

Nagaland peaceful, stable, and increasingly connected globally, states CM Rio

Declining insurgency and low crime boost Nagaland’s growth

Kohima, Sept 5: Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio affirmed in the State Legislative Assembly that Nagaland has emerged as a peaceful and stable region, increasingly linked to the rest of India and the global economy following years of sustained security improvements.

Speaking during an ongoing assembly session in Kohima, the Chief Minister provided comparative security metrics demonstrating a drastic shift in the state’s internal law and order landscape since its inception in 1963. According to official data, insurgency-related incidents involving underground groups plummeted



from over 257 cases between 2004 and 2009—which caused over 120 casualties—to just eight incidents between 2021 and 2026, resulting in five total fatalities.

Highlighting law enforcement records, CM Rio noted that National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data placed

Nagaland’s cognizable crime rate at 61.6 per lakh population, marking the second-lowest rate nationwide after Dadra and Nagar Haveli, compared to the all-India average of 418.8. Additionally, the state recorded the lowest rate of crime against women in the country at 5.1 per lakh

population, compared to the national rate of 64.6.

The Chief Minister emphasized that improved security and enhanced physical and digital connectivity have opened unprecedented opportunities for economic expansion, youth entrepreneurship, and eco-tourism. In light of these developments, the Nagaland Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the Union Government to review and lift the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime, proposing a digital, technology-driven monitoring system for foreign visitors to streamline global trade, cultural exchanges, and tourism.

Teachers at heart of Nagaland’s literacy journey, says Yhome

Kohima, Sept 5: Teachers are the fundamental driving force shaping Nagaland’s educational progress and socio-economic transformation, Minister for School Education and State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome, asserted during the 63rd State-level Teachers’ Day celebrations held at the Capital Cultural Hall in Kohima.

Addressing a distinguished gathering of educationists, state officials, and award-winning educators, Dr. Yhome emphasized that the state’s commendable progress in literacy rates over recent decades is directly attributable to the unwavering commitment, resilience, and adaptability of the teaching fraternity working across remote hill districts. Reflecting



on the historical trajectory of education in Nagaland, the Minister noted that while early educational efforts were primarily spearheaded by missionary institutions and community initiatives, government teachers have successfully expanded foundational literacy into every corner of the state. He highlighted that teachers serve not merely as academic instructors, but as community leaders, mentors, and soci-

etal catalysts who navigate severe geographical and infrastructural challenges to deliver quality instruction. Dr. Yhome further outlined the state government’s ongoing policy initiatives aimed at strengthening school infrastructure, addressing the rationalization of teacher deployments across government schools, and integrating modern pedagogical frameworks under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Dy CM Chowna Mein recalls Late Nabam Runghi’s contribution to Arunachal

Itanagar, Sept 5: Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein paid rich tributes to Late Nabam Runghi, honoring his foundational contributions to the socio-political development and administrative consolidation of Arunachal Pradesh during its formative years.

Recalling the pioneer’s legacy, the Deputy Chief Minister described Late Runghi as an architect of modern Arunachal Pradesh whose vision played a pivotal role in shaping the state’s identity. Runghi, who served as a first-generation leader and agency council member during the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) era, is widely credited with establishing Itanagar as the capital of Arunachal Pradesh. Mein highlighted Runghi’s determination in convincing

Governor calls upon teachers to shape skilled youth

Itanagar, Sept 5: Governor Lt Gen (Retd) K. T. Parnaik called upon the teaching community across Arunachal Pradesh to act as “game changers” by nurturing confident, skilled, and ethical citizens who can drive regional and national progress.

Extending his greetings to educators on the eve of Teachers’ Day, the Governor emphasized that teaching remains a noble profession that carries the fundamental duty of enlightening, inspiring, and preparing young minds to navigate life with purpose and resilience. He noted that a teacher’s influence extends far beyond academic instruction to shape the moral character, core values, and civic

sense of students.

Underlining the evolving role of educational institutions, Lt Gen Parnaik stressed that schools and colleges must equip youth to become productive assets to society. He urged teachers to promote innovation, employability, and an entrepreneurial mindset among students, encouraging them to create new opportunities and generate sustainable local wealth through the responsible utilization of the state’s natural and human resources. Paying tribute to former President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary, the Governor recalled his legacy as an eminent scholar, philosopher, and exemplary teacher. He

expressed confidence that Teachers’ Day celebrations would inspire both educators and students to uphold the principles of knowledge, integrity, and social service toward building a prosperous, self-reliant nation.

In addition, Lt Gen Parnaik highlighted the crucial need to integrate modern educational tools and digital literacy alongside traditional classroom instruction, ensuring that students in remote tribal pockets gain equal access to quality learning resources. He reaffirmed that the state government remains steadfastly committed to expanding rural school infrastructure, supporting ongoing teacher training initiatives.

Naga youth complete NSEDM training

Kohima, Sept 5: A total of 83 local candidates successfully completed free vocational skill training programs sponsored by the Nagaland Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Mission (NSEDM) under the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), Government of Nagaland.

The fully funded skill development initiative was conducted at the Pinnacle Skills Training Centre at Sovima in Chümoukedima district, culminating in formal certification ceremonies. Representatives from NSEDM joined training center officials and state delegates to award completion certificates to the graduating cohorts, marking a significant milestone in regional youth empowerment and capacity building.

The training curriculum was divided into two distinct technical modules designed to meet growing local consumer and industrial demand. The first phase wrapped up on August 29 for candidates enrolled in intensive 40-day courses focused on mobile phone repair, consumer electronics, and home appliance servicing. The second phase concluded on September 3 for trainees completing an advanced 45-day technical course in domestic and commercial electrification. The instructional modules prioritized practical, hands-on learning to equip the candidates with industry-relevant competencies. Program coordinators emphasized that master technical skills are vital for bridging local employable skill gaps, enabling young technicians to either secure formal employment or establish self-sustaining micro-enterprises.

NIMAS scripts mountaineering history, summits 20 unclimbed peaks in Ladakh

Itanagar, Sept 5: The National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS), based in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, has scripted mountaineering history by completing a first-ascent expedition to 20 previously unclimbed peaks in Ladakh, all standing above 6,000 metres, in a record time of 23 days.

Led by NIMAS Director Colonel Ranveer Singh Jamwal, a veteran mountaineer who has conquered Mount Everest three times and climbed the highest peaks of all 28 Indian states, the high-altitude expedition team achieved 20 consecutive first-ever summits across remote and hazardous Himalayan terrain. According to a statement issued by the Defence Public Relations Officer, this landmark cam-



paign marks the institute’s third consecutive world record over the past three years, cementing NIMAS’s status as a premier national hub for adventure sports and expedition leadership.

Operating under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Defence, NIMAS is India’s sole institute offering integrated adventure training

across land, air, and water disciplines. The expedition featured significant representation from local Arunachal Pradesh mountaineers and youth, including Lobsang Tenzin Babu, Dorjee Khandu, and Tenzing Dawa, showcasing the expanding pool of high-altitude athletic talent emerging from the Northeastern

region. Defense officials emphasized that the grueling 23-day campaign underscores NIMAS’s capability to plan and execute technically demanding operations in hyper-arid, low-oxygen conditions. The successful mission aligns directly with the central government’s Fit India movement and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision to encourage national youth toward outdoor exploration, physical endurance, and discipline as catalysts for nation-building.

The accomplishment has drawn widespread praise from regional and national leaders, hailing it as a proud moment for Arunachal Pradesh and India’s broader mountaineering fraternity. By successfully charting new routes across unmapped 6,000-metre massifs.

Mokokchung District Two-Wheeler Taxi Association holds general meeting

MOKOKCHUNG, Sept 5: The Mokokchung District Two-Wheeler Taxi Association (MDTWTA) convened its general meeting at the town hall in Mokokchung, gathering district transport officials, local administration representatives, and scores of registered two-wheeler taxi operators to deliberate on crucial operational, regulatory, and welfare matters shaping urban commuter transit in the district.

Presided over by the association’s executive body, the meeting focused on standardizing operational protocols across Mokokchung town and adjoining suburban routes. A central point of discussion was the strict implementation and periodic review of passenger fare structures to ensure fair pricing for



consumers while maintaining economic viability for operators amid rising fuel costs and vehicular maintenance expenses. The association reiterated its commitment to consumer transparency, urging all members to display approved fare charts prominently and strictly refrain from overcharging passengers.

Addressing municipal

mobility challenges, the MDTWTA executive committee collaborated with local traffic authorities to formulate enhanced traffic management measures. To ease congestion along narrow urban stretches and commercial hubs, the association finalized designated parking zones and designated drop-off points for two-wheeler taxis. The assembly empha-

sized that adherence to established traffic regulations, wearing standardized protective gear, and maintaining valid commercial permits are mandatory prerequisites for all registered members to ensure public safety and operational discipline. Furthermore, the general meeting highlighted the introduction of updated member welfare schemes, including emergency financial relief funds for drivers involved in road accidents or facing prolonged illness. Representatives from local administration praised the two-wheeler taxi fraternity for providing vital, flexible short-distance mobility to residents, students, and daily commuters across hilly terrain where conventional four-wheeler transit remains constrained.

97 units of blood collected in APTTA-hosted VBD in State on Teachers’ Day

Itanagar, Sept 5: Marking the 63rd National Teachers’ Day with a strong commitment to social service, the All Arunachal Pradesh Primary Teachers’ Association (AAPPTA) successfully organized voluntary blood donation camps across multiple districts in Arunachal Pradesh, accumulating a total of 97 units of life-saving blood.

The state-wide initiative, conducted under the banner of the association’s central executive body in coordina-

tion with local blood banks and district health departments, aimed to address critical blood shortages in regional government hospitals and medical centers. Primary school educators from across the state stepped forward to participate in the drives, reflecting the teaching community’s dedication to societal welfare beyond classroom instruction.

In the state capital, the central drive was inaugurated at the Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences

(TRIHMS) in Naharlagun. Medical officers and blood bank technicians facilitated the screening, donation, and collection procedures, ensuring strict adherence to medical protocols and safety standards. Similar collection drives were simultaneously executed at district headquarters, including Pasighat, Tezu, and Ziro, where local teacher unions mobilized voluntary donors from nearby rural and urban government schools. Speaking at the inauguration event, central office bear-



ers of the AAPPTA high-

lighted that while Teachers’

Day traditionally celebrates academic mentorship and pedagogical achievement, combining the occasion with a voluntary blood donation drive serves as a practical demonstration of civic duty and humanitarian action. Association leaders emphasized that primary teachers, operating in remote corners of the state, frequently observe healthcare challenges firsthand and recognize the vital importance of maintaining adequate blood reserves for emergency surgeries,

maternal care, and trauma victims. Health department officials expressed gratitude to the teaching fraternity for their civic initiative, noting that voluntary contributions from organized associations significantly lessen the reliance on replacement donors during medical emergencies. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to all participating teacher-donors, and the AAPPTA reaffirmed its commitment to establishing the voluntary blood donation drive as an annual feature of

its Teachers’ Day observances across Arunachal Pradesh. Following the successful completion of the drive, the APTTA executive body expressed profound gratitude to the participating educators, medical teams, and volunteer staff whose coordinated efforts made the initiative possible. Association leaders announced plans to expand the drive’s outreach in subsequent years by collaborating with community youth groups and district administration bodies.

Meghalaya Hires IIT-Guwahati to Audit MITP Road Construction

Imphal, Sep 05: The Meghalaya government hired the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati to run a quality audit on road works under the Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project. Road safety is also getting a hard look. Independent consultants are now performing safety audits across the project.

These consultants include M/s LEA Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd., India, and M/s MSV International Inc. The latter firm works in part-

nership with M/s MSV International Tech Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Orion Infra Consulting Pvt. Ltd. These groups monitor the MITP work.

Roads built under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana follow a specific three-tier system.

Tier 1 mandates field-level checks by PWD divisions. Tier 2 brings in independent State Quality Monitors. Finally, Tier 3 involves National Quality Monitors sent by the Ministry of Rural Development. The govern-

ment stated, “National Quality Monitors deputed by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, which also act as audits.”

For the PMGSY projects, two independent agencies handle quality monitoring. M/s Suvadra Consultants from Bhubaneswar, Odisha, and M/s Sumanil Designers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd. from Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, landed these roles. They won the work through a national Request for Quotations process.

State Audit Reveals Massive Financial Mismanagement

Kohima, Sep 05: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India uncovered a web of financial and procedural rot across Nagaland government departments. The 2024 report, presented to the Legislative Assembly on September 3, 2026, details unauthorized fund diversions, fraudulent payments, and the illegal construction of state assets on private property.

Audit findings highlight severe failures in the Jal Jeevan Mission. Officials bypassed tenders to award a supply contract, sparking an avoidable Rs.288.12 crore expenditure. District laboratories lack essential testing equipment, and auditors labeled Rs.21.57 crore in tap connection claims as entirely fictitious. The report warns that the department released funds despite clear evidence that services never reached households.

The Nagaland Police department also faced scrutiny. The Director General of Police bypassed standard tender processes to buy commercial LPG, relying on an unlicensed supplier. This decision inflated costs by Rs.3.46 crore. The auditor noted that the vendor was a consumer, not a distributor. Auditors stated: “The supplier was a ‘Consumer’ rather than an authorised LPG ‘Distributor’ under the applicable regulations.”

Misappropriation persists in infrastructure projects. The Phek district administration saw Rs.17.56 lakh in land acquisition funds withdrawn in cash without supporting vouchers. In Peren, the Horticulture department built a botanical garden on private land without securing ownership rights. Similar land-use violations plagued the Municipal Affairs department, where a Rs.13.26 crore women’s hostel remains mostly empty on private property. Elsewhere, the Planning and Transformation department authorized the use of Rs.6.14 crore in scheme funds to build hostels inside a private school compound. Financial controls failed at the Treasury level as well, where system oversights led to Rs.87.73 lakh in fraudulent pay-bill claims across nine departments. The Transport department’s bus station project in Dimapur has stalled for six years, burning through Rs.10.61 crore with little to show for the cost. The audit flagged 10,000-plus discrepancies, including 6,292 learner’s licenses issued without testing in the Motor Vehicles department and major shortfalls in Anganwadi nutrition supplies. CAG investigators now demand immediate recovery of misspent funds and full investigations into the officials responsible for these systemic lapses.

MDRC Students Honor Faculty During Teachers Day Event

Kohima, Sep 05: Students at the MDRC, Nagaland University, gathered at the Common Hall on September 3 to mark Teachers Day. They honored the MDRC coordinator and faculty from the Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, and Mathematics departments. The morning kicked off with students from the first and third years delivering speeches. They discussed the significance of the hol-

iday and the legacy of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The mood turned lively as pupils performed songs and recited poems. One student spoke on the importance of teachers in shaping both society and research. The faculty joined in, offering wisdom and sharing personal stories.

Teachers surprised the crowd by singing and dancing during the interactive session. The students

handed out gifts to the staff as a show of respect. One attendee noted, “The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by a student of MDRC, expressing sincere gratitude to the coordinator, faculty members and fellow students for making the event a grand success.” The event wrapped up with light refreshments. Everyone gathered for group photos before heading out.

Shah engages with the Chief Minister of Tripura and the founder of TMP prior to the village elections

Agartala, Sep 05: On Friday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah convened a meeting with Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and Pradyot Kishore Debbarma, the founder of Tipra Motha, due to ongoing disagreements between the two allies regarding an electoral agreement for the forthcoming Village Committee elections and the regional party’s request for land rights for indigenous communities.

BJP’s Northeast coordinator Sambit Patra was also in attendance at the nearly 90-minute meeting held at Shah’s residence, according to sources. Despite frequent conflicts over tribal matters, the BJP and Tipra Motha have maintained their alliance with-

in the state government. The significance of Friday’s meeting is heightened as both parties are engaged in discussions regarding a potential seat-sharing arrangement for the elections to 587 Village Committees under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), which are set to take place on September 28.

The TTAADC encompasses approximately two-thirds of Tripura’s land area and is home to a substantial portion of the state’s indigenous population, making control over tribal politics essential for both parties.

Sources indicated that Debbarma was resolute during the meeting regarding his demand for the protection of land rights for

40 high-hazard glacial lakes identified

Shillong, Sep 05: The eastern Himalayan state of Sikkim has identified 40 high-hazard glacial lakes, with 16 of them classified as being at the highest risk of catastrophic outbursts that could threaten downstream settlements.

The data is significant as it comes against the backdrop of the recent flash flood in Nepal, triggered by a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26 that left a trail of destruction with hundreds of people dead and scores missing.

Though the catastrophe was not linked to a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), the flash flood has highlighted a broader transformation across the Himalayas as glaciers retreat, new lakes are forming in their place, while existing ones are expanding.

Glacial lakes are formed by the melting of glaciers and accumulation of meltwater in depressions on or near the glacier’s surface. GLOFs occur when these lakes suddenly burst open due to factors such as excessive water accumulation or triggers like earthquakes.

These floods can cause significant destruction and pose serious risks to people and the environment downstream.

