judicial resolution alone. Similarly, the evolution of US-Pakistan relations underscores a familiar pattern in international politics: strategic interests have consistently outweighed democratic concerns. Washington's renewed engagement with Pakistan has been constructed around the post-Khan political order, with the military establishment serving as the principal pillar of bilateral cooperation. Unless Pakistan's internal political equilibrium undergoes a significant transformation, Khan's future and the international response to it will continue to be determined primarily by domestic power politics rather than external pressur.

Masking litigant names creates a dangerous blind spot in Indian justice



In a recent judgment, the Delhi High Court reaffirmed the ‘right to be forgotten’ as part of the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. It directed search engines and legal databases to disable name-based searches in some of the cases before it. It also recognised the possibility of masking names and other personal identifiers in court orders and judgments. The Bombay High Court also recently directed its Registry to mask the name of an accused person from the court's records after proceedings arising from an FIR were quashed. The court directed that the name be replaced with “ABC” in the relevant judgments, orders, and future digital versions of the records.

There is a legitimate concern justifying such erasures from public records: the internet does not forget. For example, a search engine may continue describing a person acquitted after a long criminal trial as an accused. A matrimonial dispute can remain attached to someone's name years after the marriage has ended. A case which merely mentions someone can create a misleading impression and cause reputational harm. That said, the trend of erasing, masking, and de-indexing names from court records is troubling. Making it harder for the public to search for information in public records has consequences that go beyond the individual seeking the right to be forgotten.

Once information is part of a true public record, it is hard to ground a justification for masking or de-indexing it in either the ‘right to privacy’ or a more amorphous ‘right to reputation’. First, the right to privacy protects information in the private sphere: medical records, bank statements, income tax records, Aadhaar number, who one contracts with, even litigates with in an arbitration, and so on. There is a difference between protecting private information

and making it harder to discover after it has already entered the public domain through court records.

Second, the law does not give us a general right to have truthful information about ourselves suppressed merely because it is damaging to our reputation. The right to reputation has traditionally dealt with falsehoods such as defamation, libel, and slander. These laws entitle a person to a remedy when somebody publishes something untrue about them. A court judgment recording that a person was sued, prosecuted, acquitted, or discharged is both public and true. Enforcing a right to privacy or a ‘right to reputation’ against truth as evidenced in public records is tenuous both in logic and law. Information asymmetry is one of the most expensive problems in commerce. When one party knows something relevant to a transaction and the other does not, the transaction becomes harder to price. The parties may demand additional guarantees, spend more money on due diligence, or simply decide not to transact. Judicial records are one source of information that helps reduce this asymmetry. We do not read judgments only to understand precedent and case law. We also read them to understand people and institutions. A potential business partner may want to know whether a person has repeatedly been involved in contractual disputes. A lender may want to understand a borrower's litigation history. An investor may want to know whether a promoter of a company has been involved in regulatory proceedings. A person considering a commercial relationship may want to know whether a prospective counterparty has a history of disputes with suppliers or customers. To be sure, being involved in litigation does not make someone untrustworthy. Litigation can be frivolous. A person can be wrongly accused. A company can win every case brought against it.

But the information that litigation occurred can still be relevant to someone assessing risk. When information disappears, the risk does not disappear with it. Its price simply changes. A prospective counterparty who cannot find information may spend more on due diligence, demand more security, charge a higher price, or walk away. The cost of forgetting is therefore distributed across everyone who subsequently must make decisions without that information. The Delhi High Court has emphasised that disabling name-based searches in legal databases does not erase a judicial record. The judgment or order continues to exist, and can still be found by someone who knows the case number, citation, or another identifier. That is technically correct. But it is also a rather formal understanding of how the internet works. In the digital world, discoverability is key to accessibility. Consider how many times you look for something on the internet without using a search engine. The reason a search engine works is because it indexes material with the most intuitive keywords, organises it, and makes it easier to access. Asking a search engine to de-index records is the digital equivalent of asking a library to hide their catalogues even as all the books remain on the shelves. The distinction between “the record still exists” and “the record can still be found” is not trivial.

Asking legal search engines to disable name-based searches reflects an even poorer understanding of how non-lawyers navigate Indian case records. Ask someone to find a case whose existence they do not know about without using the name of one of the parties. How would they know the case number, its citation, or which court heard it? This matters particularly in India, where accessing court records is already difficult. Court websites are fragmented and often require users to navigate differ-

ent systems and identifiers. Legal databases are useful precisely because they make this information easier to discover and navigate. A search engine does not merely sit on top of the information; it determines what information can be found and effectively accessed. Finally, disabling name-based searches from court websites and legal databases may end up having worse consequences for the people who seek to be forgotten. Consider a person who is arrested and charged with an offence. The FIR becomes public. Newspapers report the arrest. The person's name appears in articles, social media posts, and search results. Years later, the court acquits the person. Now suppose the court judgment recording the acquittal is de-indexed from a search of that person's name. The internet may continue to remember the accusation while making it harder to find the most authoritative document explaining that the person has been acquitted. After all, as argued earlier in this column, in a world where large language models train themselves on every piece of information available on the internet, masking litigants' names and disabling name-based searches will deprive the models of the single most important piece of information.

The instinct to protect such individuals is understandable. But the solution can produce an absurd asymmetry: the internet retains the story of the accusation while making the court's resolution of that accusation harder to discover. That is not more accurate information. There is a larger institutional concern here, especially with masking litigants' identities in court records. Judicial records are not ordinary public data. They are part of the institutional memory of the justice system. They tell us what disputes reached courts, how judges resolved them, whether and to what extent the litigant's identity mattered

to case outcomes, and how the law developed. Indeed, there is a field of empirical research that uses court records to understand how litigant identity impacts the working of the justice system. A recent study of a decade of cases before the Patna High Court, for instance, found that caste-linked identities were associated with differences in dismissal and appeal outcomes in particular circumstances. A much larger study of more than 50 lakh criminal cases, on the other hand, found no evidence that judges systematically favoured defendants who shared their caste, religion, or gender. These papers demonstrate that litigant identity can be an important variable for understanding the functioning of a justice system. Remove the identity of parties from the record and we lose the ability to ask many of these questions.

There is a tendency to reduce all claims of privacy to an individual's dignity. In this vein, the right to be forgotten is simplistically reduced to whether a person has a right to move on from a case. It ignores asking whether everyone else has an obligation to forget that the case happened and that the person was ultimately acquitted by the system. The latter question matters because the costs of privacy restrictions are not limited to search engines or journalists. They are also borne by lawyers, investors, creditors, businesses, employers, researchers and ordinary citizens trying to understand the history of a person or institution. Courts should have the ability to protect individuals from disproportionate harms arising from the internet's information architecture. But, there ought to be a high threshold for masking litigant names and de-indexing name-based searches from judicial records. They are public records for a reason. Protecting privacy should not require society to forget what its courts have recorded.

NBFCs Face Business Model Changes Under Proposed RBI Credit Rules

New Delhi: Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) may have to re-structure parts of their lending models if the Reserve Bank of India's proposed rules restricting revolving credit facilities come into effect, potentially affecting products such as flexi loans, overdrafts and salary overdrafts.

Under the proposed framework, NBFCs would not be permitted to offer revolving credit facilities unless they are specifically authorised by the RBI to issue credit cards. The move could affect lenders that rely on flexible credit products as an important part of their loan portfolios and fee income.

The RBI's proposal is aimed partly at addressing asset-liability management concerns. Unlike banks, which have access to relatively low-cost and short-term funding through current account and savings account deposits, NBFCs operate with different liability structures. The regulator's approach reflects concerns that such funding may not be ideally suited to supporting continuously re-



volving credit lines.

Another concern is the possibility of ever-greening of loans. Revolving facilities can allow borrowers to repeatedly draw and repay funds, potentially making it harder for lenders to identify stressed accounts and creating risks around the recognition of bad loans.

The proposed changes could have a notable impact on Bajaj Finance. Analysts estimate that around 15 per cent of the company's assets under management are linked to revolving credit products, particularly flexi loans. The lender could

therefore be required to reduce its dependence on such offerings, potentially putting pressure on its FY27 AUM growth guidance of 22-24 per cent.

Tata Capital also has meaningful exposure to the segment, with revolving credit products estimated to account for a high single-digit to low double-digit percentage of its overall portfolio.

The regulatory changes could have implications beyond loan growth. Revolving credit facilities typically generate higher interest margins and main-

tenance-related fee income for lenders. If such products are restricted, NBFCs may need to explore alternative sources of revenue, including restructuring revolving facilities into fixed-term loans or introducing other charges such as prepayment fees.

Supply-chain financing has emerged as another area requiring greater clarity. Lenders are seeking to understand whether financing arrangements under which borrowing limits are repeatedly drawn and replenished against new invoices would fall within the proposed re-

strictions.

If such facilities are covered by the new rules, lenders could potentially be required to treat each invoice as a separate loan rather than allowing borrowers to operate under a continuously renewable credit limit. Such a change could increase operational requirements and alter the way supply-chain financing products are structured.

NBFC stocks reacted negatively to the proposed regulatory changes. Bajaj Finance declined around 5 per cent, while Tata Capital fell 3.5 per cent. L&T Finance dropped about 3 per cent and Poonawalla Fincorp declined 2.2 per cent.

The proposed framework could therefore require NBFCs to reassess both their lending products and revenue models. While the RBI's objective is to address funding and asset-quality risks associated with revolving credit, lenders may need to shift towards fixed-tenure products and alternative fee structures if the restrictions are implemented in their proposed form.

Bharat Forge Swings to R90 Crore Q1 Loss as Shares Slide



Mumbai: Bharat Forge reported a consolidated net loss of ₹89.89 crore for the first quarter of financial year 2026-27, compared with a net profit of ₹283.87 crore in the year-ago period, as a one-time restructuring charge weighed heavily on earnings.

Shares of the company fell between 4 per cent and 9 per cent during intraday trading following the results, reflecting investor concerns over the loss and pressure on operating margins.

Despite the decline in profitability, Bharat Forge's consolidated revenue from operations increased 18.7 per cent year-on-year to ₹4,639.94 crore in the June quarter, from ₹3,908.75 crore a year earlier. The growth was supported by broad-based exports and strong performance in the defence business.

Operating EBITDA rose 10.2 per cent to ₹752 crore.

However, EBITDA margin narrowed to 16.2 per cent from 17.4 per cent in Q1 FY26, mainly due to higher energy and input costs.

The company's bottom line was affected by exceptional losses of around ₹358 crore. A major component was a ₹330.42 crore restructuring provision related to its German subsidiary Bharat Forge CDP GmbH, which has been facing challenging market conditions and cost disadvantages. The defence business continued to provide strong momentum. Bharat Forge secured new orders worth ₹1,352 crore during the quarter, including ₹681 crore from defence. The defence orders included the company's largest-ever naval contract for 12 Marine Gas Turbine Generator sets. Following the new wins, Bharat Forge's defence order book stood at ₹11,196 crore as of June 30, 2026,

providing significant revenue visibility for the business.

The company is also planning fresh capital raising to support its expansion strategy. Its board has approved a proposal to raise up to ₹2,500 crore through equity shares or securities convertible into equity, including through a qualified institutional placement or preferential allotment, subject to shareholder approval.

Bharat Forge plans to invest around ₹1,800 crore over the next 12 to 18 months in new manufacturing capabilities. The planned investment will focus on dedicated forging and machining facilities serving high-growth areas such as defence, aerospace, data centres and semiconductors.