One such outburst in Sikkim in October 2023 resulted in at least 60 fatalities and extensive damage in the Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong and Namchi districts. It also destroyed the Chungthang dam, a crucial part of a major hydropower project.

At a media sensitisation workshop on GLOF Risk Mitigation held here on Thursday, Principal Secretary Sandeep Tambe said remote sensing and satellite imagery were being used to monitor changes in glacial lakes.

Of the 40 high-hazard lakes, 16 are in Category A (highest risk), two in Category B (high risk) and nine in Category C (moderate to low risk), while 13 remain unclassified, he said.

The workshop focused on strengthening public understanding of GLOF risks and ensuring that

verified, science-based information reaches the public.

Yougan Tamang, the press secretary to Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, said media sensitisation was crucial to communicating the scientific measures being undertaken to mitigate GLOF risks.

Sikkim’s Department of Science and Technology was designated the nodal department for GLOF hazard assessment and mitigation studies in February 2025, with the work being carried out through an interdisciplinary approach, Tamang said. The state is also working towards what could be the country’s first dedicated GLOF Risk Mitigation Protocol, aimed at creating a standardised scientific framework for assessing, preparing for and mitigating glacial flood risks.

It could also serve as a model for other Himalayan regions, an official release said.

Field studies cover water-level and discharge monitoring, Electrical Resistivity Tomography, geophysical and differential global positioning system surveys, bathymetry, flood modelling, hazard assessment and feasibility studies for lowering lake levels and constructing flood-retention structures.

Tambe said a uniform strategy could not be applied to all lakes, and separate proposals had therefore been prepared for the Lhonak Complex, Shako Chho Lake and Gurudongmar Complex, according to the release.

The Sikkim government has identified Shako Chho as most vulnerable to GLOF.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Shako Chho has been submitted to the National Disaster Management Authority, and a preliminary project report has been sent to the Jal Shakti Ministry.

The Central Water Commission is preparing a DPR along with the Sikkim government for a flood-retention structure at Dolma Sampa near Muguthang in the Lhonak Complex.

For the Gurudongmar Complex, a moraine plug wall at the lake outlet has been proposed. The Department of Science and Technology and Brahmaputra Board are jointly working on the proposal, taking into account both GLOF risk and the lake’s cultural and religious significance.

The Science and Technology Department’s principal director-cum-secretary D G Shrestha said Sikkim’s devastating 2023 GLOF had underscored the urgency of strengthening preparedness.

At the policy level, Sikkim is pursuing a whole-of-government approach, clearer business rules, measures to bridge technical expertise gaps and a proposal for a commission on glacial hazards.

Various lake-level lowering techniques are being examined, including siphoning, pumping, improving existing channels, artificial channels, moraine cutting with safety walls and tunnelling.

Shrestha outlined a four-stage mitigation process — preliminary assessment, comprehensive assessment, designing mitigation measures and execution — and stressed the need to strengthen institutional, technical and financial capacity.

He also said additional early-warning sensors had been proposed across Sikkim following a virtual meeting with Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, who gave a positive assurance on the proposal.

On Thursday, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan reviewed the preparedness of Himalayan states and Union Territories in dealing with GLOF risks and snow avalanches. The chief secretaries and State Disaster Management Authorities of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, along with senior officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs, National Disaster Management Authority, Central Water Commission, India Meteorological Department and the Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment attended the meeting.

Job training initiatives, and agricultural workshops have arrived in Meghalaya

The new labor leadership

Shillong, Sep 05: The All Meghalaya Muster Roll, Progressive Workers’ Union elected a new slate of leaders to a three-year term. The team aims to tackle retirement age disputes and welfare gaps. General secretary Bympher Lyndem confirmed the union will press authorities for progress. The Veterinary Department recently moved eight union members into Group-D posts. NK Lanong leads the new team as president, joined by vice presidents Johnson Blah and Adyen John.

Labor coordination continues. The Joint Action Committee Muster Roll, advised by Khroo L Pariat, serves as an umbrella group for state unions.



Lyndem says the two organizations will weigh a formal partnership soon. Other board members include assistant general secretaries Bankerlang Kharnngi and Eugenia Wallang, treasurer Wanda Majaw, finance secretary John Kennedy Lyngkhoi, publicity secretary Pynskhem Shangdiar, and joint secretary Wanphai Nongksheh.

cessing is vital for adding value to local agricultural resources and creating sustainable livelihoods in the Northeast.” Officials also pushed for using schemes like PM VIKAS.

Job seekers flooded the Meghalaya State Skill Development Society in Jowai. Over 1,100 youths registered for work during a recent drive. The office remains open for new applicants on the third floor of the Deputy Commissioner’s Office. Meanwhile, Krishi Vigyan Kendra hosted 116 farmers at its Moopun hall to discuss buckwheat management. Experts covered value addition and branding, while farmer Paia Myliempdah offered tips on organic fertilizer and beekeeping.

Manipur DGP visits violence affected areas in Ukhrul

Imphal, Sep 05: Director General of Manipur police Mukesh Singh on Friday conducted a field visit to violent affected villages in Manipur’s Ukhrul district.

Accompanied by the ADGP (law & order) and top police officials of the district, the DGP visited the Leplen, Sinakeithei and Litan areas of and reviewed prevailing ground conditions and inspected security arrangements in and around the villages.

The DGP held extensive interactive sessions with field commanders of deployed forces including Manipur police, 6th Manipur Rifles, Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

He also interacted with village authority members regarding their security concerns, the Manipur police said, in a statement.

The DGP’s visit reinforced active command oversight in the Leplen, Sinakeithei and Litan areas, ensuring that combined forces remain strategically positioned and are proactive in protecting the local populace, the statement added. Leplen, Sinakeithei, and Litan where the DGP visited on Friday are villagers in Ukhrul bordering Saikul sub-division of Kangpokpi that have experienced heightened ethnic tensions and armed clashes after the unfolding of the renewed Naga-Kuki conflict. Among the villages the DGP visited, Sinakeithei is a Tangkhul Naga village that has reported multiple violent incidents, including arson of houses and heavy exchanges of gunfire involving armed groups. Leplen is a Kuki inhabited area of Ukhrul district bordering Kangpokpi district where clashes and crossfire have frequently been reported since the outbreak of the renewed conflict. Litan village is along the Imphal-Ukhrul highway with a mixed demographic setting of Tangkhul (Naga) and Kuki, which has witnessed intermittent automatic weapon firing, blockades, and rising community friction between Tangkhul and Kuki. Notably, the Litan area of Ukhrul district is considered to be the epicenter of the renewed violence between the Naga and the tribes in the hills of the state. While the incident led to the spread of the violence in Ukhrul and its adjoining Kamjong district, an ambush incident in Kangpokpi.

NCORD meeting reviews drug situation

Agartala, Sep 05: The District Level Committee (DLC) for the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD), Zunheboto, held a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner’s office chamber on September 3 to review the drug situation in the district. According to a DIPR report, Deputy Commissioner, Dharam Raj, stressed the urgent need for coordinated efforts among government departments, law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations to eradicate drug abuse and trafficking. Addressing the meeting, the DC highlighted that the police department had seized 18,000 SP capsules in April 2026, leading to the arrest of two individuals under relevant laws. He also noted that a woman was found to be involved in drug peddling, underscoring the need for continued vigilance and enforcement. Observing that unemployment and limited livelihood opportunities were contributing factors to



youth involvement in drug peddling, he called upon departments and agencies to work collectively in addressing the issue while creating awareness and op-

portunities for the younger generation.

The DC urged the Education Department to undertake awareness programmes in schools to educate

students about the harmful effects of drugs. He emphasized that while maintaining a 500-metre drug-free zone around educational institutions was important, the larger goal should be to make the entire district and country drug-free. He also directed the District Drug Inspector to conduct frequent inspections of pharmacies to ensure medicines and controlled substances are not misused or diverted for illegal purposes. Further, he appealed to the DLC to seek active support and co-operation from civil society organisations and sister agencies, stressing that the issue could not be tackled by a single department and required sustained joint action. Senior Superintendent of Police Zunheboto, Kupe Kapfo, informed the meeting that there had been no further seizures following the last major case and confirmed that no poppy cultivation had been detected in the district. He emphasized the importance.

After two leaders were removed, the Telangana chief minister is facing internal strife

Hyderabad, Sep 05: A Revanth Reddy, the chief minister of Telangana, is going through a period of political testing as opposition within the ruling Congress intensifies. His authority inside the party and administration is being questioned due to the expulsion of two leaders and growing public criticism. When the Revanth Reddy administration reached 1,000 days in power on September 1, the unease became apparent. Konda Surekha, the minister of forests and the environment, was about to be removed.

For breaking party rules, the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee had suggested that Surekha face disciplinary punishment. After the measure was accepted by the All-India Congress Committee (AICC), Reddy dismissed her from the cabinet two days later. Additionally, G Chinna Reddy, a former minister, was recently ousted from his cabinet-level position as vice-chairman of the Telangana State Planning Board. Surekha was held responsible for her daughter Konda Sushmita's disparaging remarks against the party in general and the chief minister in particular. Chinna Reddy was removed after allegedly accusing the state Congress leadership of selling tickets in the last assembly elections, particularly



in Wanaparthi constituency, which he had represented in the past. The action against the two leaders has brought Reddy's handling of factional tensions into focus. Disciplinary action against a serving minister and the chief minister holding a cabinet-rank post has underscored the increasingly open nature of the internal friction. Surekha questioned the action taken against her due to remarks made by her daughter and brought up accusations of corruption involving Reddy's brothers made by Sushmita a few days prior. But according to Chinna Reddy, he wasn't angry about losing his job on the planning board.

"To provide an explanation, I did not meet with Revanth Reddy. "They brought it down with a single stroke, even though I worked hard to get here," he remarked. He insisted

that he had only discussed matters brought to his attention by party employees and had never made personal accusations against anyone. "I have my dignity whether I have a position or not," he stated, adding that he had not yet made up his mind on what he would do next. The rumblings began after Reddy became chief minister in December 2023, bypassing senior leaders including N Uttam Kumar Reddy, K Jana Reddy, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, T Jayaprakash Reddy and D Sridhar Babu. Revanth Reddy, who joined the Congress in 2018 after leaving the Telugu Desam Party, is the primary cause of the unhappiness. He then rose to the position of PCC chief and state minister. However, they were unable to publicly rebel because he was the Congress high command's pick, according to political analyst Srinivasa Rao Manchala. Rajagopal Reddy, a Congress MLA from Munugode Komatireddy, has also questioned Reddy's authority. At a conference in Munugode on Wednesday, he stated, "It hurts when people with no original roots in the Congress party or the Telangana statehood agitation are wielding state power." He also took issue with Reddy's public declaration that he will serve as chief minister for a another ten years.

Gurugram is under an orange alert due to flooding and traffic disruptions caused by heavy rain

New Delhi, Sep 05: On Saturday, Gurugram was placed under a "orange alert" due to the city's constant morning showers, which left residential areas choked with knee-deep runoff, arterial roads waterlogged, and peak-hour traffic crawling.

Up till 8am, Gurugram received 51.5mm of rain, according to statistics supplied by the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) regional center in Chandigarh.

The meteorological service has issued a warning for Gurugram and several other areas of Haryana to experience continuous, intense rains and thunderstorms throughout the day. At 10.38 a.m. on Saturday, IMD predicted that there will be severe rainfall—more than 15 mm per hour—for the next two to three hours, along with moderate thunderstorms and strong gusts.

The district administration advised the general public to avoid non-essen-

tial travel, as far as practicable. "Citizens are further advised to avoid waterlogged roads, underpasses and low-lying areas; stay away from trees, electric poles and overhead wires; and refrain from crossing flooded stretches.

All concerned departments and emergency response agencies have been directed to remain vigilant and take necessary precautionary measures," the advisory read. Stormwater drains flooded in a matter of minutes as the downpour intensified about 7.30 am, casting dark clouds over the city skies and revealing the local administration's lack of preparation for the monsoon.

Waterlogging was reported in a number of the city's recurring issue sites, including MG Road, Sector 31, Sector 46, Sector 10, Sector 12, Narsinghpur, Sector 69, and Sector 70.

Older sectors and interior sections did not fare any better. Water buildup of up to two feet was observed

along major arterial connections, such as Sheela Mata Road, Old Delhi-Gurugram Road, and sections linking Sectors 9A, 10, and 17. Residents of Sector 15 Part 2 were forced to park their cars on raised ramps because runoff threatened ground-floor homes on internal colony roads.

There were major delays for commuters in Manesar's industrial area and New Gurugram. Sector 81 became virtual streams, as did the nearby dividing roads that connected Sectors 82 to 90. Manesar had the most rainfall in the previous 24 hours until 8am, with 54mm, according to tehsil-wise data made public by the district government on Saturday. In a similar vein, 42 mm of rain fell in Wazirabad, 41 mm in Gurugram, 29 mm in Kadipur and Harsaru, 26 mm in Sohna, 12 mm in Badshahpur, and 10 mm in Farrukhnagar and Pataudi.

On Friday, Gurugram experienced a 10 km-long traffic tailback from Delhi

due to one hour of continuous rain. On Thursday, a 32-year-old labourer died in Bajghera after coming in contact with a broken high-tension powerline. Police said the deceased could not spot the wire since it was dark and it was raining. "Personnel have been deployed at critical intersections to divert vehicles away from waterlogged stretches," stated a senior traffic police officer in Gurugram.

Traffic authorities used social media to warn commuters to plan their routes, steer clear of dangerous areas, and adhere to rigorous lane discipline.

Civic organizations, such as the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG), asserted that super-sucker machines and suction pumps had been forced into operation at low-lying intersections in order to flush the extra water out into the master drains.

A top court judge criticizes the police crackdown at Jantar Mantar

New Delhi, Sep 05: Judge Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court criticized the police response to the latest student protests harshly on Friday, saying that the detachment that is expected of police officers seemed to be vanishing. He claimed that witnessing police brutality against demonstrators was quite upsetting. When we witness young Indian Police Service officers physically attacking protesters and demonstrators, we are all appalled.

At the publication of retired IPS officer Yashovardhan Azad's book "Policing the Republic," Justice Bhuyan remarked, "This is something very, very distressing to observe." "The detachment expected of police officers somehow seems to be disappearing, and this is indeed a matter of grave concern," he added. Justice Bhuyan said that effective policing could be done without resorting to excessive use of force or infringement of human rights. "For most common people, a policeman on the street wearing a whistle and a lathi represents the power and authority of the state. When they feel wronged, they seek the help of the police. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that the police force maintains its credibility," he said. Many have harshly criticized police and paramilitary actions taken against student demonstrators during the CJP demonstration. A high-level panel has been established by the Supreme Court to look into claims that the Delhi Police used excessive force during the student protests at Jantar Mantar and the Parliament march on July 20. In addition to analyzing CCTV and video evidence of the altercations, the panel led by retired Supreme Court judge Justice R Subhash Reddy will investigate reports of lathi charges, tear gas, pellet gun use, electronic batons, and targeted harassment or molestation of female protesters. One of the biggest crimes in a civilized society, according to Justice Bhuyan, is the increasing number of torture and fatalities that occur in detention. In a civilized society that upholds the rule of law, custodial death is arguably one of the worst crimes. Any kind of torture or cruel, inhuman, or humiliating treatment would be prohibited by Article 29, regardless of whether it takes place during an investigation, questioning, or another situation, he stated.

Eight students perished in the Kerala crash, their vehicle crashed with a parked truck last night

Thiruvananthapuram, Sep 05: According to police on Saturday, eight engineering students from Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, were murdered when their vehicle collided with a truck that was parked "illegally" on NH-66 in the Thrissur district of central Kerala. The automobile, which was traveling from Guruvayur to Kodungallur, collided with the back of the Maharashtra-registered lorry at approximately 11.40 p.m. on Friday at Panambikkunnu in Kaipamangalam, according to police. The truck was unlawfully parked on the right side of



the road next to a fenced area where traffic had been redirected due to ongoing construction, according to the FIR.

According to police, the driver of the fast-moving vehicle reportedly didn't see the diversion barrier

before slamming into the back of the truck. Six students died on the spot, while two others were declared dead on arrival at a nearby hospital, police said.

The victims were students of an engineering college in Dindigul and were trav-

elling towards Kodungallur along NH-66. Police have identified six of the victims. Four of them—Surya, Yuvasanjith, Vishva and Johua—were from Dindigul, while Santhosh and Prasanna were from Madurai.

The identities of the other two are yet to be confirmed. The youth were pulled out of the mangled car during a rescue operation involving residents, fire and rescue personnel and police. Their bodies were taken to the mortuary of Thrissur Medical College, police said. The truck driver has been

charged with culpable homicide by Kaipamangalam police under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. According to authorities, the driver fled the scene shortly after the collision. Police used student identity cards found from the bodies to get in touch with the victims' relatives.

According to authorities, several of the families were not aware that their kids had traveled to Kerala. After the victims' families arrive at Thrissur Medical College, postmortem exams will start, according to authorities.