The company also plans to establish an energetics plant in Andhra Pradesh as part of its expansion into strategic manufacturing segments.

Despite the quarterly loss and margin pressure, Bharat Forge has retained its FY27 growth guidance of 20-25 per cent for its Indian manufacturing business. The company expects growth to become more pronounced during the second half of the financial year as new orders and capacity additions begin to contribute.

Axis Securities Retains 15 Stock Picks for August, Sees Up to 28% Upside

New Delhi: Axis Securities has retained its list of 15 preferred stocks for August 2026 without making any changes from the previous month, with the brokerage projecting potential gains of 11 per cent to 28 per cent across its recommendations.

Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bharti Airtel top the list with an estimated upside of 28 per cent each. The brokerage has set a target price of ₹500 for Kotak Mahindra Bank and ₹2,530 for Bharti Airtel.

Dalmia Bharat follows with a target price of ₹2,260 and an estimated upside of 26 per cent, while ICICI Bank has a target of ₹1,800, implying a 25 per cent potential gain. Avenue Supermarts, which operates D-Mart, and APL Apollo Tubes have target prices of ₹4,845 and ₹2,250, respectively, representing 24 per cent upside each.



Chalet Hotels has a target of ₹1,000, implying 23 per cent upside, while LG Electronics India has a target of ₹1,815, representing 22 per cent potential gains. Varun Beverages and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank have targets of ₹530 and ₹86, respectively, with projected upside of 20 per cent each.

Eternal has a target price of ₹360, implying 19 per cent upside, while Nestle India has a target of ₹1,765 and potential gains of 17 per cent. Bajaj Finance has been assigned a target of

₹1,305, representing 14 per cent upside.

Minda Corporation and Healthcare Global Enterprises round out the list with target prices of ₹785 and ₹750, respectively. Their estimated upside stands at 12 per cent and 11 per cent.

The brokerage has also retained its December 2026 Nifty 50 base-case target at 27,220, based on a valuation of 19.5 times estimated December 2027 earnings. Under its more optimistic scenario, the index could reach 28,615

at a 20.5-times price-to-earnings multiple, while the bear-case target stands at 23,030 based on a 16.5-times multiple.

Axis Securities expects sustained domestic institutional liquidity, government capital expenditure and the proposed GST 2.0 reforms to support the equity market. It also expects Nifty earnings to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 13 per cent between FY23 and FY28, with financial-sector companies expected to make a significant contribution.

Despite the positive outlook, the brokerage has advised investors to maintain 10-15 per cent cash liquidity in portfolios. The reserve could provide flexibility during periods of market volatility triggered by movements in crude oil prices, currency fluctuations and changes in foreign fund flows.

Southern Railway Announces August Train Diversions in Madurai Division



New Delhi: Southern Railway has announced temporary route diversions and changes in stoppages for several express trains operating through the Madurai Division in August to facilitate safety, engineering and maintenance works.

Train No. 16128, the Guruvayur-Chennai Egmore Express, departing Guruvayur at 11.15 pm on August 12, will operate on a diverted

route through Virudunagar, Manamadurai, Karaikkudi and Tiruchirappalli.

The service will skip scheduled stops at Madurai, Sholavandan, Kodaikanal Road, Dindigul and Manapparai. Additional stoppages will be provided at Manamadurai, Sivaganga, Karaikkudi and Pudukkottai to accommodate passengers affected by the diversion.

Train No. 16352, the

Nagercoil-Lokmanya Tilak Express, will also be diverted on August 13, 20 and 27. The train, which departs Nagercoil at 6.15 am, will operate via Madurai, Manamadurai, Karaikkudi and Tiruchirappalli.

The service will skip its scheduled halt at Dindigul, while additional stoppages will be provided at Manamadurai, Sivaganga, Karaikkudi and Pudukkottai.

Train No. 16354, the Nagercoil-Kacheguda Express, will operate on a diverted route on August 22 and 29. The train, scheduled to leave Nagercoil at 9.25 am, will run via Virudunagar, Manamadurai, Karaikkudi and Tiruchirappalli.

In a separate passen-

ger-management measure, Southern Railway has temporarily increased the coach composition of the Pearl City Express, Train Nos. 12694/12693, operating between Tuticorin and Chennai Egmore.

One additional AC Three-Tier coach has been attached to the service to meet higher seasonal passenger demand. The augmented service will operate from Tuticorin between August 4 and August 30 and from Chennai Egmore between August 5 and August 31.

The temporary diversions and additional stoppages have been introduced to facilitate railway works while providing alternative boarding and alighting points for affected passengers. Commuters travelling on the concerned services during the specified dates are required to take note of the revised routes and stoppages.

Kaynes Technology Faces Brokerage Divide Over Working Capital Risks

Mumbai: Kaynes Technology's strong revenue growth and sizeable order book have drawn mixed views from brokerages after its first-quarter FY27 results, with Motilal Oswal remaining bullish while Nuvama, Nomura and JM Financial flagged concerns over working capital, debt and cash flows.

The electronics manufacturing services company reported revenue of ₹946 crore for the June quarter, up 40.5 per cent year-on-year. Core electronics manufacturing services revenue grew 48 per cent. However, net profit fell 24.4 per cent to ₹56.4 crore due to lower other income, higher taxes, depreciation and employee expenses.

EBITDA increased around 30 per cent to ₹147.5 crore, although the margin declined to 15.6 per cent from 16.7 per cent. The order book stood at ₹8,900 crore, up 20 per cent year-on-year.

Motilal Oswal retained its 'Buy' rating with a ₹5,000 target price, implying around 30 per cent upside. It cited



strong revenue momentum, the order pipeline and future growth from the company's OSAT and PCB projects.

Nomura maintained a 'Neutral' rating while raising its target to ₹4,094 from ₹3,720. It highlighted working capital pressure and the heavy capital expenditure required for OSAT and PCB expansion.

JM Financial assigned a 'Reduce' rating with a ₹3,850 target, citing negative operating cash flow of about ₹260 crore, net debt of roughly ₹560 crore and elevated receivable days. It also noted that OSAT and PCB commercialisation has been delayed to Q3 FY27.

Nuvama downgraded the stock to 'Reduce' and raised its target to ₹3,450 from ₹3,150. It cut FY27 and FY28 EPS estimates by 12 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, citing net working capital of around ₹2,400 crore and net debt of approximately ₹800 crore.

The key concerns remain the working-capital intensity of the smart-metering business, rising debt and delayed commercialisation of new facilities. While the strong order book supports the growth outlook, brokerages remain divided over whether Kaynes Technology can convert that growth into stronger cash flows and earnings.

FIIIs and DIIs Raise Stakes in Six Metal Stocks During Q1 FY27

New Delhi: Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) increased their holdings in six metal and mining companies during the June 2026 quarter, reflecting growing institutional interest in the sector amid expectations of stronger infrastructure demand, tighter global supplies and India's transition towards cleaner energy.

Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) was among the prominent stocks to see increased foreign participation. FII holding in the company rose from 5.01 per cent to 7.09 per cent during the quarter, while DII ownership also increased to 8.74 per cent. SAIL's position as a major public-sector steel producer has supported its outlook as government spending on railways, roads and housing continues to drive steel demand. Improved volumes and lower inventory levels have also strengthened the company's operating posi-



tion. Coal India also attracted higher foreign participation, with FII ownership rising to 10.37 per cent, alongside continued accumulation by domestic institutional investors. The company's dominant position in India's coal market, strong balance sheet and high dividend yield remain key factors supporting institutional interest. Bansal Wire Industries recorded one of the largest increases in domestic institutional ownership among the six companies. Mutual fund holdings rose from 13.21 per cent to 15.16 per cent, while FII ownership

more than doubled from 0.88 per cent to 1.99 per cent.

The company, one of India's leading stainless steel wire manufacturers, is expanding into higher-value specialty wire segments, providing an additional growth opportunity as demand from industrial and infrastructure applications increases. JSW Steel also saw institutional accumulation during the quarter. FII holding increased from 25.37 per cent to 25.91 per cent, while domestic institutional investors added more than 0.5 percentage point to their stake.

The steelmaker's improving

operating performance has supported investor interest. Its operating margin reached around 20 per cent during the June quarter, marking a multi-year high, while ongoing capacity expansion is expected to strengthen its production capabilities.

Godawari Power & Ispat was another stock that attracted both categories of institutional investors. The integrated steel producer benefits from backward integration through its iron ore mining operations, which can provide greater control over raw material costs. Its strong return on capital employed and debt-free balance sheet have also supported its investment appeal. Maharashtra Seamless, a major producer of seamless pipes, also witnessed institutional accumulation. The company is positioned to benefit from demand linked to oil and gas exploration, infrastructure development and industrial activity, areas

expected to support long-term demand for specialised steel products.

The increased participation by both foreign and domestic institutions comes as the metal sector benefits from several structural factors. Tight global supply conditions, safeguard measures on imports and continued infrastructure spending have improved the outlook for domestic producers. The sector is also receiving support from India's expanding energy-transition requirements, which are expected to increase demand for several metals and related industrial products.

The simultaneous increase in FII and DII holdings across these companies indicates growing institutional confidence in selected metal stocks. However, individual company performance remains dependent on commodity prices, domestic demand, input costs, global supply conditions and government trade policies.

Nepal Unveils New Wellness Tourism Roadmap, Plans to Develop Kathmandu as Spiritual-Cultural Hub

Kathmandu: The Nepal government has unveiled the National Wellness Tourism Strategy 2026–2035 and a Five-Year Strategic Action Plan 2026–2030 as part of its efforts to create a distinctive identity for the country in the global tourism sector. The strategy, introduced by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, aims to position Nepal as a premier and diverse wellness tourism destination.

Under the strategy, specialised wellness hubs will be developed across different parts of the country based on the distinctive geographical and cultural characteristics of each region. Kathmandu is envisioned as a centre for spiritual and cultural integration, with plans to bring together heritage-based yoga centres, Buddhist meditation facilities and traditional spa services. According to the ministry, Nepal represents a unique combination of natural beauty, rich biodiversity, spiritual heritage and traditional healing practices. The government intends to leverage these strengths to create a new avenue for sustainable economic growth through wellness tourism. The new strategy places emphasis on integrating currently fragmented wellness services within the tourism sector, developing modern and high-quality infrastructure, establishing service standards and certification mechanisms, and building a skilled workforce. The government believes these measures will help establish Nepal as an internationally competitive destination offering high-quality wellness experiences. Historically and geographically, Nepal has long been a place of spiritual practice for sages, yogis, ascetics and practitioners who have gathered medicinal herbs in the Himalayan region. The distinctive Himalayan environment, indigenous medicinal plants and



spiritual practices rooted in ancient Buddhist and Hindu philosophies give Nepal a unique appeal for experiences focused on mental tranquillity and physical rejuvenation. The ministry said the strategy could become an important milestone in institutionalising and professionally developing this historical and cultural heritage for the modern wellness tourism industry. The new tourism strategy also identifies wellness tourism as a key instrument for reducing the sector's dependence on seasonal travel

while increasing the average length of visitors' stays and their overall expenditure.