Meeting with Amit Shah, Omar Abdullah talks about the early restoration of J&K's statehood

New Delhi, Sep 05: Omar Abdullah, the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday to discuss important issues pertaining to the Union territory, particularly the finalization of governance procedures and the early restoration of statehood. The two leaders had not spoken since Abdullah protested in the nation's capital on July 20, the first day of the Monsoon session of Parliament, calling for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's complete statehood. Since August 5, 2019, when the Union government repealed Article 370 and divided the former state into two Union territories, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the demand has been a major political issue. While the Centre has maintained that statehood will be restored at an appropriate time, the elected government has repeatedly highlighted administrative hurdles under the current framework. The chief minister brought up issues pertaining to long-term regional development, administrative effectiveness, and public welfare at the meeting. The

Chief Minister's Office (CMO) made a statement on X stating that the finalization of the Transaction of Business Rules to expedite administrative governance and the early restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir were major topics of discussion. Today in New Delhi, the Chief Minister met with Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah to discuss important matters related to Jammu and Kashmir.

Restoring statehood, finalizing the Transaction of Business Rules, rationalizing reservations, and other significant issues pertaining to public development and welfare were the main topics of discussion during the summit. "The Chief Minister also briefed the Home Minister on the First International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), scheduled to begin in Srinagar next week, and thanked him for the timely assistance being extended to JK in the wake of flood-related damage across several areas," the Chief Minister said. The particular division of powers between the elected chief minister and the lieu-



tenant governor chosen by the Center is outlined in the regulations under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. In order to create distinct borders, reduce bureaucratic overlap, and guaranty that cabinet decisions have the requisite executive authority during the region's political transition, the elected administration has been working to finalize and improve these regulations. According to the CMO, Abdullah and Shah also discussed rationalizing the Union territory's reservation policy, an effort to balance administrative needs with public desires.

Compensation for blind accident victims is increased by SC from ₹2.94 cr to ₹3.77 cr

New Delhi, Sep 05: The Supreme Court ruled that the woman's continued employment could not be considered evidence that her earning capacity remained unaffected and increased the compensation awarded to her from ₹2.94 crore to ₹3.77 crore after she suffered severe pelvic injuries and became completely blind in a 2011 road accident. A bench of Justices SVN Bhatti and NV Anjaria ruled on Thursday that the evaluation of functional disability in motor accident compensation cases must take into account the victim's capacity to make money in the "open, competitive labor market," not just the fact that they are still employed in a "highly accommodated" workplace. Applying this principle, the Court enhanced the compensation payable to a woman who was rendered completely blind and suffered severe pelvic injuries and a permanent colostomy in a road accident in 2011, raising the amount from ₹2.94 crore awarded by the Punjab and Haryana High Court to ₹3.77 crore. At the time of the accident, the 35-year-old woman was employed for IBM Daksh in Gu-

rugram as a deputy group manager. According to company records, she was only able to carry out her duties with "specially created assistive software, flexible working hours," and other extensive accommodations offered by her employer, even though she returned to work following the accident and her annual cost to the company increased from ₹16 lakh to ₹19 lakh. Additionally, she had spent 19 months following the accident on unpaid leave. In light of this, the Supreme Court ruled that her return to work following her accident could not be interpreted as proof that her earning potential had not been impacted. The Court considered how the injuries would affect her ability to advance in her job. She had missed out on possibilities to advance to higher positions, such as general manager, director, and vice-president, according to a career-growth letter from her company. After considering the Medical Board's conclusion of 100% permanent physical impairment of the entire body, the Supreme Court treated her functional handicap as 100%, as opposed to the 80% determined by the High Court.

Following the success of Op Sindoor, India plans to purchase five more S-400s; Russia submits a cost proposal

New Delhi, Sep 05: India's decision to purchase five additional S-400 Triumf air defense systems from Russia has gained greater impetus after Moscow sent Delhi a Bill of Quantities (BOQ) proposal outlining construction and material costs so that cost talks could start. In November of this year, India will receive the final of the five S-400 systems that the Narendra Modi administration purchased in 2018 at a cost of USD 5.43 billion. Contrary to what some media outlets claim, India has not made a decision regarding the purchase of two squadrons of fifth-generation SU-57 fighter aircraft from Russia.

However, the Indian Air Force has expressed interest in Moscow's proposal because the Xi Jinping regime has deployed Chinese fifth-generation J-20 fighters in Hotan, Lhasa, and Nyinchi airbases in Tibet under the PLA's western theater command.

The Cabinet Committee on Security will decide whether to sanction five additional squadrons of the S-400 air defense system once the cost has been finalized with Moscow and the Indian finance ministry has given its approval, according to reliable sources.

The eastern region of India that faces China will see the deployment of the fifth S-400 system. During Operation Sindoor in May 2025, the S-400 system came out in flying colours with one of its long range missile targeting a Pakistan early airborne warning aircraft at a distance of 314 kilometers across the Indus in Pakistani heartland.

While the Pakistanis used kamikaze drones to target the S-400 systems deployed in Adampur and Bhuj air bases, the Russian surface to air missile system ensured that none of the Pakistani fighters could come anywhere near the Indian border for the fear of



being knocked down from the skies. In fact, on May 10, the Pakistani air force relocated all of its aircraft to bases close to the Durand Line with Afghanistan after Indian BrahMos missiles struck eleven of their air bases and Indian S-400 and Akash Tir air defense systems destroyed up to seven fighters. Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to attend the BRICS meeting in Delhi from September 11–13, which will further solidify India's defense cooperation with Russia in the area of hypersonic missiles.



These former auto workers offer a timely moral lesson

After everything, why would anyone still back Nigel Farage? In some of the comments below my piece last week about Reform UK, I spot the usual answers: Farage’s supporters are dim, racist, deplorable. Yet away from Westminster and the news cycle, Reform voters are being manufactured – not with headlines or crypto funds but through the failure of institutions they once trusted to protect them. To see what I mean, leave SW1 and go 40 miles up the road, to Luton. In a deserted hotel bar, five men are reminiscing about how their world ended. Their minds are on a Friday afternoon in March last year, as the place where they had worked for two or three decades apiece, making friends and even meeting future wives, is about to shut for good. Vauxhall came to Luton not long after the death of Queen Victoria; it helped build the town and gave it an economy and an identity. At its peak in 1971, the company directly employed 37,000 staff in Britain, mostly in Luton. Now it is leaving. On this afternoon, these men and so many of their soon-to-be ex-workmates are crowded around the assembly line. As the last white van comes off, they clap and cheer with pride for what they had been part of. Some cry. “It’s as if you had lost someone in your family,” remembers Paul Geary, whose ties with this place are four generations deep.

“It’s such a chunk of your life,” says Gerald Shalvey, who gave the company 34 years of his. Later, he walks back out on to the line and surveys the site where until this afternoon 1,600 people had worked. For the first time ever, the machinery is still and he hears nothing but silence: “an industrial graveyard”. Then he wonders what comes next,

for him, his mates and his town. For the hard right and far right alike, Luton is a contemporary hell. The star of countless memes and YouTube films, it spells migrants, Muslims and growing poverty. For some key players, the connection is personal. Luton boy Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, also known as Tommy Robinson, has talked of how his stepfather worked at Vauxhall. Andrew Tate grew up in what he calls “the worst area of the worst town” (actually, the same estate as Geary). They lived through Luton’s long decline; then they monetised it. The ex-Vauxhall workers talking to me are nothing to do with the rightward exploitation. But since their factory’s closure, they have seen fellow union members switch in droves from voting for Keir Starmer in 2024 to backing Farage. It’s not just Labour; their disgust is at a society they feel has let them and their families go under. A similar process is at work in other “industrial graveyards” from Grange-mouth to Port Talbot and across the west. In the east German province of Saxony-Anhalt, the far right looks set this weekend to win governing power for the first time in decades. Its current state premier, Sven Schulze, knows why: “We’ve seen how quickly we can lose our jobs, how quickly a company can disappear. That’s the experience east Germans have had, and it’s far deeper than west Germans think.” There isn’t the space here to look closely at how Vauxhall left Luton, but the final episode comes in three parts. First, the then boss of the company’s owner, Stellantis, visits the plant early in 2023 and tells staff they need to halve manufacturing costs to compete with employ.

Agony of losing a parent is confusing and isolating These are the things I wish had known earlier

My mother’s house looks exactly as she left it. Two novels sit by the armchair, their pages neatly marked for book group. Pinned to the noticeboard is a shopping list in only slightly shaky writing, with “FRUIT!” in urgent capitals, and “make soup” underlined. The sole outward signs of something missing are her cats twining needily around me – loneliness having finally overcome their innate horror of visitors – and the one thing I can’t bear to look at, which is the empty hospital bed marooned bleakly in the sitting room. Delivered by social services when it was deemed she could no longer manage stairs, it is now stripped bare, awaiting collection. Another family will be needing it.

This is not my childhood home – my parents moved here only a few years ago – but it’s the one, I suppose, where childhood formally ended. Washing up at her kitchen sink a fortnight ago, looking out at the same scarlet fuchsia I remember blazing in the garden when my father died, it struck me for the first time that soon I would no longer be anyone’s daughter. What I didn’t know then was that the loss of both parents would feel less like the end of a relationship and more like its transition to a new stage, of finally being able to see them clearly as people in their own right. I thought I’d nailed that years ago, but of course I was wrong. When news spread of her diagnosis – an aggressively fast-moving cancer, erupting from nowhere to overwhelm her in six weeks – my mother’s friends descended in hordes, bringing soup and cake and clove-scented sweet peas from their gardens. But they also brought stories I hadn’t heard before. Though my father was the outwardly gregarious one and my mother more self-effacing, evidently she was the one who watched and listened and caught what others missed. I already knew that for a while she’d channelled that into volunteering as a Samaritan – her way of dealing with the suicide of a close family friend – and training as a Relate counsellor. I was vaguely aware,

too, that in retirement she’d founded local hillwalking groups, a social club for widows – and who knows what else. But stupidly, I hadn’t realised what the things we took for granted – “there goes Mum, on one of her missions again” – meant to others. She had been the author of small kindnesses remembered for decades. Fiercely independent at 84, my mother dreaded going into a home. So when she was given less than three months to live, my sister and I promised to nurse her at home, despite having no real plan for managing that alongside jobs and teenage children, beyond somehow basically winging it. Have a baby and the world falls over itself to offer advice. But losing a parent remains a private, bewildering, lonely affair. Here, then, are a few things I wish I’d known at the beginning of summer, in case – like that empty bed – another family can use them.

That care for the dying will trigger the instant muscle memory of caring for small children, if you had them: the same broken nights, same constant vigilance, same exhaustion after a day in which you can’t name a lower back, get a professional to show you how to move a bedbound patient safely. That there are moments of unspeakably black humour to be found even in dying, if you’re that kind of family.

What is Donald Trump playing at? If it’s true that the best way of understanding the behaviour of an organisation is to assume it’s controlled by a secret cabal of its enemies, perhaps that same logic extends to the current conduct of the president of the United States. Maybe he secretly wants Republicans to lose the looming midterm elections that will decide the balance of power in the US for the next two years and for which the first postal ballots were sent out today. That’s not as mad a theory as it sounds. Indeed, there are at least two reasons why Trump might either be unbothered by Republican defeat in November or even covertly desire it. We’ll come to those, but let’s start with a pattern of behaviour that is hard to explain as anything other than calculated self-sabotage.

At the centre of it is the single act that is already defining Trump’s second term: his reckless, failed war of choice against Iran. No matter how many times he declares mission accomplished or claims to have destroyed the Iranian military or to have reopened the strait of Hormuz, the facts keep telling a different story. In the past week, the two sides shifted from an economic standoff back to a shooting war, with the US firing on Iranian targets that included a wedding party, killing four, and Tehran striking out all over the neighbourhood, hitting Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan and Bahrain. The impact on US voters is severe, felt most directly through rising petrol prices and grocery bills. But look at the graph measuring the cost the US government must pay to borrow money: it’s been a steep upward climb since 28 February, the day the war began, hitting a fresh high on Tuesday. For consumers, that rise translates into an expected jump in interest rates. It means that many of those casting ballots are likely to be doing so just as they start paying more on their credit card bills and mortgages. Given that Trump was elected in November 2024 on a promise to bring down inflation, it’s hard to think of a worse environment for a governing party about to face the voters’ verdict. And that’s before you consider the disenchantment of the *Maga* faithful, who thought the whole point of Trump was an end to forever wars in the Middle East. And yet, Iran may not even be the most electorally damaging of Trump’s foreign adventures. He is, and it would once have been absurd to write this sentence, leading his country into a state of war

Nigel Farage’s encounter with a shadowy foreign donor

How many sarcastic air quotes is too many for quoting Nigel Farage’s suggestion that Reform have been “” by some undercover investigators into appearing to seek to get round electoral law to bag a £500k donation from a foreigner, as well as commissioning off-the-books polling and failing to identify it to newspapers? I don’t feel eight was too many. I could run to nine. Amazing, really, that it’s been as long as a few weeks since Farage had a crash-out and forced a bye-election. All any of us wants is for Nigel to once again resign after a staged shitfit and ask a few thousand members of the public to judge him. For whatever reason, though, the law of our country does not amount to an “” tattoo, and so it is that as Reform’s conference gets under way today, the party has been reported to the police for allegedly using foreign money to fund its activities. It’s all based on a covert sting carried out by Verbatim – an investigative group founded by journalists from the non-profit Centre for Climate Reporting – and broadcast last night on Channel 4 News.

Though Farage has some very significant walk-on parts in this secretly filmed footage, the chief protagonists in the hokey cokey are James Orr, the *Thought* Farage has some very significant walk-on parts in this secretly filmed footage, the chief protagonists in the hokey cokey are James Orr, the party’s director of policy, and Nigel’s right-hand man Dan Jukes. Jukes is one of the many Farage aides to physically resemble an Apprentice candidate who crashes out in week four after miscalculating quantities in the sweetshop task. Still, he’d make a lovely Rolf in a regional production of *The Sound of Music*. And, happily, would now have the time to really commit to the role. “If Nigel makes it to No 10,” he honks at one point during filming carried out by an undercover “donor”, “you’re having a pint with who’s effectpartament as a toy phone ringing out in an abandoned wendy house.

Compared to Keir, Andy Burnham portrays his new administration

If Starmerism sought to present the Labour government as more rightwing than it is, Burnhamism seeks to do the opposite. The change in rhetoric is certainly stark. Unlike his sulking predecessor, the new prime minister offers both an analysis and a vision. British stagnation and decline, Andy Burnham correctly told the House of Commons, can be explained by a series of “wrong turns” taken from the 1980s onwards: the privatisation of economic power, the deindustrialisation of the country and the ruinous austerity that followed the 2008 crash. The solution, Burnham suggests, is public control of the essentials, the devolution of power and the rebirth of industry – to rebuild living standards and the economy and give long-abandoned communities a future. Keir Starmer, by contrast, had no vision, relying instead on a technocratic image of competence that was swiftly shattered by one fiasco after another. That left him defined by his opponents, and the electorate baffled as to where his government was headed. The Starmer project foregrounded all of the government’s reactionary elements and buried its social-democratic features. Stringent fiscal rules, the assault on the winter fuel allowance, the attack on disability benefits, the construction of one

of Europe’s most punitive asylum regimes, the arrest of pensioners who opposed Israel’s genocide: all became headline policies by design. Now consider what they shouted least about: the semi-nationalisation of the railways, the creation of the publicly run Great British Energy, modest improvements to workers’ and renters’ rights, and some progressive taxation measures, such as hiking capital gains tax. That was for a reason: defining itself against the left was the core strategy of Starmerism. When, in opposition, Starmer committed to retaining the Tories’ two-child benefit cap – even though it plunged hundreds of thousands of children into poverty – his advisers believed, as the journalist Andrew Marr put it, that “the public will notice him standing up to the left”. Starmer junked the radical policy commitments he made to become leader and claimed Labour had gone “from a party of dogma to a party of patriotism” and “from a party of protest to a party of public service”. Labour voters defected en masse to Zack Polanski’s Greens, first in the Gorton and Denton by-election and then in June’s local elections. Starmer’s strategy of insulting progressive voters and their values succeeded in plungin.

To what extent does Donald Trump worry about winning the midterm elections

What is Donald Trump playing at? If it’s true that the best way of understanding the behaviour of an organisation is to assume it’s controlled by a secret cabal of its enemies, perhaps that same logic extends to the current conduct of the president of the United States. Maybe he secretly wants Republicans to lose the looming midterm elections that will decide the balance of power in the US for the next two years and for which the first postal ballots were sent out today. That’s not as mad a theory as it sounds. Indeed, there are at least two reasons why Trump might either be unbothered by Republican defeat in November or even covertly desire it. We’ll come to those, but let’s start with a pattern of behaviour that is hard to explain as anything other than calculated self-sabotage.

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gets that included a wedding party, killing four, and Tehran striking out all over the neighbourhood, hitting Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan and Bahrain. The impact on US voters is severe, felt most directly through rising petrol prices and grocery bills. But look at the graph measuring the cost the US government must pay to borrow money: it’s been a steep upward climb since 28 February, the day the war began, hitting a fresh high on Tuesday. For consumers, that rise translates into an expected jump in interest rates. It means that many of those casting ballots are likely to be doing so just as they start paying more on their credit card bills and mortgages. Given that Trump was elected in November 2024 on a promise to bring down inflation, it’s hard to think of a worse environment for a governing party about to face the voters’ verdict. And that’s before you consider the disenchantment of the *Maga* faithful, who thought the whole point of Trump was an end to forever wars in the Middle East. And yet, Iran may not even be the most electorally damaging of Trump’s foreign adventures. He is, and it would once have been absurd to write this sentence, leading his country into a state of war

with ... Canada. It’s easy to laugh at the petty gestures, such as Trump’s renaming of Lake Ontario as Lake America, a move shamefully followed, and therefore endorsed, by Apple and Google in their map apps. But the economic confrontation is serious – and seriously damaging to Republicans’ electoral prospects. For which US states are hit hardest by Canada’s “dollar-for-dollar” response to Trump’s tariffs? Why, it’s Michigan, Ohio, Maine, Iowa and Texas, all of which just happen to have key senate contests this year. Republican candidates in those states now have to explain why a crucial and previously friendly export market – Canada takes nearly a third of Iowa’s exports, for example – has suddenly turned icy. What’s odd is that Trump’s trade wars are also wars of choice, and they are hurting especially badly what should be a reliable Republican constituency: farmers. Take Iowa: Democrats have not won a senate seat in that farming state for nearly 20 years, yet now, thanks to Trump’s tariffs, they have a genuine shot. Still, perhaps the most egregious illustration of Trump’s apparent determination to ruin Republican chances in the midterms is his support for datacentres. Few issues have seen their salience rise so quickly and in

such a clear direction: almost overnight, they have become objects of fear and loathing across the country and across the political spectrum, with seven in 10 Americans saying they would not want one anywhere near where they live. Even among Republicans, there is deep concern over their environmental impact, energy consumption and water use. For others, datacentres have become a lightning rod for a broader anxiety over AI and what it may do to our jobs and our lives. Either way, they are kryptonite to voters. So where does Trump stand? “The only reason that communities throughout the USA should not want data centres is if they want to end up being backwards and poor,” the president posted on Monday. In that remark, he not only put himself at odds with most US voters, he insulted them too. It’s almost a talent, this ability of Trump’s to land on the wrong side of so-called 80/20 issues, siding with one-fifth of the electorate against the rest. Likewise, strong majorities oppose his vanity projects, whether demolishing the East Wing of the White House to build a ballroom or putting his signature on the dollar bill, yet he persists not only in doing them but in talking about them constantly.

Burnham is under intense pressure to please the right, but it’s time to move

Despite the bright start to Andy Burnham’s premiership, and Reform UK’s sudden disarray, a shadow still hangs over British centre-left politics. Labour has a small poll lead, a cautious air of confidence and a leader who seems energised rather than overwhelmed by trying to solve the country’s problems. Meanwhile, Reform is having a terrible 2026: mired in deepening funding scandals, losing winnable byelections and, thanks to the drama and novelty of Burnham’s leadership coup and new government, no longer the freshest story around. Yet Reform UK’s support has either held up or fallen only slightly in most polls since Burnham entered Downing Street. Even in the Makerfield by-election, where he beat it more decisively than expected, Reform’s vote share and total support actually rose. Nigel Farage may have spent the year uncharacteristically avoiding journalists, or in his prickly rather than jolly public mode, but the overwhelming majority of Reform supporters, almost a quarter of the electorate, remain faithful. “Power is within our grasp!” insisted Zia Yusuf, Reform’s home

affairs spokesman, at its party conference in Birmingham on Friday, and they applauded with determined gusto. Meanwhile, their preoccupations continue to shape politics and how the Meanwhile, their preoccupations continue to shape politics and how the media processes it. Immigration, crime, the benefits system, “wokeness”, net zero policies: all are constantly presented as out of control and contributing to national decline. From our overcrowded prisons to our almost exhausted North Sea oil- and gasfields, what are widely considered to be the most politically realistic options for the government are generally what most Reform voters would like to happen. The likelihood that permanent crime crackdowns and further large-scale fossil-fuel drilling – which the government looks increasingly likely to approve – will be disastrous for a country with an ever more obvious climate crisis and unprecedentedly large prison population, by historical and European standards, does not disturb this deep-rooted rightwing consensus. The pressure on Burnham to go along with it as prime minister will be never-ending.

Yet the risks of governing under Reform’s shadow, while less discussed, are much larger. So far, Labour’s fragile poll recovery has mainly been built by taking support back from the Greens and Lib Dems, as the dip in their poll ratings since a Burnham premiership became likely has demonstrated. This change would almost certainly be undone if Burnham decided to follow a Reform-defined agenda. Keir Starmer’s abrupt announcement that he will leave parliament is the ultimate result of him making exactly that mistake in Downing Street – and has given the Greens’ leader, Zack Polanski, a chance to reverse the momentum shift from his party to Labour by standing as a byelection candidate. Meanwhile, with Reform, Restore and the Tories all competing to be the most rightwing, and this country’s many reactionary media outlets doing the same, many right-leaning voters are even more convinced than usual that no Labour government is acceptable. So the appeasement of conservative Britain, designed by Morgan McSweeney and carried out by Starmer, not always with conviction, was never likely

to win many converts for long. In a deeply divided country, the days of Labour premiers attracting and holding on to large numbers of rightwing voters, as Tony Blair, Harold Wilson and Clement Attlee once did, are gone, at least for now. As a politician unusually keen by modern standards on cross-party collaboration and broad coalitions, Burnham could waste much of what may not be a long premiership trying to build bridges with the right. But there are some early signs he may pursue a more streetwise strategy. His debut contributions as prime minister in parliament this week mixed consensual catchphrases such as “problem-solving over point-scoring”, which made the Tory leader, Kemi Badenoch, sound rigidly confrontational in response, with sweeping attacks on areas where the right is vulnerable. Austerity, Brexit, privatisation and the centralisation of power in London have dwindling electoral support and even less credibility, however loudly the Tories and Reform defend some or all of them, because for decades these old-fashioned rightwing remedies have clearly failed

to revive the country. “Far from ‘taking back control’, the combination of those policies took control out of the hands of communities up and down Britain,” said Burnham, deftly turning a key promise of populism back against the “Far from ‘taking back control’, the combination of those policies took control out of the hands of communities up and down Britain,” said Burnham, deftly turning a key promise of populism back against the rightwing populists. He knows that while Margaret Thatcher is still revered by Farage and Badenoch, the sometimes brutal economic changes that she and her Conservative successors drove through are not popular with all Tory and Reform voters. They may never switch to supporting Labour, but could support parts of Burnham’s programme, such as stronger public control over “the essentials of life” currently provided at excessive cost by toxic Thatcherite creations such as Thames Water. The approval, tacit or otherwise, of usually hostile voters on a specific issue can provide useful political cover for a government – especially an unpopular one,

which Burnham’s is likely to be, however he performs, given the number of parties arrayed against him in our fragmented political landscape. He may well need that cover if his government is going to restructure the economy even half as ambitiously as he promises. The shareholders, financiers, lawyers and corporate executives who have done extremely well out of privatisation are not going to give up their gains and privileges without a fight. A temporary coalition of leftwing and rightwing voters may be the only way to overcome them. The economy is not democratic – much to the disappointment of generations of radical leftists – but in a democracy, powerful interests can be curbed or even defeated if they are challenged by a premier acting with broad public consent, as Attlee and Franklin D Roosevelt once did against some of the 20th century’s most entrenched economic elites. Yet if Burnham is to govern with anything like those legendary reformers’ effectiveness, then in other policy areas his government is going to have to stand up to Reform supporters.

New research about them by King’s College London and UK in a Changing Europe shows that, despite this summer being the UK’s hottest ever, almost two-thirds “want to scrap the 2050 net zero target”.

Meanwhile, a new Ipsos poll shows that immigration remains the number one public issue, particularly for Reform and Tory voters, despite the fact that immigration is rapidly falling. Sooner or later, Burnham is going to have to use his celebrated communications skills to tell Britons some home truths, whether rightwing voters want to hear them or not. Otherwise, Reform’s shadow will chill his government for good.

RBI Fixes SGB Early Redemption Price at ₹15,334

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India has set the premature redemption price of Sovereign Gold Bond 2021–22 Series VI at ₹15,334 per unit, allowing eligible investors to exit the tranche after completing its five-year lock-in period.

The redemption will be available on September 7, 2026, which also marks the scheduled semi-annual interest payment date and five years since the bonds were issued on September 7, 2021. Under the scheme rules, premature redemption is permitted only after five years and on designated interest payment dates.

The redemption price is linked to the prevailing value of gold rather than the original issue price. It is calculated us-



ing the average closing price of 999-purity gold over the three business days preceding redemption, based on prices published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association.

For this tranche, the ₹15,334 redemption price was determined using gold prices recorded on September 2, 3 and 4, 2026. Investors can therefore choose between exiting at the notified rate or

continuing to hold the bonds until their scheduled eight-year maturity.

SGBs are available to eligible Indian residents, including individuals, Hindu Undivided Families, trusts, universities and charitable institutions. The premature redemption facility is specific to eligible tranches and can be exercised only on the prescribed interest payment dates.

Nagaland's insurance push signals wider economic protection against rising risks

Aizawl: Nagaland's first State-Level Insurance Committee (SLIC) meeting under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) State Insurance Plan (SIP) has highlighted the economic importance of expanding insurance coverage across households, businesses and vulnerable communities in the state.

Chaired by Kesonyu Yhome, IAS, Finance Commissioner, Government of Nagaland, the meeting brought together IRDAI officials, Tata AIG General Insurance Company Ltd, government departments and insurance companies to discuss ways to improve insurance penetration and narrow the state's protection gap. Tata AIG is the lead insurer for Nagaland under the SIP.

Yhome pointed to Nagaland's exposure to natural calamities, high seismic activity and landslides, which can create significant financial shocks for households, enterprises and public assets. He called for insurance assessments covering motor, home, MSMEs, assets and other risks, besides exploring Nagaland's inclusion under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Madhukar Sinha, President, Government & Rural Business, Tata AIG, outlined the SIP framework and the lead

insurer's role in expanding protection.

The scale of existing insurance support was also highlighted, with nearly 1.20 lakh people receiving claims of around ₹300 crore over the past two years under schemes including the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme, Chief Minister's Life Insurance Scheme and Digital Piggy Insurance initiative.

The committee's decision to intensify district-level awareness campaigns, especially in rural and vulnerable communities, is expected to strengthen last-mile insurance access and support Nagaland's contribution to the national "Insurance for All by 2047" goal.

Nestlé India extends flood relief support to Assam, with 2,000 grocery kits for Jorhat

Jorhat: Nestlé India has announced an expanded flood-relief initiative across Assam, Nagaland and Odisha, working with local administrations to provide essential supplies to communities affected by flooding.

In Assam, Nestlé India coordinated with the District Commissioners of Jorhat and Sivasagar to support relief operations. The company provided 4,000 grocery kits, including 2,000 kits each for affected communities in Jorhat and Sivasagar. The Assam Disaster Relief Team and local authorities supported the timely distribution of

the kits.

In Nagaland, following outreach to the District Commissioner of Mon, Nestlé India provided 1,000 grocery kits to flood-affected communities. The District Administration and local civil bodies supported the distribution.

In Odisha, the company worked with the District Administration in Bhubaneswar to provide assistance in Chandbali Tehsil and Tihidi Block, comprising 3,000 grocery kits and 1,000 hygiene kits.

In Jorhat, the distribution of 2,000 grocery kits provides direct support to households facing flood-related disruptions.

With essential supplies potentially affected by logistical and accessibility challenges during flooding, coordinated relief efforts can help vulnerable families meet immediate consumption needs while local authorities work to restore normal conditions.

Kunwar Himmat Singh, Head, Corporate Affairs, Sustainability and CSR, Nestlé India, said the company would continue doing its best to support communities whenever and wherever assistance is needed, highlighting the collective efforts of its teams during the relief response.

Flipkart Minutes Narrows Basket-Size Gap With Blinkit as Electronics and Smartphones Boost Orders

Jorhat: Flipkart's quick-commerce platform Minutes has narrowed the average order value gap with market leader Blinkit, with smartphone and consumer electronics sales helping it achieve a larger overall basket size, according to channel checks by global brokerage UBS.

Excluding mobile phone purchases, Minutes recorded a net average order value of around ₹500 to ₹530, broadly in line with Blinkit's ₹518 average net order value during the first quarter of fiscal 2026–27. Including smartphones, however, Minutes moves ahead of Blinkit, benefiting from Flipkart's established position in higher-value electronics.

Swiggy Instamart recorded a net average order value of ₹508 during the same period, keeping the leading quick-commerce platforms relatively close in terms of



basket value. Amazon Now remained lower at a gross average order value of ₹400 to ₹450, although the figure represented an increase from ₹260 to ₹300 recorded in April 2026 checks.

Minutes has also expanded its physical network, operating more than 1,000 dark stores across around 120 to 130 cities. Individual stores process roughly 800 to 1,000 orders a day, with established locations han-

dling significantly higher volumes as demand increases.

The platform initially relied heavily on mobile phones and other electronic products during its first year of operations. It has since expanded its assortment to include fresh produce, personal care and beauty products as Flipkart seeks to attract consumers who shifted to dedicated quick-commerce platforms for routine

household purchases.

Minutes is also benefiting from its integration with the wider Flipkart ecosystem. In cities where the service is available, around 40 to 45 percent of customers visiting the main Flipkart application also explore Minutes, indicating significant cross-shopping between the two platforms.

Metro markets continue to account for the bulk of demand, contributing around

60 to 65 percent of total consumption. Northern India generates slightly less than one-third of overall volumes, while southern markets have emerged as a rapidly expanding region for the service.

Despite the progress, Blinkit continues to lead the sector in terms of user scale and expansion momentum, accounting for around 38 percent of tracked monthly active users. Minutes, however, has strengthened its advertising business, with ad revenues reaching levels comparable with those of major competitors.

Operational efficiency remains an area where Minutes trails Blinkit. Its gross margins are still below those of the market leader, although per-order fulfillment costs across several urban locations have moved closer to levels reported by Blinkit and Swiggy Instamart.

Heavy Trading Volumes Trigger Sharp Gains in Select Midcap Stocks



Mumbai: Select midcap stocks witnessed sharp intraday gains amid a surge in trading activity, with strong buying interest emerging in railway engineering, pharmaceuticals, state-run trading and capital market counters.

The stock-specific rallies came as Indian benchmark indices extended their afternoon gains, supported by a recovery in global markets after softer US bond yields eased concerns over interest rates. The BSE Sensex rose as much as 730 points to 76,704, while the NSE Nifty 50 touched 24,005, with gains led by major stocks including Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, ITC, State Bank of India and Larsen & Toubro.

HBL Engineering gained 8.71 percent to reach an intraday high of ₹724 after company management indicated strong sales prospects for its Kavach railway signalling systems

during 2026–27 and 2027–28. Trading on the NSE jumped 16.4 times the average, with 1.03 crore shares changing hands against the usual 6.28 lakh shares. BSE volumes also increased sharply to 9.23 lakh shares from a two-week average of 82,000.

Gland Pharma advanced 2.24 percent to ₹2,970 following an exchange filing on the completion of a routine US Food and Drug Administration inspection at its sterile oncology formulations and active pharmaceutical ingredient facility in Visakhapatnam. The inspection, conducted between August 24 and September 1, resulted in no Form 483 observations. NSE trading volume rose 6.8 times to 20.82 lakh shares, while BSE volumes reached 1.07 crore shares against a two-week average of 49,000.

Shares of MMTC climbed 6.2 percent to an intraday high of ₹66.14, with NSE turnover rising 6.4 times to

64.68 lakh shares from an average of 10.13 lakh. On the BSE, 3.98 lakh shares were traded compared with a two-week average of 1.2 lakh shares.

Titagarh Rail Systems rose 6.22 percent to ₹897.60 as NSE volumes increased 5.1 times to 18 lakh shares against an average of 3.55 lakh. BSE trading also strengthened, with 2.41 lakh shares changing hands compared with a two-week average of 41,000 shares.

Angel One gained 7.78 percent to an intraday high of ₹308, in line with broader strength across brokerage and capital-market stocks. The buying followed the Securities and Exchange Board of India's announcement that it would review the derivatives settlement mechanism at expiry amid feedback on pricing during closing auction sessions. A formal consultation paper was expected within a week.

Angel One's NSE volume rose 3.7 times to 2.21 crore shares from its normal average of 60.50 lakh shares. The sharp increase in turnover across these counters highlighted renewed stock-specific participation as investors responded to company developments and broader improvements in market sentiment.

Volkswagen India Plans 12% Workforce Reduction Ahead of New EV Launch



Pune: Volkswagen is accelerating a restructuring programme in India that could reduce its workforce by around 12 percent by 2027 as the German automaker cuts costs ahead of new vehicle launches, including an electric model.