As part of efforts to develop new and attractive tourism products, the strategy proposes a range of specialised wellness packages. One such initiative is the development of "Wellness Trekking Circuits", combining multi-day trekking routes with yoga and meditation programmes. Similarly, the government has proposed "Monastery Meditation Retreats", under which residential programmes at Buddhist

monasteries would allow visitors to learn about Buddhist philosophy and practise mindfulness. The strategy also envisages seven- to 14-day "Panchakarma Detox Retreats" based on Nepal's indigenous Himalayan herbs and Ayurvedic principles. Through these programmes, the government plans to promote Nepal as an affordable and high-quality destination for Ayurveda-based wellness and traditional therapeutic experiences. Another distinctive component of the strategy is the planned development of "Sound and Energy Healing" experiences incorporating Nepali traditional singing bowls, Reiki and practices associated with the indigenous Jhankri tradition. The government intends to organise and develop these traditional practices in a structured manner and present them to international visitors as specialised wellness tourism products. The strategy also proposes developing wellness programmes tailored to different seasons. Detoxification programmes are planned for the monsoon season, thermal and immunity-focused programmes for winter, renewal and rejuvenation programmes for spring, and gratitude-centred wellness programmes for autumn.

The government believes that these initiatives will allow Nepal's tourism sector to expand beyond its traditional dependence on mountaineering, trekking and cultural tourism by incorporating yoga, meditation, Ayurveda, nature-based therapies, spirituality and experiences centred on mental well-being. Through this approach, Nepal hopes to emerge as a diverse, year-round wellness destination capable of attracting international visitors across different seasons while creating new opportunities for sustainable economic growth and tourism development.

Abdul El-Sayed embraces Trump claim he represents 'very different' America

America: Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic nominee for US Senate in Michigan, embraced Donald Trump's suggestion that the two represent "VERY DIFFERENT" versions of the US, pledging to fight inequality while the president is "making billions of dollars off of you".

In a Saturday night post on his Truth Social platform, Trump shared an image of himself and the first lady, Melania Trump, beside a photo of El-Sayed, who is Muslim, and his wife, Sarah Jukaku, wearing a hijab. "Two VERY DIFFERENT America's [sic]," read the caption.

"Yeah, he's right," El-Sayed told CNN, when asked about the post on Sunday.

"One in which your overlords are two people who don't like each other, but join in the interest of making billions of dollars off of you – or two people who genuinely love each other, enjoyed some pancakes together, want to come together to build the kind of America where they can raise a family and know that that family is going to have the good things."

"Yes, you've got two different visions of America," said El-Sayed. "Donald Trump's vision is the one you're living in right now. Can you afford your gas? Can you afford your groceries?"



El-Sayed, an epidemiologist, won the Democratic primary for US Senate in Michigan this week, setting up a bruising general election campaign against former US representative Mike Rogers, a Republican, in the swing state.

His victory is widely seen as crucial to the Democrats' hopes of retaking control of the Senate from Republicans.

During a speech on Thursday, Trump called El-Sayed a communist and said he was "full of shit", which was met with loud cheers. Asked about the president's explosive remark, El-Sayed told

Sky News: "At least I don't let mine go in the middle of the Oval Office."

Unlike some other new Democratic candidates, El-Sayed, who ran to the left of his primary opponent, is not a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, and has said he is a capitalist who wants capitalism to work better. Former US president Barack Obama spoke with El-Sayed after his primary win, in what is deemed an early sign of support for his campaign.

"It was a really good conversation about what we need to do to be able to win, and obviously this is somebody who knows a lot about winning Michigan," El-Sayed told NBC News.

Michigan backed both of Obama's runs for the presidency, in 2008 and 2012, before voting for Trump in 2016, Joe Biden in 2020, and turning back to Trump in 2024. Obama also called Haley Stevens, the moderate Democrat whom El-Sayed defeated in the primary, Politico reported. Stevens urged the former president to "come to Michigan and campaign for the Democrats", she told the outlet. Should he beat Rogers in November's general election in Michigan, El-Sayed could become

the first Muslim US senator. Republicans have described him as "the most radical Senate candidate in America", and Trump has repeatedly used his full name, Abdulrahman Mohamed El-Sayed.

El-Sayed noted the party – and Trump – did the same to Obama, regularly including his middle name "Hussein" when referencing the former president.

"At the end of the day it's not radical to believe that people should be able to afford their groceries," he told NBC's Meet The Press. "It's not radical to believe that you should have healthcare in this country."

"It's not radical ... that you don't think the president should be able to deny elections, or make \$2.2bn out of his role in office. It's not radical to believe all of us should be able to breathe clean air and drink clean water. Those are the things that I've been fighting for."

El-Sayed said: "They are going to try to paint me as a certain thing, given my name, but I also think it's important to recognize that America has a long history of embracing, "America is a lot bigger than very small people like Donald Trump or [Vice President] JD Vance or Mike Rogers want to make it out to be. And so I'm grateful for all that America has given me."

Pakistan Imposes Curfew in Balochistan's Surab



Quetta: Authorities have imposed a curfew in Surab district of Pakistan's restive Balochistan province as part of measures to address the prevailing security situation. According to local media reports, the restrictions will remain in force from August 9 to August 15, during which residents will not be permitted to leave their homes between 8 PM and 9 AM each day.

According to a notification issued by the administration, the curfew has been imposed in view of the law-and-order situation in the area. Residents have been instructed to comply with prescribed security guidelines and remain indoors throughout the curfew hours. The notification also states that individuals violating the order will be held responsible for any consequences or harm arising from their actions.

Meanwhile, the administration in Khuzdar district has also ordered restrictions on commercial activities during night hours. According to an order issued by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, all markets, shops, hotels and other commercial establishments will remain closed from 8 PM to 10 AM. The directive will remain in effect until further orders.

Human rights organisations have repeatedly raised concerns over the security situation in Balochistan. Last month, the Human Rights Department of the Baloch National Movement, Paank, claimed that 19-year-old labourer Saeed Ahmed was allegedly forcibly disappeared from the Nigar area of Surab on July 12.

Concerns have also been raised by Baloch activists and human rights groups over the killing of Baloch civilian Inayatullah Jattak in Khuzdar.

According to Baloch Voice for Justice, Jattak was shot dead on August 4. The organisation claimed that a few hours before the incident, his daughter, Asma Jattak, had publicly expressed concerns about the safety of her family.

The latest restrictions in Surab and Khuzdar come amid continuing concerns over law and order and the security environment across several parts of Balochistan.

Russia Sanctions Bill Clears US Senate, Seeks 100% Tariffs on Five Countries for Continuing Trade and Economic Relations With Moscow

Moscow: The US Senate has voted overwhelmingly to approve a major sanctions bill aimed at increasing pressure on Russia and countries that continue to purchase its petroleum products, including China and other major buyers, amid ongoing concerns that such trade is helping sustain Moscow's war effort in Ukraine. The legislation, renamed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, was passed with strong bipartisan support in an 86-11 vote, highlighting the broad backing for tougher economic measures against

Russia. The bill seeks to target not only Russia but also countries and entities that continue to engage in significant economic dealings with Moscow, particularly through the purchase of Russian energy products. Supporters of the legislation argue that restricting these revenues could increase economic pressure on the Russian government and potentially limit its ability to finance the prolonged conflict in Ukraine. The measure also reflects Washington's broader strategy of using trade and financial restrictions to discourage countries from maintaining

major commercial relationships with Russia despite existing Western sanctions. The overwhelming Senate vote marks a significant step forward for the legislation, although further action may be required before the proposed measures can take effect. The bill's progress is being closely watched internationally, particularly by major economies that have continued to import Russian energy, as any new tariff or sanctions regime could have wider implications for global trade, energy markets and diplomatic relations. The bill would give President Donald Trump the authority to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods imported from countries that



rank among the five largest buyers of Russian oil and gas, significantly increasing the potential economic pressure on nations that continue to purchase Russian energy products. The proposed measure is aimed at discouraging major importers from maintaining energy trade with Moscow and seeks to target the revenue streams that the US believes contribute to Russia's ability to sustain its war effort in Ukraine.

In addition to the Russia-related provisions, the legislation would also extend the expiration date of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 until 2031. The law penalises companies that make significant investments in Iran's energy sector and is intended to maintain pressure on Tehran's oil and gas industry. The bipartisan measure was championed by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal, reflecting support from lawmakers across party lines for a tougher approach towards Russia and Iran. The legislation combines economic sanctions, potential tariffs and restrictions on energy-sector investment as part of a broader US strategy to exert pressure on governments and companies involved in energy trade with countries under American sanctions. If ultimately enacted, the proposed measures could have significant implications for international trade and energy markets, particularly for countries that rely heavily on Russian oil and gas imports. The prospect of 100 per cent tariffs could also place additional pressure on affected countries to reconsider their energy partnerships with Moscow, while the extension of the Iran sanctions framework would keep restrictions on foreign investment in Iran's energy sector in place for several more years.

Seven sunscreen errors that may be harming your skin

Sunscreen is a crucial component of any skincare regimen; however, merely applying an SPF product does not guarantee complete protection for your skin. Minor errors, such as applying insufficient sunscreen or neglecting to use it on overcast days, can diminish its efficacy and expose your skin to potential UV harm. If you are diligent about applying sunscreen but still notice tanning, uneven pigmentation, dryness or premature signs of ageing, your application habits could be the reason. Here are seven common sunscreen mistakes you should avoid for better daily protection.

Using too little sunscreen

One of the most common sunscreen mistakes is applying less product than your skin actually needs. A thin layer may feel comfortable, but it may not provide the level of protection mentioned on the product label. For the face and neck,

a commonly used guide is the two-finger rule: squeeze sunscreen along the length of your index and middle fingers and use that amount for your face and neck. If you are applying sunscreen to other exposed areas of the body, use enough to create an even layer over the skin.

Remember that SPF ratings are based on applying a specific amount of sunscreen during testing. Using significantly less can reduce the protection you receive.

Applying sunscreen only when it is sunny

Think sunscreen is unnecessary on cloudy or rainy days? Think again. UV radiation can still reach your skin when the sun is hidden behind clouds. UVA rays, in particular, can contribute to premature skin ageing and pigmentation.

This is why sunscreen should be part of your everyday morning routine, whether you are heading to work, running errands or



spending the day indoors near windows. Make it the final step of your morning skincare routine, before makeup.

Forgetting to reapply

Applying sunscreen once in the morning and forgetting about it for the rest of the day is another common mistake. Sunscreen can wear off because of sweating, touching your face, wiping your skin and exposure to water.

If you are spending extended periods outdoors, reapply approximately every two hours and more frequently after swimming, sweating heavily or towel drying. If you spend most of the day indoors, your reapplication needs may differ depending on your exposure. Forgetting this step can leave your skin inadequately protected during prolonged sun exposure.

Choosing sunscreen based on SPF

A high SPF number may look impressive, but SPF

correctly. Also consider the formula. If you have oily or acne-prone skin, you may prefer a lightweight, non-comedogenic formula, while dry skin may benefit from a more moisturising sunscreen. Missing commonly forgotten areas

Your face may get plenty of attention, but what about your ears, neck, hairline and the backs of your hands?

These areas are often over-

looked even though they can be exposed to sunlight every day. The lips also need protection, so consider using a lip balm with SPF. When applying sunscreen, spread it evenly over all exposed areas. If you have a parting that exposes your scalp, consider wearing a hat or using a scalp-friendly SPF product designed for that purpose.

Applying sunscreen at the

last minute

Sunscreen works best when applied properly rather than rushed just before stepping outdoors. Give your sunscreen time to form an even layer on your skin before heading into strong sunlight.

Apply it as the final step of your skincare routine. If you wear makeup, allow the sunscreen to settle before applying foundation or other makeup products. This can also help prevent pilling and uneven application. However, remember that sunscreen should complement, not replace, other sun-protection measures such as seeking shade, wearing protective clothing and using sunglasses or a hat. Assuming sunscreen can completely prevent sun damage

Sunscreen is essential, but it is not a magic shield. No sunscreen can block 100% of UV radiation, and its effectiveness depends heavily on how much you

apply, how evenly you apply it and whether you re-apply when needed. For better protection, combine sunscreen with physical measures. Avoid spending too much time in direct sunlight during peak UV hours, seek shade whenever possible and wear protective clothing, a wide-brimmed hat and UV-protective sunglasses when appropriate.

The bottom line

Sunscreen is most effective when you use it consistently and correctly. Applying enough product, choosing broad-spectrum protection, covering often-missed areas and reapplying when necessary can make a significant difference to your daily sun-protection routine. So, before blaming your sunscreen for tanning or pigmentation, take a closer look at how you are using it. Your sunscreen may be perfectly good — it could simply be your application habits that need an upgrade.

Ten Nike sneakers that are currently on sale should be added to your wish list

I possess an embarrassing tendency to browse Nike Sneakers even when I am not actively seeking another pair. Present me with a favorable discount, and what begins as a practical shopping list swiftly transforms into a wishlist. At this moment, I have refined my selection to ten Nike shoes that I would genuinely contemplate purchasing, based on the types of pairs I frequently choose. I prefer trainers that can accommodate busy days, walks, workouts, and casual outings without appearing overly specialized.

A reasonable price is also a significant factor. Therefore, rather than merely selecting the most popular styles, I sought discounted Nike shoes that are practical, comfortable to wear, and worthy of consideration for my wardrobe. Here are the ten that currently comprise my shortlist.

1. What are the best Nike shoes for everyday use?

For everyday wear, I would look for Nike shoes that can handle long hours while still working with casual outfits. For walking: Choose a cushioned pair with a comfortable footbed and good grip. For daily errands: Lightweight trainers are easier to wear for several hours. For casual outfits: Classic Nike styles work well with jeans, trousers



and leggings. For frequent use: Look for breathable uppers and a flexible sole. My pick: I would choose a versatile pair that works across most of my day instead of buying a shoe for one specific activity.

The biggest thing I would check is fit. A discounted Nike shoe is only a good buy if I can comfortably wear it for hours.

2. Are Nike shoes good for walking?

Yes, several Nike shoes can work well for walking, particularly styles with cushioning and flexible soles.

Check the cushioning: Softer midsoles can make long walks more comfortable. Look at the fit: Your heel should feel secure without your toes feeling cramped.

Consider the weight: A lighter shoe can feel easier during long days.

Check the outsole: Good grip matters for everyday outdoor use.

Choose based on your routine: A running shoe may suit longer walks, while a lifestyle trainer can work well for shorter daily walks.

For my own use, I would prioritise comfort, fit and cushioning before the design or discount.

3. Which Nike shoes are worth buying on discount?

A Nike sale can be a good time to buy a pair that you already know you will wear regularly. Start with your routine: Pick shoes based on walking, running, gym sessions or casual wear.

Check the discount: Compare the current price with the usual selling price. Check available sizes: A great deal is not useful if your preferred size is unavailable.

Read customer reviews: Pay attention to comments about sizing, comfort and fit. Think about versatility: I would favour a pair that works with several outfits and occasions.

My rule: I would rather buy one useful Nike pair at a good price than several discounted pairs I rarely wear.

When a Book Gets You: An Overview of Bibliotherapy and How It Works

Have you ever found yourself engrossed in a book, essay, or article, only to suddenly think, “This perfectly captures what I have been feeling”? Perhaps it articulated an emotion you had difficulty expressing or depicted a scenario that resonated closely with your own experiences.

If you have encountered such moments, you may have already caught a glimpse of the concept of bibliotherapy.

What Is Bibliotherapy?

Bibliotherapy broadly refers to the therapeutic use of books, written material and, in some approaches, audio or digital resources. It can range from structured self-help material based on psychological techniques to carefully selected literature that helps readers explore difficult emotions or experiences. A systematic review indexed by the US National Library of Medicine describes bibliotherapy as the use of written, audio or e-learning materials to provide therapeutic support.

In clinical settings, the approach can be more structured. A therapist or trained professional may



recommend specific material and then help the person reflect on it and apply what they have learned.

How Can Reading Help?

Think about reading a character who is dealing with grief, loneliness, relationship difficulties or a major life change similar to your own. Recognising familiar emotions in someone else's story can provide a sense of connection and offer a different way of looking at an experience.

Structured self-help books work somewhat differently. Rather than simply telling a story, they may introduce psychological concepts and practical

exercises designed to help readers recognise patterns in their thoughts and behaviour and develop coping strategies.

The UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), for example, includes guided self-help among treatment options for depression. This can involve printed or digital materials based on approaches such as cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), behavioural activation and problem-solving, accompanied by support from a trained practitioner.

Is Bibliotherapy Just About Self-Help Books?

Not necessarily. The term

has been used for different forms of therapeutic reading. Depending on the purpose, material may include psychological self-help books, educational resources, memoirs, fiction or poetry.

The important distinction is that reading for pleasure and bibliotherapy are not always the same thing. Bibliotherapy usually involves choosing material with a particular therapeutic goal in mind, especially when it forms part of professional mental health care.

Can It Replace Therapy?

Bibliotherapy should not be viewed as a universal substitute for professional mental health treatment. Its usefulness depends on the individual, the problem being addressed, the type of material and whether professional guidance is involved.

For some people, however, therapeutic reading can provide an accessible way to understand emotions, learn coping skills and begin engaging with psychological ideas. Sometimes a book does more than tell someone else's story; it can give readers the language to understand their own better.

Ten Bollywood-inspired sarees for your upcoming glitzy ensemble

A Bollywood saree possesses a unique quality that elevates even the most basic outfit to a level of instant glamour. Whether it is the ethereal georgettes, lustrous satins, or the enchanting drapes showcased in contemporary Hindi cinema, the saree has consistently remained a beloved fashion choice in Bollywood.

The good news is that you don't need a film stylist or a designer wardrobe to recreate that aesthetic. Soft fabrics, understated embellishment, statement blouses and carefully chosen drapes can give your look that familiar Bollywood-inspired finish.

If you're looking to channel the effortless romance of Alia Bhatt, Kajol or other Bollywood style icons, these sarees are worth browsing.

Bollywood-inspired sarees:

1. Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahaani-Inspired Georgette Saree: If you loved the romantic, larger-than-life saree styling in Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani, this printed pure georgette option is an easy way to recreate that aesthetic. The lightweight fabric creates the soft, fluid drape associated with contemporary Bollywood sarees, while the print adds enough detail to keep the outfit visually interesting.

Style tip: Pair it with a fitted blouse, statement earrings and soft waves.

2. Sidhidata Georgette Floral Printed Saree: Floral sarees have long been a Bollywood wardrobe staple, particularly when the brief is romantic and feminine rather than heavily traditional. This Sidhidata georgette saree brings that same easy glamour through its floral print and fluid fabric. It's the sort of saree that can work for everything from a festive lunch to a wedding-related celebration.

Style tip: Keep the blouse simple and let the floral print take centre stage.

3. Sidhidata Woven Synthetic Saree: For those who prefer a more classic Bollywood silhouette, this woven saree offers an easy foundation for dressing up. Its relatively simple base means you can experiment with the blouse, jewellery and drape to create a more personalised look.

Think old-school Bollywood glamour with a contemporary styling twist.

Style tip: Add a sleeveless blouse, bold earrings and a structured clutch.

4. Full Crushed Georgette Tri-Colour Saree: Crushed textures instantly add movement to a saree. This tri-colour georgette style has a more dramatic quality that makes it particularly suited to evening plans and celebrations. The texture does most of the styling work, so you don't need to overload the look with accessories.

Style tip: Pair with metallic heels and a sleek, pulled-back hairstyle.

5. Women's Glory Satin Saree With Silver Woven Border: Few fabrics deliver instant Bollywood drama quite like satin. Its glossy finish catches the light beautifully, making this saree particularly suited to parties, receptions and evening celebrations.

The silver woven border adds just enough definition to the otherwise



sleek silhouette, keeping the look glamorous without making it overly traditional. Style tip: Style with a statement blouse, silver earrings and a compact clutch.

6. Sidhidata Plain Georgette Saree Inspired By Kiara Advani: Minimalist Bollywood sarees can be just as striking as heavily embellished ones. This plain georgette style takes inspiration from the sleek, understated saree looks often seen on celebrity red carpets. The beauty is in the styling: a simple saree becomes instantly elevated when paired with the right blouse and accessories.

Style tip: Go for a statement blouse, slick bun and dramatic earrings.

7. Sidhidata Plain Pure Georgette Saree Inspired By Alia Bhatt: This saree takes inspiration from Alia Bhatt's Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani aesthetic, where classic Indian dressing met playful, contemporary styling. The plain georgette fabric makes it versatile enough to reinterpret in your own way, whether you prefer a traditional drape or a more modern pre-pleated silhouette.

Style tip: Pair with a contrasting blouse and layered bangles for a more Bollywood-inspired finish.

8. StyleScope Plain Pure Georgette Saree: If you're after the quintessential Bollywood plain saree, this StyleScope option keeps things simple. The pure georgette construction lends itself to the soft, body-skimming drape that has become synonymous with modern celebrity saree styling.

It's a particularly good canvas for experimenting with statement blouses. Style tip: Try a corset-style blouse, delicate jewellery and pointed heels.

9. Sidhidata Printed Pure Georgette Saree: Another option inspired by the saree styling of Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani, this printed georgette version leans into the colourful, glamorous side of Bollywood fashion.

The print gives the outfit plenty of personality while the lightweight fabric keeps the overall look fluid rather than bulky.

Style tip: Choose one colour from the print for your blouse and accessories to keep the outfit cohesive.

10. Ekasya Soft Georgette Ready-to-Wear Saree: Not everyone wants to spend half an hour getting their pleats right.

This Ekasya ready-to-wear saree offers a more convenient way to recreate the polished Bollywood look without the usual draping drama.

The soft georgette finish keeps the silhouette graceful, while the ready-to-wear construction makes it particularly useful for parties, dinners and last-minute occasions.

Style tip: Add statement earrings and a small clutch to complete the look.

How to get the Bollywood saree look right

The easiest way to make a saree feel Bollywood-inspired is to focus on the styling rather than piling on embellishment.

A fitted or statement blouse can completely transform a simple saree. Soft waves, a sleek bun or a polished ponytail can further change the mood, while statement earrings often do more for the outfit than layering several pieces of jewellery.

And when it comes to the drape, don't underestimate the power of neat pleats and a well-positioned pallu. That's often what separates a regular saree look from one that feels properly red-carpet ready.

Whether you prefer Alia Bhatt's colourful Rocky Aur Rani aesthetic, Kiara Advani's minimalist glamour or the timeless romance of floral georgettes, these Bollywood-inspired sarees offer plenty of ways to bring a little filmi fashion into your own wardrobe.