The programme, being implemented through Skoda Auto Volkswagen India, began in 2025 and is expected to affect several hundred employees across office and manufacturing roles. The company is also planning to expand its engineering operations and increase investments in India.

Piyush Arora, Managing Director and CEO of Skoda Auto Volkswagen India, said the company was con-

tinuing efforts to improve operational efficiency while declining to comment on speculative workforce figures. Volkswagen currently holds around 2 percent of India's passenger vehicle market amid competition from major domestic and global manufacturers.

The restructuring comes separately from Volkswagen Group's global overhaul, which includes plans to cut 50,000 jobs and reduce capital expenditure. Meanwhile, the German automaker is nearing a potential arrangement under which Sajjan Jindal's JSW Group could acquire a controlling stake in its Indian automotive business, potentially providing fresh capital for future growth.

PMKVY Records Just 7% Placement Rate as Dropouts Outnumber Successful Hires by More Than Three Times

New Delhi: India's flagship vocational training programme, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), has recorded formal employment placements for only about 7 percent of candidates who completed training, highlighting the continuing challenge of converting skill development into sustainable job opportunities.

Data available on the official PMKVY monitoring dashboard showed that 2.85 million candidates had completed training as of August 28, but only 200,224 of them were recorded as having secured placements. The figures point to a substantial gap between the number of young people receiving formal vocational training and those eventually moving into documented employment.

PMKVY was launched in 2015 as the Centre's flagship

skill development initiative, with the objective of providing industry-relevant training to young people and improving their employability. The programme has been implemented across a wide range of sectors, covering occupations linked to industries such as telecommunications, apparel, automotive, information technology, tourism, media and management.

The overall enrolment figures also reveal significant attrition during the training process. Around 3.54 million candidates were enrolled across different PMKVY streams, of whom approximately 683,000 were recorded as dropouts. This means more than 19 percent of those enrolled left the programme before completing their training.

The number of candidates who dropped out was there-

fore more than three times the number of candidates who eventually secured formal placements. The data also showed that around 2.04 million candidates underwent formal assessments, while approximately 1.95 million received official skill certifications after completing the required process.

Placement outcomes varied considerably between sectors, suggesting that the ability of training programmes to translate into employment differs significantly depending on the industry and the availability of jobs. Among sectors with substantial enrolment, telecommunications recorded the strongest placement performance, with 17.5 percent of trained candidates securing jobs.

The handicrafts sector followed with a placement rate of 14.4 percent, while apparel

recorded placements for 13.3 percent of trained candidates. These sectors performed considerably better than several other areas covered by the programme, although their overall placement rates still meant that a large proportion of trained candidates were not reflected in formal employment figures.

At the lower end of the placement spectrum, management courses recorded a conversion rate of just 1.1 percent. The automotive sector reported a placement rate of 3.4 percent, while media and entertainment registered 3.8 percent. The relatively low conversion rates in these sectors underline the difficulty of ensuring that training completion translates directly into employment.

Dropout rates also differed sharply across industries. Media and entertainment re-

corded the highest attrition, with 26.5 percent of enrolled candidates leaving before completing the programme. Information technology and enabled services followed with a dropout rate of 25.9 percent, while tourism and hospitality recorded attrition of 24.9 percent.

The figures cover several phases of PMKVY and reflect the programme's changing approach to measuring employment outcomes. Under the Short-Term Training component of PMKVY 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0, direct job placements were formally tracked as part of the programme's outcome measurement framework.

The approach changed under PMKVY 4.0. Rather than relying primarily on direct placement verification, the newer framework introduced a one-year post-certification tracking system. The revised

mechanism seeks to capture a broader range of outcomes after candidates complete their training.

The National Skill Development Corporation is responsible for monitoring post-certification pathways under the current framework. The tracking process uses telephonic follow-ups as well as digital monitoring mechanisms to gather information about what candidates do after receiving their certification.

The broader PMKVY framework continues to operate through three principal components: Short-Term Training, Special Projects and Recognition of Prior Learning. The Recognition of Prior Learning component is designed to formally assess and certify skills that workers may have acquired through informal employment, traditional occupations or on-the-job

experience in the unorganised sector.

Special Projects under the programme are intended to address specific skill requirements or reach groups and locations that may not be adequately covered through conventional training structures. Together with short-term courses and prior-learning certification, these components form the main structure through which the government seeks to expand access to vocational skills.

The sector-wise variation also suggests that employment prospects can depend heavily on the demand conditions within individual industries. Sectors with stronger placement rates may offer clearer pathways from training to jobs, while areas with weaker absorption may require closer alignment between course content, em-

ployer requirements and the number of workers being trained.

With millions of candidates entering government-supported skill programmes, improving retention during training and strengthening post-certification employment pathways remain important to ensuring that public investment in vocational education translates into measurable economic opportunities.

The shift towards tracking higher education, entrepreneurship and self-employment under PMKVY 4.0 is expected to provide a broader picture of how trained candidates progress after certification. However, the latest placement data from the earlier phases continues to highlight the scale of the challenge in converting large-scale skill development efforts into formal employment outcomes.

Cambridge University examines conduct of academic suspended by Reform UK

UK: Cambridge University has said it is examining the conduct of James Orr, its associate professor and a top Reform UK aide, after he was filmed appearing to try to circumvent electoral laws on foreign political donations.

Orr, the suspended head of policy for Reform, is one of two senior officials to step aside after claims that he orchestrated a plot to have polling paid for by a foreign firm – something that is impermissible under British electoral law.

The academic was filmed by a group of investigative journalists called Verbatim, founded by the Centre for Climate Reporting, seemingly attempting to sidestep election laws.

In a statement shared with the Guardian, a spokesperson for the University of Cambridge said: “The university is looking into these matters.”

Orr is an associate professor of religion at Cambridge’s divinity faculty and teaches students at the university.

Little known outside UK and US political circles, Orr has been a highly influential intellectual force within Reform. He was labelled the party’s “philosopher king” by the news organisation Politico.

A key attraction for senior figures in Reform when appointing Orr was his high-level US political contacts within the MAGA movement.

JD Vance, the US vice-president, has called him his “intellectual mentor” and his “British Sherpa”.

Footage broadcast by Channel 4 News on Thursday night showed an undercover reporter



posing as a UK-based supporter in conversation with Orr.

Orr discussed commissioning polling that was secretly organised by Reform, but suggested it be paid for by a US company belonging to the fake supporter’s supposed father. In a separate clip, Orr can be heard saying of the poll funding arrangement that Nigel Farage “doesn’t know, won’t know” and it is the kind of thing he would “rather not know”.

Reform UK initially described the Channel 4 News and Verbatim investigation as a “hoax”.

On Thursday evening, Orr posted a video on his X account in which he said: “There is absolutely no way this could amount to a benefit or donation in kind at all.”

He dismissed Verbatim as “politically motivated actors trying to discredit a political opponent through dubious legal means”.

Still, on Friday morning he and Dan Jukes, a senior aide to Farage who has also denied wrongdoing, stood down pending an internal party investigation into the claims raised by the broadcast.

Farage, who was also featured in the investigation meeting with the fake supporters, distanced himself from Orr and Jukes on Friday.

The party leader told reporters: “The two individuals involved are not even part of our fundraising team, so they should have gone through the appropriate channels.

Checks would have been made and they would never, ever have got to sit down at a table with me.”

Hundreds gather to urge Scottish government to pause datacentre boom

UK: Kat Jones may be the closest thing Scotland has to Erin Brockovich in 2026. Standing in the shadow of Arthur’s Seat outside Holyrood, the 52-year-old is revving up the crowd of protesters around her. “Who is here from Lammermuir? Ayrshire? What about Aberdeen?” she calls to the crowd.

On Thursday, hundreds travelled to Edinburgh to call for an immediate moratorium on Scotland’s datacentre boom, which includes one project in Auchtertool, Fife, that has been billed as the second largest in the world.

Jones, the director of the NGO Action to Protect Rural Scotland, is spearheading a campaign demanding a pause while the Scottish government produces analysis on the environmental impact of the centres, and clear planning guidance on the definition of a “green” datacentre.

She is a whirl of action: greeting, encouraging, emailing and introducing. Thursday’s protest was the biggest yet.

In John Swinney’s programme for government on Tuesday, Scotland’s equivalent to the king’s speech, the first minister said he would take a strategic approach to datacentres with “expectations around environmental sustainability, resource use, community benefit”, but



stopped short of agreeing to a moratorium.

For the campaigners, this is not enough. From Dubar to Greenock, there is fierce anger at the speed and scale of the projects in the planning pipeline. At least 20 are proposed so far, with more rumoured. Some are planned in the countryside not far from small villages, others next to care homes and residential housing.

Kathleen White, who is campaigning against a proposed £2bn datacentre in Lammermuir hills in the Scottish borders, said the project did not make any sense in her area.

“We are from a small village of about a hundred people. The project is planned about a mile up the road,” she said. “There’s a reservoir and an angling spot. It’s an upland area with dark skies. The datacentre buildings would cover eight hectares [20 acres] of mostly concrete in a greenfield area. It is going to be a monstrosity.”

The rising public anger about the datacentre build-out that underpins the global AI boom is a growing threat to the UK’s strategy. Keir Starmer’s government leaned heavily on AI as a means to turbocharge a limp economy while he was prime minister. Crucial to this were “AI growth zones”, which were areas where Britain planned to build massive AI datacentres in the hope that jobs and growth would follow. The Guardian’s investigations have called into question the numbers and reasoning behind this strategy.

The UK’s grid is strained, and proposed datacentres are meeting stiff resistance in London and elsewhere in the south of England. This spring, British officials pushed would-be AI datacentre developers to look north – suggesting Scotland, with its renewable energy and abundant water resources, is better-equipped to support the

country’s efforts to keep up in the AI race. One of the UK’s five AI growth zones will be in Lanarkshire, a rural area outside Glasgow. Mounting public anger – and a potential moratorium – could jeopardise this pivot. But Jones rejects any suggestion that the moratorium campaign is standing in the way of progress.

“People who are campaigning locally on issues that matter to them a lot get accused of being nimbys. But this is a campaign that has national and international consequences. Datacentres are some of the biggest buildings on the planet, they use so much energy.

“Local campaigners are the most motivated to oppose them because they are a direct existential threat to the places they love, right near their homes, near hospitals, near schools.” The opposition to large-scale datacentres has also been backed by the Scottish Greens and by Reform UK. Reform has raised concerns about the number of projects, while the Scottish Greens have backed the moratorium – echoing the campaigners’ demands for a national framework.

Ross Greer, co-leader of the Scottish Greens, who was outside Holyrood with protesters, said: “If we want to have the internet, we need datacentres and Scotland already has plenty of them. “But some of these new hyper-scale datacentres of 120MW to 200MW – in total, those proposed would require more energy than all of Scotland needs at its peak at the moment. That is clearly not possible.”

The Scottish government has said that all planning authorities must notify ministers of new datacentre applications exceeding 50MW within a week to help monitor their impact on infrastructure, but underscored that the centres are important for economic growth.

The public finance minister for Scotland, Hannah Mary Goodlad, said: “We must balance the economic and employment interests in developing datacentres with national energy, climate and community wealth building ambitions, which are vital to our future prosperity, as well as the potential impact on local communities.”

Argentine leader threatens to sanction oil firms and reiterates Falklands claim



Argentina: Argentina’s president has heightened tensions with the UK over the Falkland Islands, warning he will impose economic sanctions on firms which exploit oil close to the British overseas territory.

In a national address, Javier Milei said the “winds of change” favoured Argentina’s claim to the islands, emboldened by signs the US might reconsider its stance of neutrality on the issue.

Milei said the Sea Lion oilfield, where a British and an Israeli firm are due to begin exploration work, was a “clear and present danger”.

More than 40 years after the war over the territory, sovereignty of the archipelago in the south-west Atlantic Ocean remains hotly disputed between Britain and Argentina. BBC News has contacted the UK government for comment on

economy for a small place... we will remain forever British”.

The crux was a proposal to introduce a bill to parliament to impose sanctions on energy firms planning to begin oil exploration off the Falklands.

The Sea Lion oilfield, around 130 miles from the islands, contains an estimated 1.7 billion barrels of oil.

Two oil companies – Britain’s Rockhopper Exploration and Israel’s Navitas Petroleum – are due to begin extracting oil in the Sea Lion oilfield off the Falklands coast within two years, something Milei said Argentina could not allow.

Rockhopper has described the field as containing “highly marketable crude”.

In a video posted earlier this year, Navitas highlighted the work it is already carrying out in the Falklands including building a dock, a heliport and accommodation for oil workers.

The BBC has contacted the two companies for responses to Milei’s latest comments.

“If we do not act swiftly in a few months, they will have the material capacity to access the oil that lies underneath our sea – something that has never happened before,” Milei said.

US May Strike Iran’s Pickaxe Nuclear Site Soon, Trump Warns

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Friday warned that the United States could strike Iran’s heavily fortified underground nuclear facility known as Pickaxe Mountain “very soon” if American intelligence detects renewed activity at the site.

Speaking to reporters at the Oval Office, Trump defended the ongoing US military campaign against Iran, saying Washington’s primary objective was to prevent Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. He claimed that US military action had prevented Iran from developing such a weapon within five months.

“We’re in five months now. And you know what we did in five months? They’re not going to have a nuclear weapon; that’s what we did,” Trump said.

Trump further warned that Iran would not be allowed to acquire a nuclear



weapon, arguing that such a development could pose a serious threat to the United States and its allies.

Referring specifically to Pickaxe Mountain, Trump said the facility could be targeted if US intelligence detected activity there.

“We may hit Pickaxe very soon because if there was anything going on with Pickaxe,” Trump said, adding that US intelligence agencies were closely monitoring developments at the site.

“We know everybody that’s moving at Pickaxe; we know everybody that’s moving everywhere all over Iran. And if anything goes bad, we hit them; we hit them hard,” he said.

Pickaxe Mountain is a deeply buried and heavily fortified underground complex located near Iran’s Natanz uranium-enrichment facility. The site has attracted particular attention because its underground

construction is believed to make it significantly more difficult to damage through conventional aerial strikes.

Trump had previously warned that the United States could target the facility if Washington and Tehran failed to reach an agreement. US officials have also indicated that intelligence agencies are closely monitoring activity around Iran’s underground nuclear infrastructure.

Trump also claimed that

The remarks came amid continuing US military operations against Iranian targets. US Central Command has reported strikes against Iranian military infrastructure, including air-defence systems, radar installations and other military capabilities.

Trump also referred to recent US strikes on Iranian radar systems, claiming that American forces had destroyed sophisticated radar installations on two occasions after Iran attempted to restore them.

“There had been no shooting for days before the hit that we gave them the other night to wipe out the radar they had,” Trump said.

He claimed that Iran had subsequently deployed additional radar systems but suggested that repeated US attacks had discouraged Tehran from continuing to do so.

“I think they’re tired of

putting it in and getting blown up,” Trump said.

Iran has strongly condemned US military action, accusing Washington of violating its sovereignty and attacking targets across the country. Tehran has maintained that its military responses were defensive in nature.

The conflict has also raised international concerns over the safety of Iran’s nuclear facilities. The International Atomic Energy Agency has previously documented attacks affecting Iranian nuclear sites, including the Natanz facility, and has monitored the potential radiological consequences of such incidents.

Any US strike on Pickaxe Mountain would mark a further escalation in the conflict because of the facility’s association with Iran’s nuclear programme and its heavily protected underground location.

Eight eco-friendly textiles that can replace fast fashion

Sustainable fashion does not have to be limited to a collection of beige linen, baggy shapes, and garments that seem suitable only for a yoga retreat. Fortunately, discussions about eco-friendly fashion are becoming significantly more engaging and practical.

From organic cotton and linen to hemp, Tencel and recycled fibres, fashion is increasingly experimenting with materials that can reduce reliance on virgin resources and make a wardrobe more considered. Even luxury fashion is investing in new bio-based textiles, leather alternatives and recyclable materials, while India is also pushing initiatives around organic fibres, safer chemicals, recycling and traceability.

But here is the slightly annoying part: not everything labelled “eco-friendly” is automatically sustainable. A fabric’s environmental impact depends on much more than whether it sounds natural. How the fibre is grown or produced, how it is dyed and finished, how long the garment lasts and what happens to it at the end of its life all matter. Even recycled synthetics have trade-offs, while a durable garment worn for years can sometimes be a more responsible choice than constantly replacing supposedly “green” clothes. So before your next wardrobe refresh, look beyond the trend and read the label. These are some of the eco-friendly and lower-impact materials

worth knowing about.