ENTERTAINMENT

Ramayana debates: how Indias greatest epic built a tradition of creative liberty

Mumbai : It’s raining epics on screen. First came Christopher Nolan’s highly anticipated and shrilly debated version of Homer’s Odyssey. And now, the first trailer of Namit Malhotra and Nitesh Tiwari’s two-part film on the Ramayana is dominating net-natter. There is endless debate on the choice of actors – with netizens divided on whether Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi are the right choice to play Lord Rama and Devi Sita – and the headbutting has now come down to whether Bollywood is incapable of appreciating beauty that is not stereotypically north Indian. The last bit is,

of course, a stretch given that a bevy of south Indian beauties have ruled Bollywood through the ages from Vyjayanthimala and Waheeda Rehman to Hema Malini and Rekha, Sridevi and Jaya Prada to Aishwariya Rai, Vidya Balan, Deepika Padukone and more recently Rashmika Mandanna. A larger section of the debate focuses on the look and feel of the characters and the choice of textiles and costumes that exude 21st-century couture rather than ancient Indian aesthetics. The controversy is not unlike what Nolan’s Odyssey faced, including questions about his multi-cultural cast

and the somewhat disconcerting use of modern-day lingo in the dialogues. But creative license did not start with screen retellings of ancient epics. One look at how the Ramayana has been treated by artists past and present will tell us just how vibrant this 4000-year-old source material truly is. And how much the look and feel of its sacred protagonists changed due to the cultural imprint of the artists who portrayed them. For argument’s sake, let’s take two examples. The first: a 17th-century sculpture of Rama and Sita in the Ramaswamy Temple in Kumbakonam, Tamil



Nadu. Beautifully languid, it shows the royal couple holding hands, wearing clothes and adornments typical of the Nayak period. This includes elongated crowns, multiple necklaces, bangles, armlets and anklets and a dreamy facial expression. But when sim-

ilar scenes are depicted on a wall frieze in Angkor Wat (12th century CE), Rama looks distinctly south-east Asian with his flat head gear and jewellery giving him a very different look. Both looks are historical. Both are legitimate. They depict a sacred subject through

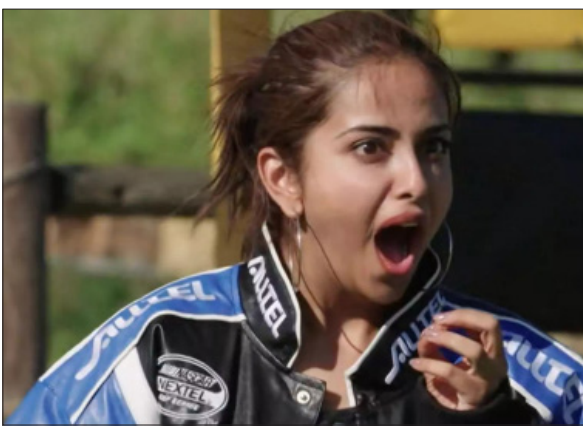
the cultural lens of their time and place. But neither match the earliest representation of Lord Rama so far discovered. Currently displayed at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, it is a small terracotta figurine dating back to the Gupta period (3rd/4th century CE). In this murti, Rama’s large eyes, plump lips, unibrow and simple head dress mark him out as quintessentially Indian. He is carrying a formidable bow and sports a channavira crossbelt across his chest but other than that there are no royal adornments and even his antariya/dhoti seems homespun and sim-

ple. In features and fashion, he is completely distinct from his later representations. Clearly, three random samples spanning a millennia and a half, show wide variations in how artists depicted Lord Rama. Even on-screen depictions of the epic have seen age-appropriate variations. The first time Ramayana made a splash on screen was in 1943. The film: Ram Rajya. Directed by Vijay Bhatt it featured Prem Adib and Shobhna Samarth in the lead roles and was the third highest grossing Indian film of 1943. In this version, Rama and

Sita conform to the 1940s costume-drama aesthetic with heavy jewellery, silk costumes and elaborate set pieces. In look and feel, the film is theatrical and stylized. Cut to the 1960s and Sampoorna Ramayana (1961) feels very much rooted to its time and place. Full of bright pinks and greens, this colourful version features less face art than its 1940s predecessor and the jewellery too is less chunky. In comparison, Ramana Sagar’s television series is very 1980s. The costumes and makeup look and feel age appropriate as do the actors that play the lead roles.

Avika Gor and Jasmin Bhasin rekindle friendship after tearful apology on KKK 15

Mumbai : Actresses Avika Gor and Jasmin Bhasin have rekindled their friendship on the new season of 'Khatron Ke Khiladi '. The duo, who were once quite close, had grown distant over the years. However, the show has brought them back together, and the two are now close buddies once again. In one of the recent episodes of Colors TV's Khatron Ke Khiladi 15, Avika Gor apologised to Jasmin Bhasin for misunderstanding her in the past and intentionally maintaining a distance from her. Avika got emotional and broke down while apologising to Jasmin. In a heartwarming moment, Jasmin comforted her with a warm hug, putting their past misunderstandings behind them.



That moment from the episode went viral on social media, with their fan clubs expressing happiness over the actresses' sweet reunion. Before appearing on Khatron Ke Khiladi 15, both Avika Gor and Jasmin Bhasin had previously participated in the show's ninth season. Meanwhile, recently speaking with ANI, Avika admitted that while the show remains physically and mentally demanding, her previous stint was more challenging. "This is not an easy show anyway. It's very challenging. But for me, my earlier season was much more difficult. The kind of stunts

Deepika Padukone shoots for Allu Arjun's Raaka in 8th month of pregnancy

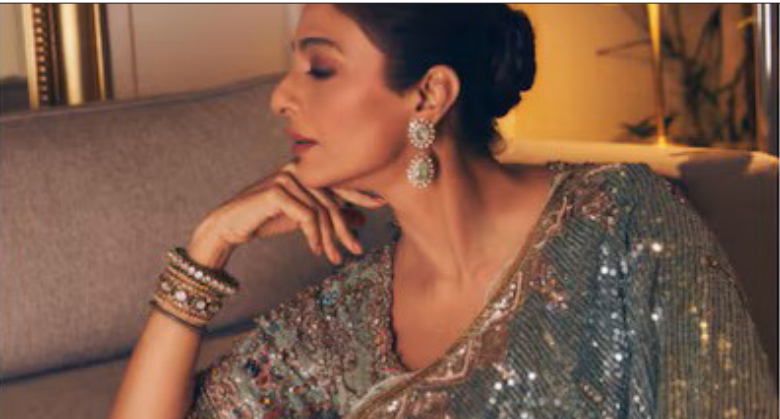
Mumbai : Deepika Padukone, who is expecting her second child with Ranveer Singh, is currently focused on shooting Raaka, co-starring Allu Arjun. As per a report, the actress, who is in her eighth month of pregnancy, continues to work as her delivery date nears. The actress remains on set as the production moves towards wrapping her portions before she takes time off for the birth of her second child. A source in production shared with Filmfare, "Eight months pregnant and due to deliver very soon, Deepika Padukone is still shooting for Raaka. She is currently focused on wrapping up the shoot for the film before delivering her second baby in September. She is staying put on set and even working late into the night when required. The crew and teams are in absolute awe." The latest update comes after earlier reports highlighted Deepika's commitment to the film's

demanding schedule. Earlier, another report had shared that, seven months pregnant, the actress had reportedly been shooting almost every day for Raaka, including filming intense action sequences. She continued to take on the film's requirements while the production worked towards completing the schedule ahead of her maternity break. Now, with her due date approaching, Deepika is in the final stretch of the shoot. The commitment has reportedly left the Raaka team impressed, particularly as she continues to manage a demanding production while preparing for motherhood once again. Atlee's Raaka is touted to be one of Indian cinema's biggest upcoming spectacles. Starring Allu Arjun and Deepika Padukone, the film reportedly also features Rashmika Mandanna, Janhvi Kapoor and Mrunal Thakur in key roles. It explores a world of science fiction and fantasy, backed by



large-scale action and an ambitious vision that has already generated immense buzz ahead of its 2027 release. Meanwhile, Deepika also has Siddharth Anand's King alongside Shah Rukh Khan. The much-awaited film also features Suhana Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Raghav Juyal, Abhay Verma, Saurabh Shukla, and Rani Mukerji in key roles. It is set to hit theatres on December 24, 2026.

Delhi HC bars unauthorised AI deepfakes and obscene content involving tabu



New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has granted an ex-parte interim injunction protecting Bollywood star Tabu from unauthorised use of her name, image, voice, photographs and other personality attributes, including through Artificial Intelligence, deepfakes, face morphing and other digital technologies. 'Delhi HC orders removal of objectionable content relating to Tabu' Justice Jyoti Singh, who heard a petition filed by Tabu, directed major digital platforms including Google, Meta, X and Reddit to remove or disable access to a large number of URLs

allegedly carrying unauthorised and objectionable content relating to Tabu. The Court further ordered certain platforms and domain service providers to disclose Basic Subscriber Information and IP log details connected with the accounts or content. The Court's order came on Tabu's suit seeking protection of her personality and publicity rights. The actress had alleged that her identity was being commercially exploited online through fake event-booking accounts, unauthorised merchandise, fabricated statements and AI-generated or manipulated ob-

Outrage grows after Vishal Aditya Singh exits Khatron Ke Khiladi 15

Mumbai : Hosted by Rohit Shetty, Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 is already shaping up to be one of the most interesting seasons. Its just been two weeks but the adventure-based TV reality show has already seen its first elimination. In the latest episode, Vishal Aditya Singh became the first contestant to be evicted from KKK 15. He had lost the snake-themed stunt. The internet is not happy and want him back on the show. Vishal Aditya Singh's journey on Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 came to an end after he landed in the bottom three alongside Ruhaanika Dhawan and Rubina Dilaik. The trio then faced an elimination stunt that tested both their knowledge and ability to stay composed around snakes. Before the elimination round, the contestants took on a



challenging task involving hot molten wax. They had to bear the heat while collecting as much wax as possible from their arms. Harsh Gujral emerged as the strongest performer in the stunt, collecting the most wax and securing his safety. This left Vishal, Ruhaanika and Rubina to battle it out for their place in the competition. For the elimination stunt, the three contestants were placed inside a glass box

surrounded by snakes and asked to identify different reptiles shown in photographs. Each correct answer brought them closer to safety. Vishal managed to identify three snakes, while Ruhaanika correctly named four. Rubina performed the best, identifying five snakes and securing her place in the show. As a result, Vishal became the first contestant to be eliminated from Khatron Ke Khiladi 15.

Needless to say, Vishal's fans are not happy. One user on X wrote, "Vishal Aditya Singh is really an entertainer! He didn't deserve to go first! #KKK." Another user said, "Vishal Aditya Singh lost the elimination stunt and became the first contestant to exit this season. Despite his efforts and determination, the challenge proved tough this time." The 15th season features a mix of familiar faces and new contestants, including Rubina Dilaik, Karan Wahi, Rithvik Dhanjani, Jasmine Bhasin, Avinash Mishra, Ruhaanika Dhawan, Gaurav Khanna, Farhana Bhatt, Shagun Sharma and Orhan Awatramani, among others. Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 premiered on August 1 and is airing on Colors TV, with episodes also streaming on JioHotstar.

Mrunal Thakur reacts to Yashasvi Jaiswal dating rumours with a witty post



Mumbai : Mrunal Thakur recently silenced those who speculated that she was dating cricketer Yashasvi Jaiswal, who is 10 years younger than her. Mrunal, 34, was linked to 24-year-old Yashasvi after they were spotted leaving the same cafe in Mumbai's Bandra West. After Mrunal denied the rumours, her recent Instagram post went

viral, and fans sent her love in the comments. Mrunal Thakur shared a bare-faced selfie with the caption, "Romancing the softness I once tried to hide. #nomakeup." Mrunal wore a hoodie in the photo and looked radiant as she smiled, looking away from the camera. Her fans took to the comments section to appreciate her. Have a look here. One person wrote, "Ye glow Haya ." Someone commented, "Awesome ." Another comment read, "Natural beauty ." A lot of fans dropped heart emojis, and one person wrote, "Looking Cutest, Adorable & Beautiful." Someone wrote, "Most beautiful girl." Another comment read, "This is the cutest photo of yours seen @Instagram. Stay blessed, keep rocking, keep shining ." Someone wrote, "You shouldn't hide anything. Mrunal. Always be yourself. Let the world decide if they wanna be with you or not." Someone else commented, "I love you." A fan wrote, "Cutieeee ." Another comment read, "You are so pretty, my god." Someone commented, "Baby ." Some people also dropped Yashasvi's GIFs in the comments, and one person wrote, "So cute, sis." As for the previous dating rumours, Mrunal quashed the speculations when she took to the comments section of a post featuring a clip of her and Yashasvi and wrote, "Bro relax... show me ek sath kahan? Kaise yaar, aap log itne padhe likhe log aise awaako ko sach manne lagte hain?" "Desh mein kya kuch nahi ho raha hain. Gen Z se kuch sikhiye aur sahi mud-don par videos baniye aur jyaada views mileenge," she added. While the comment is no longer visible under the video, The Free Press Journal attached a screenshot in its report.

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma twin in white sneakers in adorable new photo

Mumbai : Former Team India captain Virat Kohli and actress Anushka Sharma continue to prove that they are a true power couple. The duo regularly wins hearts with their understated romance, sharing simple and adorable glimpses of their lives on social media. Virat's latest Instagram Story featuring their matching white sneakers is proof. On Sunday, the cricketer shared a photo capturing a sweet, loved-up moment with Anushka, while his simple heart emoji said it all. Virat Kohli gave fans a glimpse of an endearing moment with his wife, Anushka Sharma, on Instagram. The minimalist picture featured the couple's feet in matching white sneakers as they appeared to enjoy some quality time together. The cricketer also tagged Anushka and added a red heart emoji. Fans quickly appreciated the tender moment, which took social media by storm. Sharing the screenshot, many fans called the couple their 'favourite'. While remaining selectively active on social media, Virat and Anushka occasionally share glimpses of their personal lives. Despite having a massive digital footprint,



the couple generally prefers to keep much of their private life away from the public eye. Virat's sweet, candid post on Sunday, however, delighted fans once again. Fondly called 'Virushka' by fans, Virat and Anushka frequently serve major couple goals by balancing their high-profile careers with a grounded family life. From stylish airport appearances to sharing quiet, candid moments, their mutual support continues to inspire fans. Anushka has, in

earlier interviews, spoken about how their partnership is built on mutual respect and shared values. To maintain a peaceful, low-profile lifestyle away from the intense media glare, the couple has largely been based in London. They have two children, daughter Vamika and son Akaay. Perhaps the most inspiring aspect of their relationship is that, despite their demanding careers, Virat and Anushka continue to support and stand by each other.

A drug plot involving a J&K man’s “courier” from Kanpur to the husband of his ex-lover



Jammu and Kashmir, Aug 10: On Sunday, Jammu and Kashmir Police discovered a purported scheme by an ex-boyfriend to send a courier carrying drugs to his Ganderbal district house in order to implicate his ex-girlfriend’s spouse in a drug case.Police received a tip regarding a cocaine shipment being delivered to a poultry farmer in Safapora, which led to the discovery of the case. A police squad arrived as the courier was being delivered and confiscated the package.Cocaine, charas, and diclofenac pills were included in the bundle. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act led to the poultry farmer’s prompt arrest. There is a major crackdown on drugs in Kashmir and those arrested under the NDPS Act are often booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA). Houses and properties of alleged drug peddlers have also been bulldozed in several cases. However, as investigators began questioning him, they found that the man, who got married only a few

months ago, may not have been involved in the crime. During the investigation, police found that the poultry farmer had received calls and messages from a Saudi Arabia-based phone number regarding the shipment.When questioned about the number, the man told police that he had earlier received a call from the same Saudi number warning him not to marry the woman he eventually married a few months ago.“It was a turning point in our investigations. We questioned the woman who helped us to reach the culprit and how the plot was orchestrated,” a police officer Police said their investigation led them to Tariq Ahmad Sofi of Zainakote in Srinagar, who was arrested in the case. According to officers, Tariq confessed to plotting the entire operation with the help of his friend Areeb in Kanpur. “Tariq has confessed that it was he who asked his friend Areeb in Kanpur to send a shipment so that the husband of his girlfriend is implicated in a false drug case,” said an officer.Police said Areeb has fled to Sau-

di Arabia and investigators believe the Saudi phone number used in the case belonged to him. Investigators believe Tariq first sent the package to Kanpur before asking Areeb to dispatch it to Safapora in Ganderbal district.“It appears that Tariq may have sent a shipment to Kanpur first then asked his friend Areeb to dispatch the same to Safapora in Ganderbal district. Charas recovered from shipment is clearly local. It’s not clear if Areeb knew that the packet contained drugs,” said an officer.Police are investigating whether Areeb was aware that the parcel contained narcotics.According to police, the poultry farmer was tricked into accepting the parcel after being told it contained poultry feed samples. Around the same time, police received information about a drug consignment being delivered to him. Officers said the plan appeared to have been designed to ensure the farmer faced serious legal consequences.“It was not an easy case. The plot was so carefully orchestrated. Initially, we were convinced that poultryman was a drug peddler and may well be the part of a larger interstate drug cartel. The accused managed to dispatch a courier from Kanpur containing narcotics disguised as poultry-feed samples to the poultry farmer. It was sheer luck and some professional investigation that the case took a turn,” said an officer. According to police sources, the woman continued to communicate with Tariq after getting married.Her call detail records were scrutinized by investigators, which ultimately led to the discovery of the alleged plot.An officer stated, “The entire plot was discovered based on the woman’s call details that she provided the information about Tariq.”

Meet India’s Five-Year-Old World Martial Arts Champion, Fateh Singh Gill

Pattaya: Although India isn’t renowned for producing elite martial artists, things appear to be changing. Fateh Singh Gill, a five-year-old from Amritsar, Punjab, has already competed on some of the largest international platforms, making him the youngest MMA prodigy in the nation. As the first kid to execute the traditional Sikh martial art on skates, Fateh made his nation proud by earning a gold medal in Gatka on Skates at the World Martial Art Games 2026 in Pattaya, Thailand. Fateh is making news as a martial artist at a time when kids in India are often learning how to wield a cricket bat. However, this journey started when he was just two years old. Fateh’s parents noticed he was special and that his hand movements were mesmerising, so they decided to nurture his interest. Fateh went on to win the World Grand Prix Fit Kid and Mr. Universal Fit Kid titles in Europe when he was just three and a half. Destined for a bright future, he has since performed internationally in both Singapore and Thailand. Speaking to the Times of India, Fateh’s mother, Navpreet Kaur, opened up about her pregnancy with him.“It was during COVID-19, and I was pregnant with Fateh. My mother told me, ‘A mother should do good deeds while she is pregnant; it will reap benefits in the future for her child,’” she said. Those good deeds seem to have made an impact. Navpreet revealed that Fateh would often listen to Gurbani on religious channels, even at two years old. Navpreet stated, “My husband is an athlete who has participated in bodybuilding competitions in Europe,” in reference to Fateh’s father. We have similar goals for our child because he is an



athlete.” “When Fateh was two and a half, we thought he might go into sports when he turned 10 or 11, but we never imagined he would achieve all this in Sikh martial arts at such a young age.” Fateh’s family shared videos of him performing Gatka on social media, catching the attention of an official associated with a European martial arts championship. Soon, Fateh’s father began training him for the competition, though the family had to overcome a visa roadblock before Fateh could amaze the world.“His father trained him for three to four months leading up to the competition in May 2024. As a mother, I brought nappies, food, and other essentials to his training sessions because he was only three at the time and couldn’t feed himself.” For the family, the child’s dedication was reason enough to give him full backing. “For three or four months, this child worked extremely hard. As parents, we had to support him, so we decided that we would not let any situation stop him,” she said. “Until April 2024, there was no issue regarding his visa and no interview had been scheduled. Then, suddenly, an interview was called. We went, but my visa was not approved due to some issues. It was my first time applying, whereas his father had travelled abroad many times before.”Navpreet was heartbroken when her

visa was rejected.“I cried a lot when my visa wasn’t approved. I wondered how a mother could leave her young child behind. Although his father is very responsible, a mother is still a mother, and I had never been away from him.”The weather was another concern for the family, given Fateh’s young age. “They were travelling to a place in Europe that was extremely cold and snowy. I was worried about how he would manage, but my husband promised, ‘I will be with him, and he won’t face any issues.’” “Navpreet ended up watching her son perform via video call.“I watched on a video call with tears in my eyes, praying to God. When he performed, I cried. Everyone stood up. Nobody there in Lithuania knew what Gatka was. When he finished, everyone asked his father, ‘What is this child doing?’ They were asking about the sword and all the intricate movements, saying they had never seen anything like it.”“There were children from various countries in the championship, each showcasing something unique. In the end, he was declared the overall champion in his group.” When Fateh’s parents found out their son had won, they were astounded. This triumph gave Fateh even more chances, and he then traveled to another nation to compete in another event and became victorious once more.

“Jo Khelega, Wo Khilega” India’s CWG 2026 Medalists Meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi

New Delhi: In New Delhi on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the nation’s 2026 Commonwealth Games medalists. He commended the performances of the Glasgow event winners and complimented them. Additionally, PM Modi posted a video from the gathering that showed him having a good time with the Indian athletes. Sakshi Chaudhary, an Indian boxer who won a gold medal, exclaimed, “Hello friends,” while holding a selfie camera. We are pleased that all of the Commonwealth Games medalists have been welcomed here by our honorable PM, sir. It was a pleasure to meet him. He is really modest. Please say anything, sir. “Jo khelega, wo khilega (The one who plays will blossom),” PM Modi said. “Always support India. Bharat mata ki jai.”The PM later tweeted about his encounter with the athletes as well.We were delighted to hear about the experiences of our exceptional medal winners from the 2026 Commonwealth Games at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg. Thru their outstanding efforts, each of them has brought pride to our country. “Many young people will be inspired by their success,” PM Modi wrote on X along with a few pictures from the gathering. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya was also present.India’s boxing contingent enjoyed a particularly successful campaign.