1. Organic cotton: the familiar favourite: If you are not ready to become a sustainable-fashion expert overnight, start with organic cotton. Unlike conventional cotton, certified organic cotton is grown according to organic agricultural standards that restrict the use of certain synthetic pesticides and fertilisers. It is already used across everyday fashion, from T-shirts and dresses to shirts, kurtas and denim. The important word here is certified. Simply seeing “organic cotton” on a product page is not the same as having independent verification. GOTS, or the Global Organic Textile Standard, is one certification shoppers can look for when buying organic textile products. For an everyday wardrobe, organic cotton is one of the easiest sustainable-material swaps because you do not have to dramatically change your personal style to wear it. Wear it as: T-shirts, shirts, dresses, kurtas, co-ords and everyday basics.

2. Linen: the fabric that makes summer dressing easier: Linen has gone from being associated with holiday shirts and slightly crumpled resort trousers to becoming one of fashion’s favourite everyday fabrics. Made from the flax plant, linen is a natural fibre and is particularly popular for warm-weather dressing. It also has that wonderfully relaxed texture that makes an outfit look intentional even when you have done



very little. And yes, the wrinkles are part of the deal. You do not need to iron linen until it resembles architectural concrete. Linen is also increasingly prominent in conversations around lower-impact fashion, although, as with every material, the environmental story depends on how it is grown, processed and manufactured. Wear it as: Shirts, trousers, dresses, skirts, co-ord sets and summer jackets.

3. Hemp: the underrated one to watch: Hemp deserves considerably more attention than it gets. It is a plant-based fibre that can be used to create durable textiles and is increasingly appearing in sustainable fashion collections. Hemp can also be blended with other fibres, making it more approachable for people who are not ready to dress like they have

permanently relocated to a countryside retreat. Its growing popularity is part of a wider shift towards diversifying the materials used in fashion instead of relying so heavily on conventional fibres. The best part? Hemp does not have to look particularly “eco”. A well-designed hemp-blend shirt can look just as contemporary as anything else in your wardrobe. Wear it as: Shirts, trousers, dresses, jackets and casual separates.

4. Tencel or Lyocell: for people who like their sustainability soft: If the words “sustainable fabric” make you picture rough, crunchy textiles, allow Tencel Lyocell to change your mind. Lyocell is a regenerated cellulosic fibre made from wood pulp. TENCEL™ is a branded form of lyocell/modal produced by Lenzing. Its

smooth feel and fluid drape make it particularly popular for garments where you want something softer and more fluid. It is also frequently included in discussions about lower-impact textile choices, particularly when compared with some conventional regenerated fibres. However, shoppers should still check the exact fibre composition and brand claims rather than assuming every “wood-based” fabric has the same environmental credentials. Wear it as: Dresses, shirts, skirts, trousers, tops and relaxed tailoring.

5. Recycled cotton: give old fibres another life: Sustainable fashion is not only about finding new materials. Sometimes the smarter idea is to use what already exists. Recycled cotton is made by recovering cotton fibres from textile waste and processing them for

reuse. It can help divert textile waste from disposal and reduce the need for virgin fibre, although the quality and durability of recycled cotton can vary depending on how it is produced and what it is blended with. This is where the phrase “check the composition” becomes important. A garment described as recycled may contain only a small percentage of recycled fibre. So, instead of stopping at the big sustainability claim on the product page, look for the actual fibre breakdown. Wear it as: T-shirts, sweatshirts, denim and casual everyday clothing.

6. Recycled polyester: not perfect, but useful: Here is where sustainable fashion gets complicated. Polyester is a synthetic fibre derived from fossil-based raw materials, so simply calling polyester “eco-friendly” would be misleading. But recycled polyester — often called rPET - uses existing polyester waste rather than relying entirely on virgin material. That can make recycled polyester a useful option in categories where synthetic fibres are particularly functional, such as sportswear, outerwear and swimwear. But it is not a magic solution: recycled polyester remains a synthetic material and can contribute to microfibre pollution during washing. In other words, recycled does not mean impact-free. Wear it as: Activewear, jackets, bags, swimwear and performance clothing.

7. Khadi and handloom

fabrics: India’s original slow fashion: Before “slow fashion” became a buzzword, India already had centuries-old textile traditions built around hand spinning, hand weaving and regional craftsmanship. Khadi and handloom fabrics can be particularly interesting choices for a conscious wardrobe because they connect clothing with local craft, slower production and artisan communities. Their environmental impact still depends on factors such as fibre, dyeing, processing and transportation, so “handloom” should not automatically be treated as a synonym for zero impact.

But there is something else worth considering: longevity and cultural value. A handwoven sari, dupatta or shirt that stays in your wardrobe for years and perhaps eventually gets passed on, is doing something fast fashion struggles to achieve. Wear it as: Saris, dupattas, shirts, dresses, kurtas, skirts and statement jackets.

8. Recycled and upcycled fabrics: when old clothes become new fashion: Upcycling takes the sustainability conversation one step further. Instead of breaking an old garment or discarded material down into its fibres, designers can creatively transform existing textiles into something new. That might mean turning leftover fabric into a new garment, using production scraps for accessories or combining vintage textiles into contemporary

designs. The result can also be more interesting aesthetically. Slight variations, patchwork, embroidery and unexpected fabric combinations can make an upcycled piece feel genuinely individual rather than mass-produced. And that is perhaps the most appealing thing about sustainable fashion: your wardrobe does not have to look sustainable. It just has to be more thoughtfully made and used.

But wait, is bamboo actually sustainable? This is where you should be careful. Bamboo is frequently marketed as an eco-friendly material because bamboo itself is a fast-growing plant. But the finished textile can involve significant processing, particularly when bamboo is converted into viscose or rayon. So do not assume that a product is automatically sustainable simply because the word “bamboo” appears on the label. The same rule applies to words such as natural, conscious, green, plant-based and eco-friendly. They can sound reassuring without telling you very much about how a garment was actually produced. How to spot greenwashing when shopping for clothes

If a brand tells you a garment is sustainable, do a tiny bit of detective work before reaching for your card. Check the fibre composition

“Made with sustainable materials” is vague. “70% organic cotton, 30% recycled polyester” tells you much more.

How to pick the best mascara for long lashes: A manual for getting fuller, longer lashes

Long, fluttery eyelashes can immediately enhance the definition, alertness, and expressiveness of your eyes. Although some individuals are naturally endowed with long lashes, many of us depend on mascaras to achieve that lifted and elongated appearance. The most advantageous aspect is that you do not have to resort to false lashes or extensions to lengthen your natural eyelashes. Instead, selecting the appropriate mascara formula and wand can significantly impact the results.

If your goal is length rather than dramatic volume, here’s what to look for when shopping for your next mascara.

Look for a lengthening formula
The first step is to choose a mascara specifically labelled lengthening, extending or lash-stretching. These formulas are generally designed to coat individual lashes from root to tip, helping them appear longer without weighing them down. Drishtii Madnani, Makeup Expert and Co-founder of Shryoan Cosmetics, tells HT Shop Now, “Pick a mascara for length by thinking about the mix and the brush, not just the product that looks most dramatic. Choose a length-focused formula and a thin wand with space between bristles. That combo helps coat every lash, from the base to the ends, without pulling the lashes down”.

Lengthening mascaras often contain lightweight fibres or polymers that cling to the lashes and extend their appearance. Unlike volumising mascaras, which focus on making lashes look thicker and fuller, lengthening formulas are more focused on creating separation and visible lash extension. She also focuses on the use of an eyelash curler and says, “If your lashes are short or naturally straight, use a lengthening mascara plus an eyelash curler. That pairing can make your eyes look more open”. Pay attention to the mascara wand

The wand is just as important as the formula. For lengthy-looking lashes, look for a slim, tapered or comb-like wand that can reach even the tiny lashes at the inner and outer corners of your eyes.

A thin wand allows you to get closer to the lash roots and pull the product through to the tips. This helps coat the entire length of the lash rather than simply adding product to the middle. Tapered wands can also make it easier to reach those hard-to-get lashes at the corners without accidentally smudging mascara onto your eyelids. Choose a lightweight formula

If you want longer-looking lashes, avoid formulas that feel excessively thick or heavy. A heavy mascara can pull your lashes down,



particularly if they are naturally straight or fine. This can cancel out the lengthening effect and make your eyes look less open. Instead, look for a lightweight formula that builds gradually. The idea is to add length without creating thick, clumpy layers. Madnani also prefers a lightweight formula: “Try a light formula you can add in layers. This lets you build more length but still keep lashes looking separate”.

Fibre mascaras can create an extension effect

If you want an especially noticeable lengthening effect, consider a fibre mascara. These formulas contain tiny fibres that attach to your natural lashes, creating the appearance of additional length.

Fibre mascaras can be particularly effective when you want a false-lash-like finish without actually applying falsies. However, application matters. Applying too much product at once can result

in clumps, so start with a thin coat and build slowly. Consider a curling mascara if your lashes point downwards

Sometimes the problem isn’t just lash length. If your lashes naturally point downwards, they may appear shorter because they don’t open up the eye. In this case, consider a mascara that offers both curling and lengthening benefits. Curling your lashes before mascara application can also help create a more lifted appearance. A curved mascara wand can be useful for fol-

lowing the natural shape of the lash line and helping to lift the lashes as you apply the product. Look for a mascara that separates lashes
Length is more visible when individual lashes are clearly separated. If your mascara creates clumps, several lashes can stick together and visually merge into one thicker lash.

For this reason, look for a wand with closely spaced bristles or a fine-toothed comb design. These can help distribute the formula evenly while separating lashes.

The result is a cleaner, more defined look where every lash appears longer and more noticeable. Waterproof or washable: Which should you choose?

Waterproof mascara can be a good option if your lashes struggle to hold a curl. Its formula tends to be more resistant to moisture and can help maintain the lifted appearance for longer. However, waterproof

formulas can be more difficult to remove. If you have delicate lashes or prefer an effortless removal routine, a regular washable mascara may be more suitable.

For everyday use, choose based on your lifestyle. For weddings, humid weather, long days or occasions when you don’t want your mascara to budge, waterproof can be worth considering. Application can make your lashes look longer

Even the absolute highest-quality lengthening mascara on the market will ultimately fail to deliver its full, dramatic potential if it is applied without the proper foundational technique and precise mechanical execution. As expert makeup artist Madnani expertly explains, you should always start by thoroughly curling your lashes if they naturally lack an upward sweep, as this crucial first step immediately opens up the eye area and creates an ideal upward angle for the product to grip. From there, you want to meticulously place the mascara wand directly at the absolute roots of your lashes and gently wiggle it back and forth to deposit maximum product density close to the lash line, which creates the illusion of thicker, tighter eyeliner. Only after thoroughly coating that root base should you smoothly pull the wand upward in a slow, controlled motion towards the tips, ensuring every individual hair is separated, elongated, and set in place for a flawless, wide-eyed finish. When applying mascara to achieve the maximum possible length, you should focus your efforts specifically on the tips of your lashes, as this targeted application zone is where you can create the most striking and visible extension without weighing down the base. To build optimal length without sacrificing a clean finish, allow the first coat to settle slightly before layering on a second coat if you feel you need even more extension and definition. As celebrity makeup artist Madnani thoughtfully points out, applying too much mascara can quickly cause the lashes to clump together, which ironically takes away from the delicate, separated length and ethereal look you are ultimately trying to achieve.

Simple Tips for Maintaining a Clean Beard and Healthy Skin



A neatly maintained beard can significantly enhance your appearance; however, cultivating facial hair necessitates care for the skin beneath it. Oil, sweat, dead skin cells, and bacteria can accumulate around beard hair, which may lead to clogged pores, acne, itching, and irritation if the area is not adequately cleaned.

Keeping your beard healthy is not about using a dozen grooming products; it is about getting a few basics right, from washing and drying the area properly to trimming carefully and avoiding shaving habits that can trigger razor bumps. Here are seven beard-care tips men can follow for a cleaner beard and healthier skin. Your beard collects more than just dust. Sweat, excess oil, dead skin cells, food particles and product buildup can accumulate between the hairs and on the skin underneath. If you only rinse your beard with water, you may not be removing all of this buildup. Gently cleanse your face and beard area regularly, paying attention to the skin underneath the facial hair. Avoid aggressively scrubbing with your fingers, nails or a rough towel, as excessive friction can irritate the skin. If you work out or sweat heavily, cleansing afterwards can also help prevent sweat and oil from sitting on the skin for prolonged periods.

Don’t Trim Or Shave Too Aggressively

How you groom your beard can have as much impact on

your skin as how you wash it. Shaving too closely, pressing the razor hard against the skin or repeatedly going over the same area can increase irritation and razor bumps. If you shave, soften the beard hair first with warm water, use a moisturising shaving product and shave in the direction of hair growth. Dermatologists also recommend avoiding stretching the skin while shaving and replacing blades regularly. For men who prefer maintaining a short beard rather than shaving completely, a beard trimmer like Philips OneBlade Hybrid Trimmer or the Slazer S100 trimmer can help maintain an even length while reducing the need for repeated close passes with a razor. Choose A Cleanser That Works For Both Your Face And Beard

A common mistake is treating the beard as separate from the skin. In reality, whatever sits on your facial hair can also come into contact with the skin beneath it. Kimirica’s the Gentleman Niacinamide Face & Beard Wash can be incorporated into a daily grooming routine to cleanse both the face and beard area. The important thing is to massage the cleanser gently through the beard so that it reaches the skin underneath, rather than simply washing the outer layer of hair. Be Careful With Acne-Prone Skin

Beard growth does not automatically cause acne, but facial hair can make it easier for oil, sweat and dead skin cells

to remain close to the skin. If you are prone to breakouts, avoid picking pimples or constantly touching your beard with your hands. For acne-prone skin, the Mannlich Anti Acne Soap with 2% Salicylic Acid may be considered as part of a targeted cleansing routine. Salicylic acid is commonly used in acne-care products because it helps exfoliate the skin and clear clogged pores. However, avoid over-cleansing or using multiple strong acne products at once, as irritation can make skin problems worse.

Don’t Skip Post-Shave Care
Even if you have perfected your shaving technique, the skin can still feel irritated afterwards. A close shave can leave the area feeling dry, tight or sensitive, particularly if you already have reactive skin. After shaving, rinse the area gently and pat it dry rather than rubbing it. The Ceolla Balance Post-Shave Balm can provide a soothing step in the routine. Dermatologists recommend using a soothing aftershave product formulated to reduce irritation and razor bumps, while stopping any product that burns or stings. A cool, damp cloth applied briefly after shaving can also help calm freshly shaved skin.

Keep Your Beard Soft Without Overloading the Skin

A beard can become dry, coarse and unruly, especially as it gets longer. Conditioning the hair can make it feel softer and easier to manage, but using too much product may leave the beard and underlying skin feeling greasy. A few drops of Moroccan Argan Oil from BeYouTe can be worked through the beard, particularly on the lengths and ends, when the hair feels dry. Start with a small amount rather than coating the entire beard. If you have acne-prone skin, pay attention to whether any beard oil appears to worsen breakouts and adjust your routine accordingly.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Paradise’s Yeshanagula went viral So why does Telangana Telugu remain a farce

New Delhi: Folk music from Telangana is popular, although not everyone finds it appealing. From Ramu Rathod and singer Prabha’s independent Telangana folk song Ranu Bombai Ki Ranu, which has amassed 900 million YouTube views, to composer Anirudh Ravichander bringing actor Nani onstage in Dallas to reveal The Paradise’s second single, Yeshanagula, a sound that was once written off as regional filler, it is now hard to ignore.

It is at the core of Telugu pop culture, loud, and infectious. Naturally, as its popularity has grown, a familiar chorus of internet users has emerged, attempting to ridicule, weaken, or challenge its cultural identity. Yeshanagula, a historical action drama directed by Srikanth Odela The Paradise has received over 46 million views on YouTube after surpassing 30 million views in a single day. Additionally, the song was at the top of the Indian trending ranking on YouTube Mu This is hardly a little victory for a sound that was used as filler for decades. It’s a rout. However, there is a familiar undertone to the joy whether you go through the replies or search for the hashtag on X. Some commenters joke about how uncultured the song sounds and looks, remark they can’t comprehend a word, compare it to Bhojpuri songs, or assert that Telangana people lack individuality without Andhra influence. Aaya Sher,



The Paradise’s debut single, and other Telangana-based movies all followed the similar theme. When a distinctive Telangana sound gains popularity, a vocal portion of the internet quickly attempts to downplay its significance.

It’s important to clarify that this isn’t Andhra against Telangana. The song is being celebrated and danced to by a large number of people from Andhra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu,

and other Hindi-speaking states. A noisy minority, not the entire community, is the source of the trolling. However, the motivation behind it is sufficiently well-known to prompt a more significant inquiry: why does the celebration of Telangana’s cultural identity so frequently elicit a desire to denigrate or weaken it? The criticism consistently follows the same patterns. There is the understanding objection, which calls for

Telugu subtitles and treats a foreign dialect as incomprehensible. There is genre shaming, in which “Bhojpuri” is weaponized as an inaccurate description rather than a sloppy insult. Then there are assertions that Telangana folk has no identity of its own and only originates from Andhra, ignoring centuries of autonomous, deeply ingrained performance traditions like Chindu Bhagavatham, a folk theater art form primarily performed by the Chindu Madiga community, and Oggu Katha, a traditional narrative singing art form. Another tendency that reveals the game is dubbing Telangana vernacular over well-known movie footage and making jokes out of them. Scenes from filmmaker S.S.