India’s doubles coach advises Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty not to have unrealistic expectations



New Delhi: Tan Kim Her, India’s badminton doubles coach, confirmed that star doubles player Satwiksairaj Rankireddy is fully recovered from his injury, and the message to him and his doubles partner Chirag Shetty is to take it “one match at a time” during the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships, which begin on August 17 in New Delhi. Tan Kim spoke with ANI during the tournament’s draw announcement ceremony in New Delhi recently. The championships will take place from August 17 to August 23 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Arena in New Delhi. In one of the most exciting first-round matches, the Asian Championships silver medallist Ayush Shetty will be pitted against defending champion and top seed Shi Yuqi of China. In the men’s doubles draw, fifth seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have a bye in the opening round and will play the winners of the match between Alexander Dunn and Adam Pringle of Scotland and Thailand’s Chaloepon Charoenkitamorn and Worrapol Thongsa-Nga. Speaking to ANI, Tan said about the duo of Satwik-Chirag, who had faced round of 32 exits in the Japan Open (July) and the Indonesia Open due to injuries after the highs of winning the Singapore Open in May, that the message for them is to “not put too much expectations”.“So, the last game they played was the Singapore Open; they won the Singapore Open. After that

Satwik got injured. So he has just fully recovered. And then what I can tell them is we... okay, do not put too much expectations. We take it one match at a time. Of course, focus is there, focus is there,” he said. Speaking of the draw, Tan Kim was happy with the draw, but warned that after the first round, “nothing will be easy”.“But what I can tell the players is we take one match at a time,” he added.On the return of former Indian doubles coach Mathias Boe as the consultant to Satwik-Chirag and what impact his presence has made for the duo, the coach said that he is not in the main coaching staff role and is operating like a “friend outside”. “Boe is not at the training or during the games. Boe is just doing his thing with them as a friend outside maybe. I do not really know much about it, nothing much I can say,” he said.With the world championships returning to home soil after 17 years, Tan Kim encouraged the players to take things “positively”, play confidently and enjoy the home support,“I can say here, all players, Indian players, should take it very positively. This is our home. So the supporters will be with us. So just go all out and play with full confidence,” he signed off.The 2022 world championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen will face Collins Valentine Filimon of Austria in the men’s singles first round and could face second seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the pre-quarterfinals, as per a press release from the Badminton

Association of India (BAI). While India is aiming to win multiple medals on their home turf, all eyes would be on five-time world championships medallist PV Sindhu, who has struck form in the run-up to the Championships by winning the Japan Open last month. Sindhu has managed to avoid the likes of world number one An Se Young of South Korea and defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan before the medal rounds. Though placed in the same half as Young, Sindhu is likely to meet China’s third seed Wang Zhi Yi in the pre-quarterfinals with a possible last eight clash against sixth seed Putri Wardani of Indonesia.For Satwik and Chirag, the first real challenge is expected to come from the 12th-seeded Indonesian pair of Raymond Indra and Nikolaus Joaquin, who reached the finals of the Indonesia Open in June this year. In mixed doubles, 15th-seeded Indian combination of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto have a bye in the opening round and their first real test could come in the round of 16 where they are likely to face sixth seeds Guo Xin Wa and Chen Fang Hui of China. Their compatriots Rohan Kapoor and G Rithvika Shivani will be up against Canada’s Jonathan Lai and Crystal Lai, with top seeds Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping of China waiting for them in the second round.In the women’s doubles, two-time All England semi-finalists Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly will be up against Paula Lopez and Lucia Rodriguez of Spain in the first round, with USA’s 16th seeds Lauren Lam and Allison Lee waiting for them in the second round. Simran Singhi and Kavipriya Selvam, who are making their debut, will take on Nikol Carulla and Carmen Jimenez of Spain to begin their campaign. If they win, they will go on to play Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva, the five-time European champions, in the second round. In the second part of the draw, MR Arjun and Hariharan, the second Indian men’s doubles team, will begin their campaign against Scott Guilden and Paul Reynolds of Ireland.

Mamata Banerjee Says Attack on Car Near Kolkata “Could Have Died”

Kolkata, Aug 10: Mamata Banerjee, the former chief minister, reportedly had her car attacked today in the North 24 Parganas area of West Bengal. She has stated that unidentified thugs assaulted her car with rocks and stones, perhaps killing her. The state BJP has denounced any involvement in the rioting and condemned the incident.On her route to the home of a party worker who purportedly passed away while in police detention, Banerjee encountered demonstrations in Halisahar. The demonstrators allegedly tossed shoes and water bottles at the Trinamool chief’s car, put dirt on it, and encircled it. Slogans like “Chor bhagao” were heard as the police attempted to drive the demonstrators away. Later, Banerjee informed reporters that if the bricks and stones had struck her, she may have perished. “Outside, antisocial individuals hurled stones at my car in front of the cops. My skull may have been split open if my car’s windows hadn’t been closed. I may have perished. I have never had an assault like this. Nothing was done by the cops to keep us safe. Only the BJP is protected by them,” she stated. Alongside Banerjee, Lok Sabha MP Kalyan Banerjee and Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen also expressed their disapproval of the government. “(Chief Minister) Suvendu Adhikari is running the show using the police,” the Lok Sabha MP said. State BJP chief Samik Bhat-tacharya, who has always maintained that he would not tolerate any violence by party workers, condemned the attack on the former chief minister. He said the BJP was not associated with the incident and that the police must take action against those accused.The alleged attack comes months after Banerjee’s nephew and Trinamool MP Abhishek Banerjee faced an attack in his own constituency, following his party’s resounding defeat in West Bengal elections.Mamata Banerjee was in the North

24 Parganas district this morning to visit the family of Birju Keot, the husband of a former Trinamool councillor who had allegedly died in police custody. Last Friday, a judge sentenced Keot to five days in police jail after he was detained on extortion charges. Former Kanchrapara town council member Jenny Sharma said that her husband was tortured and killed by beating while incarcerated.Despite Keot’s name not appearing in the FIR, Abhishek Banerjee accused the police of picking him up.The issue is no longer only one of law and order when the State may detain a guy even tho his name is not listed in the FIR and he does not escape unharmed. The head of Trinamool stated, “It is about the rule of law itself.” Adhikari told reporters that Banerjee forced her way in, intending to claim that the individual had been beaten to death in custody.“The family members had already said they were satisfied with the administration; they simply want the mystery resolved and a determination made as to whether he died from a beating while in police custody or due to illness. It is the administration - not Mamata Banerjee - that can address this,” Adhikari said. “Why would she travel there on vacation with a lawyer without even telling the police, given what the family members themselves are saying? Although it’s unlikely that she now enjoys that degree of security, I saw that the police had made significant security measures. Given that she is old and a former chief minister, we have been instructed to offer her complete security; the police behaved appropriately in doing so. But I would question her, “Why do you insist on going there when the family members are closing the door on you?” The chief minister stated, “Please do not go anywhere and do anything that disrupts normal public life; this is a time for development.”

Mikel Arteta believes Bruno Guimaraes can ‘ignite something different’ at Arsenal

Odisha, Aug 08: Mikel Arteta has encouraged Bruno Guimaraes to “ignite something different” at Premier League champion Arsenal. Guimaraes, a Brazil international, was unveiled to Arsenal supporters ahead of Sunday’s 3-2 friendly defeat by Borussia Dortmund, having completed a deal from top-flight rivals Newcastle for £75 million (\$101 million). The 28-year-old has joined an already formidable midfield that includes Declan Rice, Martin Odegaard, Mikel Merino, Martin Zubimendi, and Eberechi Eze. “You can see the immediate reaction,” Arteta told Arsenal’s website after Guimaraes was given an enthusiastic reception.“I think he describes himself as a warrior,” the Spaniard added. “I think he’s a warrior with a tremendous quality as well and intuition and leadership and charisma that is going to help us, that is going to really ignite something different in the team.”I think he’s going to push everybody inside the team as well and that’s the type of player that we need.” Arsenal, after finishing runners-up for three successive seasons, finally ended their 22-year wait for a Premier League title last term, as well as reaching the Champions League and League Cup finals.Guimaraes watched on against Dortmund as an Ethan Nwaneri strike and Viktor Gyokeres’s penalty were not enough to prevent defeat. Bundesliga players Samuele Inacio, Konstantinos Kareltsas, and Joane Gadou scored at Emirates Stadium.“Well, I’m disappointed that we lost the game,” said Arteta, who gave skipper Odegaard his first pre-season minutes after the World Cup.”

There are four days left in the monsoon session, and today’s parliamentary agenda is lacking important bills

New Delhi, Aug 10: With just four days remaining in the current Monsoon Session, uncertainty surrounds the important proposals on women’s reservation and delimitation as well as the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill. In the Lok Sabha, none of these are scheduled for today.While several op-

position parties have changed their positions on women’s quota and delimitation problems, the Congress and its main partners have said that they will reject these bills in Parliament.The bill, which was launched in April and would have increased the number of women in the House by 33% in 2029, was

unable to get two-thirds approval for the constitutional modification. The FCRA Bill seeks to tighten regulations on foreign funding received by Indian non-government organisations (NGOs). The Congress has called the FCRA Bill “unconstitutional and anti-people” and alleged that it targeted minorities.

New Delhi, Aug 10: In Punjab, the BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) have seen several ups and downs in their political fortunes. In the 2022 assembly election and the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the two parties, who had previously been close friends, made different decisions. The findings indicated that both have areas of strength, but neither has yet proven that it can secure an exclusive winning mandate on its own.The issue is highlighted by the results of the two elections.BJP: From 6.6% in 2022 to 18.56% in 2024. In the 2022 Punjab Assembly election, the BJP contested 73 of the state’s 117

seats without its traditional alliance with the SAD. It won just two seats - Pathankot and Mukerian - and polled around 6.6 per cent of the vote.The result was a reminder of the BJP’s limited organisational and social base in Punjab. Its support was stronger in urban and semi-urban areas, while the party struggled to translate that support into a broad-based rural presence. The 2024 Lok Sabha election, however, produced a very different vote-share figure. The BJP contested all 13 parliamentary seats on its own and increased its vote share sharply to 18.56 per cent. Yet, despite securing nearly one-fifth of the

votes, it won zero seats. Perhaps the most significant takeaway from the BJP’s 2024 performance is that a larger vote share does not always translate into more political clout in terms of seats. However, elections for the Lok Sabha and Assembly are not the same. Voters in Punjab are probably going to place more importance on local leadership, governance, employment, peace and order, agricultural concerns, social programs, and state government performance. As a result, the BJP cannot presume that its 18.56 percent Lok Sabha vote share would inevitably convert into a comparable Assembly vote share.

Building Champions Through Strong Pathways: How Khelo India Nurtures Future Sporting Success

New Delhi: Sport has the power to shape lives. It gives young people an opportunity to challenge themselves, build confidence and believe in what they can achieve. That is why investment in sport is about much more than winning medals. It is about investing in people and creating opportunities for future generations. The Government of India's decision to significantly expand the Khelo India Scheme and strengthen support for National Sports Federations reflects that vision and reinforces the role of sport in youth development and nation-building. What stood out to me most in the revamped scheme is its commitment to creating a seamless pathway for every talented young Indian, from school playgrounds and village sports fields to the Olympic podium. Every athlete starts somewhere. What matters is making sure they know what comes next. Initiatives such as Khelo India Feeder



Schools and Khelo India Uttaraksha Vidyalayas, together with an expanded network of training centres and academies, can help ensure that talented young athletes continue to progress rather than fall through the gaps. The scale of the investment also sends an important message. Building successful sporting systems requires long-term commitment. Facilities matter, but so do the oppor-

tunities available to young athletes as they develop. Creating stronger pathways, expanding competition opportunities and supporting athletes at every stage of their journey will help build a deeper talent pool for the future. Finding talented athletes is only the first step. They need time to develop, quality coaching and regular competition. The introduction of the Emerging Khelo

India Athletes programme, supported by a stronger talent identification framework, can help ensure that more young athletes receive the guidance and support they need throughout their journey, rather than only when they reach the elite level. As a coach, I was particularly encouraged by the establishment of the National Coach Accreditation Board. Coaches influence athletes long

before they represent their country. Investing in coaches is just as important as investing in athletes because better coaching strengthens the entire system. People often talk about Indian coaches and foreign coaches as though they are competing with each other. I don't see it that way. Indian coaches bring a deep understanding of the domestic ecosystem, while international coaches can offer different experiences and perspectives. The strongest sporting systems are built when knowledge is shared and everyone works towards the same goal. Modern coaching has also evolved significantly. Today, it goes beyond what happens on the training field. Sports science helps athletes prepare better, recover better and perform consistently. Rehabilitation and injury management are equally important because keeping athletes healthy allows them to train consistently and continue improving over the long term.