Rajamouli’s epic period blockbusters Baahubali and Magadheera have been given Telangana-language voiceovers for comedic effect, and this has once again gone viral after the release of Yeshanagula. It’s harmless fun for most folks. However, the tendency suggests something deeper: the dialect functions perfectly for a worker or a villain, just as it has been written for decades, but when it is spoken by a king or a warrior, it becomes humorous. That is not a criticism of the language. It makes a statement about who can be represented by the language. That history is directly supported by scholarly this dynamic

Rashmika Mandanna phones Anand Deverakonda her brother-in-law



Mumbai: Actor Rashmika Mandanna recently went back to work despite the obvious discomfort she was experiencing while recovering from a hip injury.

She remarked about her brother-in-law Anand Deverakonda, referring to him as a “green forest,” at the Hyderabad trailer launch for his next movie Epic. At the ceremony, Anand also couldn’t resist gushing about his “vandinamma,” or sister-in-law. As Rashmika attempted to speak at the occasion, fans repeatedly interrupted her with chants of “Ranabaali” or “Vijay Deverakonda.” Videos of her stating “Arey aagru ra (Wait),” and “Ey, oka nimisham ra (Wait a minute),” are still making the rounds on social media. When the host of the event asked Rashmika to define love, she responded, “I would define love as partnership, commitment, trust, and...

” She laughed and added, “Ade,” when admirers interrupted her by yelling Vijay’s name.

Salman Khan becomes irate with photographers pictures of the BB 20



New Delhi: While filming for Bigg Boss 20’s gala premiere, actor Salman Khan was clearly agitated with the photographers. The actor advised cameras to keep some distance from the stage when he was photographed at the reality show’s sets wearing a beautiful cowboy-inspired outfit. Salman became impatient and exclaimed, “Photos, photos, photos,” when they persisted in asking him to pose for more images.

Salman is seen posing for the photographers while requesting that they stay away from the stage in a video taken from the sets. “Yeh mera kaam nahi hai.” “Mujhe camera ke aage aane ki koi zarurat nahi hai” (I don’t do this). “I don’t have to appear in front of the camera,” he informed the photographers. When the paparazzi requested him to pose for additional shots near the end of the video, the actor looked

clearly irritated and kept saying, “Photos, photos, photos.” Salman chose to wear dark blue jeans, a fitting black round-neck T-shirt, and a brown vest for the big debut. The tough cowboy mood was further enhanced by the black-and-brown cowboy hat he wore to complete the ensemble. Earlier, the superstar even shared pictures from the set. Salman chose to wear a fitted black round-neck T-shirt with dark blue denim and a brown vest for the gala premiere. The tough cowboy mood was enhanced by the black-and-brown cowboy hat he wore to complete the ensemble. The show’s distinctive theme has also drawn attention prior to its broadcast. The Bigg Boss 20 home is completely based on the idea of duality, eschewing traditional design in favor of full visual lunacy. The new set transforms commonplace elantly eccentric.

Shriya Pilgaonkar Responds Swara Bhaskar’s R Shriya Pilgaonkar

New Delhi: After discussing Deepika Padukone’s jauhar scene in Padmaavat, Swara Bhaskar became the focus of controversy. There was outrage after the actor described the scene as troublesome. Recently, Shriya Pilgaonkar responded to Swara Bhaskar’s claim that the ladies who did jauhar had succumbed to a “cowardly” behavior.

“In 2026, we cannot judge what people living within a 100, 200, or 500-year-old cultural context were thinking, what their values were, what they wanted to do, or the pressures they faced,” Shriya Pilgaonkar told Filmygyan. Every culture changes over time as a result of human conditions, events, and circumstances. It’s unfair, in my opinion, to presuppose a mindset. I don’t think it’s appropriate to have a general conversation or pass judgment on a different era.” After Padmaavat was launched, Swara Bhaskar recently revealed that she penned a letter to Sanjay Leela Bhansali. At an event in New Delhi, she talked about the letter and her worries about the movie’s depiction of Jauhar “I’m watching this and it shows all these 800 women committing Jauhar, which is the story,” she remarked.

Box office performance for Mirzapur Movie surpasses

Mirzapur: The film, which stars Ravi Kishan, Ali Fazal, and Pankaj Tripathi, has had a great domestic box office debut. According to early estimates by trade website Sacnilk, the movie, which represents the popular web series’ big-screen debut, made an estimated Rs 24.75 crore nett in India on Day 1. According to the survey, Mirzapur.

The Movie had the fourth-highest opening day receipts of any Hindi film produced in 2026. The Telugu version of the movie brought in about Rs 15 lakh, while the Hindi version made an estimated Rs 24.60 crore nett.

The director of Hanuman Ansh remembers the harsh rejection



Mumbai: Vishal Chaturvedi, the director of Hanuman Ansh, has talked candidly about the hurtful OTT rejection that strengthened his resolve to get the movie on the big screen Chaturvedi gave an explanation for why he did not like the way his work was turned down. He claimed that the terminology was disparaging and represented a particular “narrative” in the eyes of individuals who were critical of his work. It bekaar even if it’s a terrific movie if you see it in a negative mood. Additionally, it depends on your intention—whether you’re going as a viewer “I had gone to pitch my story on an OTT platform, and there they asked me if I had an Indian story with international relevance,” Chaturvedi recalled the experience in an interview with India TV. I genuinely started crying as I told Maharaj Ji’s story. “Mu-

jhe laga jis tarah unhone reject kiya, jis bhaasha ka prayog kiya, woh thodi derogatory thi,” the statement continued. Kyunki hum toh reject hote rehte hain, mere samband main nahi. Hum log toh filmmakers hain; hum toh 1000 baar reject hue hain. Jiss tareeke se inhone bola, mujhe laga inke dimaag main jo narrative hai, voh inke dimaag main kisi tareeke ka kooda bhara hai, clearly via that narrative. This story broke because it was so zaroori. I thought the language they used and the way they rejected it were a little disparaging. We are accustomed to rejection, therefore I’m not talking about myself. We filmmakers have experienced a thousand rejections. The way they expressed it gave me the impression that they were thinking rubbish, which was evident in that story. Breaking that narrative

is crucial. “Meri iss film ko banana ki zimmedari isliye bhi ban jaati hai ki bharat ki jo sant mindset hai usko aap iss nazar se dekhte ho aur aap itne bade platform par baithe hue ho.” Toh iska matlab yahi hai ki ye platform hamare desh ke liye kaam kar hi nahi rahe hai. Humein ab ye kahani bolna bahut zaroori hai.

“Based on which main usko lekar thoda adh gaya,” he continued. “Meri iss film ko banana ki zimmedari isliye bhi ban jaati hai ki bharat ki jo sant mindset hai usko aap iss nazar se dekhte ho aur aap itne bade platform par baithe hue ho.” Toh iska matlab yahi hai ki ye platform hamare desh ke liye kaam kar hi nahi rahe hai. Humein ab ye kahani bolna bahut zaroori hai. “Based on which main usko lekar thoda adh gaya,” he continued.

Will We Make Money Objectification Of Women In Movies Taapsee Pannu



New Delhi: Taapsee Pannu has contributed to the expanding discussion on female roles in Indian cinema. The representation of female characters in two high-profile movies, Yash’s Toxic and Ram Charan’s Peddi, has recently drawn harsh criticism on the internet. In response to the incident, Taapsee stated that the film industry frequently sidesteps criticism by arguing that this kind of content is merely a reaction to consumer demand. In an interview with Zoom TV, Taapsee revealed that the business frequently holds viewers accountable for these depictions and described it as a fight that

performers cannot win without audience support. “No matter how much noise you create, you’ll likely still find an equal amount of social media profiles that use the same image, zoom in on it, use strange angles in various movies and photos, and sort of make it viral. Therefore, there is a social media audience for that.” “People think ki janta maang rahi hai toh humko dena chahiye (People think if the audience wants this, we should deliver), how else will we earn money,” Taapsee continued, referring to the entire process as “demand and supply.” As a result, craft and art are neglected. Before COVID, we made significant progress and were coming up to the top, but now we are underperforming once more.

The audience will be blamed by all the producers, which is why none of us performers are able to make a comeback. We will lose that struggle; the audience is the only thing that can help us prevail. Taapsee’s comments coincided with the recent social media outrage against Toxic and Peddi. The hypersexualization of Janhvi Kapoor’s character in Peddi was criticized. The camera work, love sequences, and the focus on Janhvi’s character The filmmaker later apologized and took the scenes out of the movie.

Aamir Khan claims to be Kiran Rao and Reena Dutta’s better ex husband



Mumbai: Relationships between Aamir Khan and his ex-wives, Kiran Rao and Reena Dutta, have frequently garnered notice due to their enduring friendship following

the dissolution of their marriages. The actor’s relationship with his ex-wives and family has now been further discussed by his wife Charlotte and close friend Amin

Hajee. Amin Hajee made light of Aamir’s statement that he was a “better ex-husband than a husband” in an interview with Siddharth Kannan. He is very devoted. It will be

about one thing if he becomes angry with you. The other nine things won’t change, but that one thing will be that. That man is the truth, whatever he may be. Amin remembered that Aamir Khan had once taught him a straightforward lesson about passing judgment on others. Aamir thought that since no one is flawless, everyone makes mistakes. People should consider a person’s positive traits and accomplishments rather than just their bad deeds. remembered that Aamir Khan had once taught him a straightforward lesson about passing judgment on others. Aamir thought that since no one is flawless, everyone makes mistakes. People should consider a person’s positive traits and accomplishments rather than just their bad deeds. The Lagaan actor also discussed how Aamir Khan respects Reena Dutta’s individuality and choices. They said that Aamir never anticipated Reena changing her

name or faith after they were married. ”Her original surname, Reena Dutta, remains her name. He respects the fact that she has always been that way. Reena selected the names Junaid and Ayra. I’ve known Aamir since Ayra was born in front of me. Charlotte said that Aamir Khan’s positive nature is one of the things that makes him different. Even though he is a big star and has faced many difficult moments, she believes he continues to look for the good in people. She also mentioned that Aamir has received criticism, particularly in the wake of Laal Singh Chaddha. Celebrities are frequently the subject of nasty remarks on social media. Charlotte claimed that despite this, Aamir does not abruptly break up with people due to criticism or bad experiences. He makes an effort to comprehend others, concentrates on their positive aspects, and maintains his relationship with them whenever he can.

How the BJP Is Using Rajasthan’s Local Elections as a Diagnostic Test Following CJP Jolt

Jaipur, Sep 05: BJP National General Secretary (Organization) BL Santhosh’s day-long discussions and lengthy meetings over the Rajasthan urban local body elections highlighted the attention the party’s central leadership is giving to an election that would typically be mostly left to the state unit. The deployment is telling: six co-in-charges, including Delhi Social Welfare Minister Ravindra Indrajit Singh and Maharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule, a central observer in the form of former Uttar Pradesh MP Harish Dwivedi, and a Maharashtra team led by former Union minister Kripa Shankar Singh working covertly in distant Bikaner. Even by the BJP’s standards, this is an unusually heavy central presence for a local election.”The BJP is an elephant, and the elephant keeps walking,” quipped Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, a national general secretary of the party who is a Rajya Sabha member from UP and the state unit organisational in-charge for Rajasthan.Asked why the party was monitoring the Rajasthan local polls so closely, he said, “We take every election seriously.”Party insiders suggest there is more at stake than municipal victories. With the urban local body polls and panchayat elections coming in quick succession, the BJP is expected to look beyond the immediate electoral results. The campaign and the eventual outcome could offer the party an important reading of cadre morale, local caste equations, youth sentiment and, crucially, the political fallout of the Jantar Mantar protest by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). “We don’t fight elections in response to one protest somewhere,” Agarwal asserted, though. “The BJP is a cadre-based party. It keeps working continuously, not just in response to immediate events. We are a big organisation; we work around the

year; and we have been winning elections. One protest does not affect the working style or the fate of the BJP,” he added. However, any electoral slippage in Rajasthan is likely to be used to gage the effect of the Gen Z movement. That evaluation is further complicated by the state’s close proximity to Delhi. In July, the CJP protested in Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, forcing the resignation of the Union Education Minister. The urban polls could, therefore, provide a useful sample.Of the more than 1.4 crore voters across the 309 urban centres going to the polls, around 26 per cent are young voters.

For a party trying to gauge whether a movement that found resonance among younger voters has translated into a wider political shift, the Rajasthan municipal elections offer a relatively early and measurable test.But a party source who was present at a meeting said the central leadership’s interest in the Rajasthan polls goes beyond the Jantar Mantar protest. “This is the first time that the BJP is going into a one-state, one-election situation, in the sense that the urban local body polls and the panchayat polls will be held in quick succession. Of course, there is the shadow of a big protest that has recently ended, but this is also an opportunity to test a formula that is close to the BJP’s broader electoral strategy,” the source said. The intensity of the exercise was perhaps best reflected in the last meeting of the day.

Lasting more than two-and-a-half hours, it was a closely guarded meeting between Santhosh, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, state BJP president Madan Rathore, Rajasthan in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, election observer Harish Dwivedi and the newly appointed state general secretary (organisation), Ajey Kumar. The composition of the meeting brought together

virtually the entire chain of the party’s organisational and political leadership in Rajasthan.In the afternoon were meetings with party leaders who have been given direct charge of the seven divisions in Rajasthan: Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Bikaner, Ajmer, Bharatpur, and Kota. Party in-charges are believed to have raised concerns about the organisational issues on the ground. Senior leaders are understood to have told Santhosh that several Lok Sabha MPs had not been as visible in the field.Santhosh’s message, according to those present, was unambiguous: the local body polls are not a lower-rung election in which the state organisation is expected to fight on its own. Every party worker, MP and MLA is expected to be on the ground and working at full throttle. That expectation extends to the state’s political leadership as well.Chief Minister Sharma has been asked to lead mega roadshows across the state’s 10 important municipal corporations, putting him at the centre of the campaign. He will kick off this campaign from the southern part of the state, hitting the textile city of Bhilwara on Saturday, followed by a big-ticket roadshow in the scenic City of Lakes, Udaipur.For Sharma, the municipal polls are also a test of his government’s record after nearly two-and-a-half years in office. But the stakes are higher for the top leadership of the BJP. The elections provide a chance to evaluate the effectiveness of the Jantar Mantar protest’s political messaging, organizational strength, and leadership’s capacity to convert a statewide campaign into local electoral victories.Additionally, the exercise is being closely watched from the top, in keeping with the BJP’s increasingly centralized electoral apparatus. As the campaign progresses, the party leadership receives input from the field.

Before the Women’s Asia Cup match, Deepti Sharma sent a major message to Pakistan

Dubai: Deepti Sharma, a senior all-rounder, stated on Friday that India has consistently outperformed Pakistan in their most recent encounters and will want to maintain that advantage when they play each other in the Women’s Asia Cup on Saturday. In their last league match, India, who have advanced to the semifinals with one game remaining, will start as favorites against Pakistan. With two convincing victories over Thailand and Hong Kong, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side is presently leading Group A. “See, there isn’t really a benefit. The only thing is that we are always one step ahead of them, regardless of the Asia Cup or previous games we have won against them (Pakistan). And that’s it,” Deepti said at the pre-match press conference. “The whole team is performing well. If you look at the bowling unit or the batting unit, I think both things are balanced. The one who has a good day, she tries to do better and take the game further. And those

around her, they try to stay positive things so that they step in more in their game.”Asked about the Pakistan team, she said, “Look, our team is also good and their bowlers are also good. We know that. But we focus more on the strengths we have. And as I said, we want to play a good brand of cricket. That’s what we are focusing on. ”We just want to play good cricket. As a bowling unit, as a batting unit, the team should be as compact as we are playing in two games. That’s the mindset,” said Deepti who has taken six wickets from the two matches so far.She refused to give out anything on the team combination, saying “That’s the call of the management.” The 29-year-old Deepti had words of praise for left-arm spinner Shree Charani and leg-spinner Prema Rawat.“Charani is a very good talent. He is number one in the rankings. She has performed very well in the last year. The way she turns the ball, unbelievable. It’s not easy to play for a batter.