PIF London Championship: Pranavi, Aditi Make Strong Starts in London

London: Pranavi Urs and Aditi Ashok made encouraging starts at the PIF London Championship, carding identical rounds of 2-under 71 to stay within striking distance of the leaders after the opening round at the par-73 Centurion Club. The Indian duo was tied four shots behind Canada's Anna Huang, who fired a superb 6-under 67 to take the first-round lead. Pranavi enjoyed a brisk start after teeing off from the 10th, reaching 2-under through her opening four holes before giving those shots back. After five successive pars, she finished strongly with three birdies and one bogey over her last six holes to sign for a 71. Aditi also started on the back nine and produced a tidy round featuring three birdies against just one bogey. She closed with two birdies over her final four holes to join Pranavi at 2-under and remain firmly in contention heading into the second round. The other two Indians endured a tougher day.



Diksha Dagar opened with a birdie but slipped back with bogeys on the next two holes and another before the turn. She recovered with two birdies and two bogeys on the inward nine to finish with a 2-over 75, leaving her tied for 54th. Avani Prashanth struggled to a 6-over 79 and was tied for 101st, needing a low second-round score to have a chance of making the cut. Huang, a three-time Ladies European Tour winner, began her round on the 10th tee and collected birdies on the 13th and 16th before eagling the 18th. Her only blemish came with a bogey

on the third, but she responded with back-to-back birdies on the fifth and sixth before adding another at the ninth to finish at six-under. Australia's Kelsey Bennett and Austria's Emma Spitz shared second place on 5-under 68. Spitz's round was among the most dramatic of the day, featuring nine birdies alongside two double bogeys. Bennett opened with a birdie and added further gains on the seventh, ninth, 12th and 13th. A bogey on the 16th briefly halted her momentum before she birdied the last to finish one stroke behind Huang.

Ganguly, Yuvraj at DC Trials Fuel Speculation Over IPL 2027 Coaching Role

Bengaluru: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly and star all-rounder Yuvraj Singh's active presence at the Delhi Capitals trials in Bengaluru has added fresh fuel to reports of a major coaching overhaul at the franchise ahead of IPL 2027. Neither the franchise nor the two former India stars have formally announced new roles, but their involvement at the Just Cricket Academy has only intensified the speculation. Yuvraj, who has recently been linked with a move into the Delhi Capitals backroom setup, was stationed behind the umpire during the trials, closely observing and guiding the batters. Ganguly was also

involved in the proceedings, alongside new coaching staff member Amit Mishra. The timing of their involvement is significant, with reports suggesting that the JSW-led phase of the franchise's management is set to bring substantial changes to the coaching setup. Under the arrangement between DC's co-owners, GMR Sports and JSW Sports, control of franchise operations alternates between the two groups in two-year cycles. The franchise has not yet made an official announcement about its coaching structure for the 2027 season. However, the presence of Ganguly and Yuvraj together at the trials has only added to the

expectation that they could take up key roles in the revamped setup. According to reports, Ganguly is set to take on a major role as head coach or director of cricket, while Yuvraj could come in as the batting coach. Such an arrangement would reunite two of India's most influential white-ball figures in a new capacity. Ganguly, who became JSW's director of cricket in 2024, has already been closely involved with the Capitals ecosystem. He has worked with the Pretoria Capitals in the SA20 and has also played an active role with DC's women's team. He previously served as DC's mentor in IPL 2019 before becoming BCCI pres-



ident. Yuvraj, meanwhile, would be taking his first formal coaching role in the IPL. The 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup Player of the Tournament has increasingly been

involved in mentoring India's next generation of batters, with Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma among those to have credited him for his guidance. That relationship with current DC

captain Rishabh Pant adds another interesting layer to the potential appointment. Pant has previously turned to Yuvraj for advice during difficult phases of his career, including before IPL 2026,

when the wicketkeeper-batter worked with him during sessions in Mumbai. In fact, Yuvraj's name had already featured in Pant's thinking around the franchise. Before IPL 2025, when Pant eventually left DC for Lucknow Super Giants, it was understood that he had suggested several names for additions to the coaching staff, with Yuvraj among them. Ganguly and Yuvraj were also understood to have been involved in discussions around Pant's eventual return to DC. Now, with Pant back in the Capitals setup and Yuvraj increasingly involved around the franchise, the possibility of that relationship taking on a formal coaching dimen-

sion is particularly intriguing. The reported overhaul comes after DC missed the playoffs in each of the last two seasons, finishing sixth in IPL 2026. The existing setup of Venugopal Rao, Hemang Badani, Munaf Patel and Ian Bell is reportedly unlikely to continue into the next cycle. Ganguly's relationship with Yuvraj also adds another layer to the reports. Ganguly was Yuvraj's first international captain and has reportedly been keen on bringing the former India all-rounder into the Capitals setup. The franchise has never won the IPL in 19 seasons, with their run to the 2020 final remaining their best result.

Durand Cup: East Bengal FC Beat South United, Keep Quarter-Final Hopes Alive

Kolkata : East Bengal FC produced a dominant display to register a comprehensive 5-0 victory over South United FC in their final Group A fixture of the 135th Durand Cup at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan on Friday. Dani Ramirez, Mohamad Rashid, Hardik Bhatt, Bipin Singh and David Lalhlansanga scored for the Red and Gold Brigade. The result takes East Bengal FC to six points from three Group A matches with a goal difference of +11, leaving the Red and Gold Brigade well placed in the race to qualify for the quarter-finals as one of the tournament's best second-placed



teams. South United FC, meanwhile, conclude their Durand Cup campaign after another spirited display despite the heavy defeat. All 43 matches of the 135th Durand Cup will be broadcast LIVE on the Sony Sports Network and streamed live

on SonyLIV. With both sides playing their final group match, the Red and Gold Brigade started brightly, with Jesin T.K. Thonikkara dragging an early left-footed effort wide before South United captain Noel S made an important intervention

to halt another dangerous attack. The breakthrough came in the sixth minute through a moment of individual brilliance from Dani Ramirez. Receiving the ball from captain Mohamad Basim Rashid, the Spaniard shifted onto his preferred foot before unleashing a stunning long-range strike into the top far corner, leaving goalkeeper Sunil Singh with no chance. East Bengal continued to dominate possession, with Jeakson Singh, Ramirez and Jesin combining neatly through midfield while wingers Edmund Lalrindika and P.V. Vishnu stretched the South United defence.

Ashish Yadav Clinches Javelin Silver for India at World U20s

Eugene : India's Ashish Yadav won the silver medal in the men's javelin throw at the World Athletics U20 Championships here, becoming only the second Indian after Neeraj Chopra to finish on the podium in the event at the global junior championships. According to Olympics.com, the 19-year-old produced a best throw of 74.09m to finish behind South Africa's Jan-Hendrik Heymans, who clinched the gold with a world U20-leading effort of 80.50m. Dominica's Addison James won the bronze medal with 73.89m. Ashish's achievement came a decade after Chopra became the first Indian to win a javelin medal at the World U20 Championships when he claimed gold at Bydgoszcz in 2016 with a world U20 record of 86.48m. Ashish began the final with a throw of 69.96m and fouled his second attempt before producing his best effort of 74.09m on the third. He followed it with throws of 72.31m, 70.62m and 67.98m to secure the silver. Heymans established an early lead with 76.92m on his opening attempt and improved to 79.42m on his fifth throw before sealing the title with an 80.50m effort in his final attempt. Ashish had entered the final with a personal best of 74.49m, recorded at the Indian Open Throws Competition in Patiala earlier this year.



India had two competitors in the javelin final, with T. Dharanidharan finishing sixth with a best throw of 72.35m. Both Indian throwers had progressed to the final after qualifying on the opening day of the championships. Although neither achieved the automatic qualification mark of 72.50m, Ashish advanced as the second-best thrower overall with 69.87m, while Dharanidharan secured the 12th and final qualifying spot with 68.07m. Heymans topped the qualifying round with 76.02m. The Indian contingent comprises 36 athletes, including 23 men and 13 women, at the championships in Eugene. Mohammed Ashfaq was another notable Indian performer, finishing eighth in the men's 400m final in 46.20 seconds. Earlier in the competition, the 19-year-old clocked 45.81 seconds in the heats to break his own U20 nation-

al record and qualify for the semifinals. More than 1,800 athletes representing 147 member federations are competing at the World Athletics U20 Championships, which is the largest edition of the junior global event. Chopra, in a post on X, and praised Ashish for his performance at the global junior championships. "Always a great feeling to see Indian athletes competing and winning at the International level, this one is little more special for me as a javelin thrower. Super proud of you Ashish on your Silver at the U-20 Worlds, this is just the start!" Chopra wrote. Ashish produced his best effort of 74.09 metres in the third round to finish second in the competition. South Africa's Heymans won the gold medal with a throw of 80.50 metres, while Dominica's James secured the bronze with 73.89 metres. Earlier, Uttarakhand Chief

Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami congratulated Indian javelin thrower Ashish Yadav for winning the silver medal at the World U20 Athletics Championships with a throw of 74.09 metres. Congratulating Ashish on his achievement, Dhami, in a post on X said, "Ashish Yadav clinched the silver medal at the World U20 Athletics Championship with a splendid throw of 74.09 meters. This outstanding performance is a testament to his talent, hard work, and dedication. Heartiest congratulations to Ashish Yadav on this remarkable achievement, and best wishes for a bright future ahead!" India's T. Dharanidharan also competed in the event and finished sixth with a best throw of 72.35 metres. The achievement comes in a competition that has previously seen India's Neeraj Chopra win the U20 javelin gold.

Women's Pro Golf Tour: Sneha Survives Play-Off to Beat Vani After Losing Six-Shot Lead

Hosur : Sneha Singh, who ran up a six-shot lead with six holes to go, squandered the entire lead and was taken to the play-off, where she edged aside the seasoned Vani Kapoor to win the 11th Leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Clover Greens. Sneha, who had stunned the field with a 10-under round on the second day, shot 5-over 76 on the final day before winning on the first play-off hole. Sneha and Vani totalled 3-under 210 in regulation play. Sneha ended a 18-month title drought to get back into the winning circle for the first time since February 2025. Sneha (73-61-76) played the final round with Vani Kapoor (67-71-72), who trailed her by four shots at the start of the third day, and Nayanika Sanga (72-68-71), who was six behind. Sneha seemed to struggle in the final round as she started with a bogey and had no birdies for the next eight holes. With Vani card-



ing a double bogey and a bogey, and Nayanika also faltering with two bogeys and unable to find birdies. Sneha's lead was stretched. When Sneha birdied the tenth hole, she moved further ahead. After 12 holes in the final round, Sneha seemed to have sewn up the title as she opened a six-shot lead over the field. Sneha and Nayanika birdied the 10th, but Vani picked up

a birdie on the 11th. Then came a major twist. Nayanika had back-to-back birdies on the 13th and the 14th, but Sneha gave away two double bogeys on the same holes. Vani also birdied the 13th to join Nayanika at 3-under total and Sneha was now just one shot ahead at 4-under. At that stage Sneha's lead was down to just one shot over Nayanika and Vani.