A top court judge criticizes the police crackdown at Jantar Mantar, calling it “very distressing to see”



New Delhi, Sep 05: Judge Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court criticized the police response to the latest student protests harshly on Friday, saying that the detachment that is required of police personnel seemed to be vanishing. He claimed that seeing police brutality against demonstrators was quite upsetting.When we witness young Indian Police Service personnel physically attacking protestors and demonstrators, we are all appalled. At the publication of former IPS officer Yashovardhan Azad’s book “Policing the Republic,” Justice Bhuyan said, “This is something very, very distressing to observe.” ”The detachment expected of police officers somehow seems to be disappearing,

and this is indeed a matter of grave concern,” he added. Justice Bhuyan said that effective policing could be done without resorting to excessive use of force or infringement of human rights. “For most common people, a policeman on the street wearing a whistle and a lathi represents the power and authority of the state. When they feel wronged, they seek the help of the police. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that the police force maintains its credibility,” he said. Police and paramilitary action on student protesters during the CJP protest has come under sharp criticism from various quarters. The matter reached the Supreme Court, which has set up a high-level panel to investigate alle-

gations of excessive force by the Delhi Police during the July 20 student protests at Jantar Mantar and the Parliament march. The panel headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice R Subhash Reddy will examine complaints of lathi charges, tear gas, pellet gun usage, electronic batons, and targeted harassment or molestation of female protesters, alongside reviewing CCTV and video footage of the clashes. Justice Bhuyan also mentioned the rising cases of custodial torture and deaths in the country and said it is one of the worst crimes in a civilised society.“Custodial death is perhaps one of the worst crimes in a civilised society governed by the rule of law. Any form of torture, of cru-

Troy Parrott helps Betis defeat Real Madrid while Kylian Mbappe is absent



Seville: Troy Parrott scored Real Betis’ first goal in a 1-0 victory over Real Madrid on Friday, spoiling Jose Mourinho’s team’s flawless La Liga start. Kylian Mbappe missed a late penalty. In Mourinho’s second stint as manager, Madrid had won their first three games. However, deep into stoppage time, Betis goalkeeper Alvaro Valles stopped Mbappe from the spot to secure a remarkable victory at La Cartuja. In the first half, Mbappe was twice stopped by valiant blocks from Natan and Marc Bartra following a swift counterattack by Madrid, while Vinicius Junior struck the post after Arda Guler’s ball across the face of goal. Nine minutes from time, Betis unexpectedly seized the lead as Madrid pressed for the breakthrough. Thibaut Courtois had made an excellent save to keep Nelson Deossa’s header out, and Parrott scored the rebound. After moving from AZ Alkmaar to Seville last month on a five-year contract, Republic of Ireland striker Parrott made his home debut with the kind of clinical finish Betis supporters would want to see frequently following his successful stint in the Netherlands.With an incredible acrobatic finish from a Vinicius cross, Carlos Espi believed he had equalized, but the goal was disallowed for offside in the build-up. Mbappe then brushed the crossbar with a delicate

effort before being handed a glorious chance to level from the penalty spot after Natan’s crunching late challenge on Vinicius.However, Valles saved his attempt to secure a victory that lifted Betis level with Madrid on nine points from four matches ahead of just their second Champions League appearance next week.“The team played a great game. Sometimes you lose and cannot explain how,” said Mourinho. “We were really dominant, created a lot going forward and had plenty of chances. If the match had ended in a draw we would have been frustrated, so imagine how we feel after a defeat.”Asked about the incidents in the closing stages, including Espi’s disallowed goal and Mbappe’s

fluffed penalty, the Portuguese coach refused to be drawn into refereeing controversies.“Honestly, I don’t know why we lost. We created a lot of chances, missed three or four of them, and their goalkeeper also made three or four exceptional saves,” said Mourinho. “I have nothing to reproach my players for. We probably deserved to win, but deserving to win does not earn you any points.” If Barcelona defeats Valencia at Mestalla on Sunday, they may go three points ahead at the top with their fourth consecutive win.Next Tuesday, Betis will go to France to play Lille, while Madrid will start their Champions League campaign at home against Italian champions Inter Milan.

Meeting with Amit Shah, Omar Abdullah talks about the early restoration of J&K’s statehood



New Delhi, Sep 05: Omar Abdullah, the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday to discuss important issues pertaining to the Union territory, particularly the finalization of governance procedures and the early restoration of statehood. The two leaders have not spoken since Abdullah protested in the nation’s capital on July 20, the opening day of the Monsoon session of Parliament, calling for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir’s complete sovereignty. Since August 5, 2019, when the Union government repealed Article 370 and divided the former state into two Union territories, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the demand has been a

major political issue. While the Centre has maintained that statehood will be restored at an appropriate time, the elected government has repeatedly highlighted administrative hurdles under the current framework. During the meeting, the chief minister raised matters related to public welfare, administrative efficiency and long-term development in the region.According to a statement posted on X by the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO), the discussions focused prominently on the early restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, alongside the finalisation of the Transaction of Business Rules to streamline administrative governance.“Chief Minister met Union Home Minister Shri Amit

Shah in New Delhi today and discussed key issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting focused on restoration of statehood, finalisation of the Transaction of Business Rules, rationalisation of reservations, and other important matters concerning public welfare and development. ”

The Chief Minister also briefed the Home Minister on the First International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), scheduled to begin in Srinagar next week, and thanked him for the timely assistance being extended to JK in the wake of flood-related damage across several areas,” the CMO said.The rules under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, define the specific allocation of powers between the elected chief minister and the Centre-appointed lieutenant governor.The elected administration has been pushing to finalise and refine these rules to establish clear boundaries, minimise bureaucratic overlap and ensure that cabinet decisions carry the necessary executive authority during the region’s political transition. According to the CMO, Abdullah and Shah also discussed rationalizing the Union territory’s reservation policy, an effort to balance administrative needs with public desires.

LSG Pacer is selected by the BCCI as Jasprit Bumrah’s backup



New Delhi: The BCCI medical team has not yet given India bowler Jasprit Bumrah the all-clear. His participation in the forthcoming Afghanistan Twenty20 Internationals and the 2026 Asian Games is contingent upon his level of fitness. The pacer has been dealing with a knee issue for a while. On July 16, Bumrah sustained a blow to his knee during the second ODI against England, which is said to have made his recurrent problem worse. Since that game, he hasn’t bowled, and his recuperation is still ongoing. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) selectors have designated Prince Yadav as a “probable backup” at a time

when Bumrah’s comeback date to the Indian squad is uncertain, according to a Times of India article. It further said that Bumrah, Washington Sundar, Harshit Rana, and Nitish Kumar Reddy would all go through a week of match-simulation testing before being given the all-clear to join the squad in Delhi on September 10.Subramaniam Badrinath, a former batter for India, recently criticized the team management for how poorly Bumrah was handled. Since the pacer’s back injury in January of last year, the BCCI has concentrated on controlling his workload, but the outcomes have been lackluster. Badrinath blamed Bumrah’s

bad management on the team’s captain, coach, and selectors.Who made the choice is unknown to me. The choice won’t be made by CoE, correct? They will simply remark that his physique is in this condition and that he may participate in these contests. However, I believe the choice is being made by the captain, coach, and selectors. CoE only transmits the data. On his channel, Badrinath stated, “They are not selectors.”The Indian squad has been coping with player ailments in addition to Bumrah’s. Due to their individual ailments, all-rounder Reddy, pacer Harshit, spin-bowling all-rounder Sundar, and batter Sai Sudharsan are all now out.

PSG Extend Luis Enrique Contract to 2030, Renew Deals of Five Players

New Delhi : Paris Saint-Germain have rewarded Luis Enrique for delivering the most successful spell in the club's history by extending the head coach's contract until 2030, while also tying down five key players to new deals. Luis Enrique, 56, has signed a three-year extension after joining PSG in July 2023. His previous contract was due to expire at the end of this season. The Spaniard has won 13 trophies with PSG, including three Ligue 1 titles and two Champions League crowns. He guided the club to their first European title with a 5-0 victory over Inter Milan in the 2025 Champions League final, before leading them past Arsenal in last season's final. Luis Enrique, who previously managed Barcelona and the Spain national team,



also led PSG to six trophies during the 2024-25 season and took them to the final of the inaugural FIFA Club World Cup in the United States. The announcement came before Friday evening's Ligue 1 home fixture against Monaco. Four PSG players, Joao Neves, Wilian Pachó, Lucas Beraldo and Senny Mayulu, have signed contract extensions

until 2031. Fabian Ruiz has agreed a new deal until 2028, with an option for a further year. Portugal international Neves has made 100 appearances for PSG since joining from Benfica in 2024, while Ecuador centre-back Pachó has played 105 times since arriving from Eintracht Frankfurt in the same year. Beraldo joined PSG from Sao Paulo in January 2024,

while France Under-21 international Mayulu came through the club's academy after joining at the age of 12. Ruiz, 30, moved to PSG from Napoli in 2022 and has made 171 appearances for the club, scoring 16 goals and providing 28 assists. PSG have drawn both of their opening Ligue 1 matches this season ahead of Friday's meeting with Monaco. They will begin their Champions League title defence against Slovan Bratislava on Wednesday. Paris Saint-Germain extended head coach Luis Enrique's contract until 2030 after his highly successful tenure since July 2023, during which he won 13 trophies including 3 Ligue 1 titles and 2 Champions League crowns. Enrique led PSG to their first European title and strong performances in elite competitions.

Just Like Dad: Medvedev's Daughter Breaks Racket in Hilarious Tennis Moment on Court

New Delhi : Daniil Medvedev's fiery reputation appears to be rubbing off on his daughter, who gave her coach a hilarious reminder of the Russian's famous temperament during a tennis practice session. Medvedev was speaking after reaching the fourth round of the US Open when he was asked whether playing a five-set Grand Slam match or spending a day at home with his daughters was more demanding mentally. The question prompted the 2021 champion to share an amusing story about one of his daughter's trips to practice. "Oh my God, they are both tough. Impossible to say," Medvedev said during his on-court interview. Medvedev said the comparison was not entirely fair because a tough day with his family still ends on a positive note, unlike a painful defeat after five sets. "I have to be honest, when you lose a five-set, at the end of the day, it's a very bad experience.



Your body hurts, your mind hurts, you lost a match, you have to go home, you have to, I don't know, book your tickets, think about how you practice the next days, what you do. So definitely better to be at home with the family." He then recalled taking his daughter to a clay-court practice session. She was enjoying herself and, despite not really watching her father's matches yet, suddenly decided to throw a racket across the court. "I have one funny story, because again, I don't like to talk too much about my family. But I took her to practice once. It was on clay, and she

comes and she's happy to play tennis," Medvedev said. "She doesn't really watch my matches yet, and, you know, even if sometimes I break a racket, it's not like every match I throw the racket 65 times."The funniest part, according to Medvedev, was that his daughter was not angry or frustrated when she launched the racket. She was simply having fun. "And then she's happy, so she did it not out of frustration, but she throws the racket through the whole court. And the coach, the lady, looks at me and says, 'I don't know where she got this from.'"

Kylian Mbappe Misses Penalty as Real Madrid Suffer Their First LaLiga Loss of the Season

New Delhi: A costly stoppage-time penalty miss from Kylian Mbappe summed up a frustrating night for Real Madrid, who suffered their first defeat of the LaLiga season in a 1-0 loss to Real Betis on Friday. Madrid had controlled much of the game and created enough chances to leave the Benito Villamarin with all three points. Instead, a late goal from substitute Troy Parrott and a crucial save from Alvaro Valles denied them, leaving the visitors to wonder how they had come away empty-handed.



The game began at a high tempo, but the intensity dropped after the interval as the heat of Seville began to take its toll. Madrid continued to push forward, though, with Mbappe among those looking to break the deadlock.

Betis eventually found the breakthrough in the 81st minute, moments after Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois had produced an excellent save. A corner was met by a powerful header from Nelson Deossa, forcing Courtois into a diving save to his left. But the Belgian could only

parry the ball into a dangerous area, and Parrott reacted quickest. The substitute, who joined Betis this year from Dutch club AZ Alkmaar, was in the right place at the right time as he calmly slotted the rebound into the net. There was a touch of poetry to the goal. Parrott had previously worked under Mourinho at Tottenham Hotspur, where the Portuguese manager had publicly questioned the attitude of the then 23-year-old striker. Mourinho handed Parrott his Tottenham debut, but their relationship eventually soured, with the forward sent out on a series of loan spells at Millwall, Ipswich Town, Milton Keynes Dons, Preston North End and Excelsior before making his move to AZ Alkmaar in 2024. Now, years after Mourinho's doubts about him, Parrott had scored the goal that left his former manager staring at defeat. Madrid almost responded immediately. Mbappe struck the crossbar four minutes later before substitute Carlos Espi appeared to have restored parity with a spectacular bicycle kick from a Vinicius Junior cross.

Bengal Cricket to Felicitate Mohammed Shami for 100 First-Class Appearances

New Delhi : Mohammed Shami is set to receive a special honour from the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) on Saturday as he closes in on the landmark of 100 first-class appearances. The veteran India fast bowler, currently on 99 first-class games, will be felicitated a day before the Duleep Trophy final between East Zone and South Zone at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Shami has played an important part in East Zone's run to the final, claiming five wickets across the two innings of their semifinal against defending champions Central Zone. The 35-year-old has collected 382 wickets in first-class cricket so far, with his best innings figures standing at 8 for 90 during an illustrious domestic career. CAB will mark the occasion with a special presentation for Shami. He will receive a cricket ball signed by CAB president Sourav Ganguly, a personalised jersey featuring the



number 100 and a silver salver. CAB treasurer Sanjoy Das will conduct the felicitation. "Shami is pride of Bengal cricket and an absolute legend. This is a small gesture on behalf of state association on completion of an important milestone," Das told PTI. Despite continuing to make an impact

in domestic cricket, Shami remains outside India's current international setup. His most recent appearance for the national team came in the Champions Trophy final in March 2025. The fast bowler was also not included in India's immediate plans for the upcoming series against New Zealand.

Pakistan Coach Denies King Charles Snub



New Delhi : Pakistan's interim red-ball head coach Mike Hesson has strongly rejected reports that Salman Ali Agha refused to attend a meeting with King Charles III, calling the story "unacceptable journalism" and insisting the Pakistan batter had been told he would not be attending the engagement before Hesson even arrived in England. The report emerged amid a period of extraordinary turmoil in Pakistan cricket, with seven players dropped from the Test squad following heavy defeats in the opening two matches against England and head coach Sarfraz Ahmed sacked. Salman, Mohammad Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq were among those released from the squad. But Hesson, who took charge of the Test side only after those three players had already left England, said there was no controversy surrounding their absence from the King's engagement at Buckingham Palace. "Look, I know there's been a void in the news, but people are just making up stories. Salman Ali Agha, as I've said, the three players were released from the squad before I arrived, well before Buckingham Palace," Hesson said on Friday.

Anahat Singh's Impressive London Squash Classic Run Ends in Quarters

New Delhi : India's Anahat Singh's impressive run at the London Squash Classic came to an end in the quarterfinals on Friday after the 18-year-old went down 4-11, 4-11 to Malaysian world No. 5 Sivasangari Subramaniam in the PSA Gold event. The Indian teenager, ranked 20th in the world and the reigning world junior champion, struggled to find her rhythm against the third-seeded Sivasangari, who controlled the match from the opening rally and completed a comfortable straight-games victory in just 17 minutes.

Sivasangari consistently applied pressure by hitting with greater intensity into the back corners, forcing Anahat to spend long periods deep in the court. The Malaysian's approach left the Indian with little time to dictate rallies or make the most of her attacking game. The defeat brought an end to a promising campaign for Anahat, who had reached the quarterfinals after producing one of the notable results of the tournament by overcoming eighth seed Nele Gilis of Belgium in a three-game thriller. Anahat had entered



the London Squash Classic looking to continue her rise on the PSA Tour, but found herself up against a player ranked 15 places above her and one who is among the leading contenders ahead

of the Asian Games. Sivasangari, the former champion and third seed, was in control throughout the quarterfinal, taking the first game 11-4 before repeating the scoreline in the second

to seal her place in the last four. The Malaysian said she was pleased with the way she handled the pressure of the best-of-three format and praised Anahat for the challenge she has provided to leading players. "I'm happy with how I played today; Anahat is a very talented player. She's beaten some of the top players and challenged the majority of them," Sivasangari told SquashTV. Explaining her tactics, the 27-year-old said she was determined not to give Anahat the time she needed to build pressure.

"I put extra intensity in my hitting towards the back corners. Anahat is very dangerous when she has time, so I tried to take that away from her. Obviously, there are a lot of nerves coming into these matches with the best of three format, so I had to get my confidence and happy with how I dealt with things today," Sivasangari will now face second-seeded Egyptian Amina Orfi in the semifinals. Orfi is the reigning world champion, setting up another demanding test for the Malaysian as she looks to continue her campaign.

For Anahat, the focus will now shift towards the final stages of her preparation for the Asian Games in Japan, which begin on September 19. The Indian teenager is scheduled to compete at the Qatar Classic from September 12 before turning her full attention to the continental showpiece. The Asian Games will carry added significance for both Anahat and Sivasangari. Sivasangari is currently the top-ranked Asian player, while Anahat will be looking to close the gap on the Malaysian on the continental stage.

Women's Asia Cup: India Eye Another Dominant Win Over Pakistan Rivalry



New Delhi : There is a common theme when it comes to the India vs Pakistan rivalry over the years. Often, the terms of high stakes and bragging rights tend to get thrown around for the battle of the neighbours. But over time, it does feel like something that is hyped by the noise on social media than anything else. We have seen that with men's cricket as India have continued to dominate their arch-rivals to such an extent that we have had captains and players

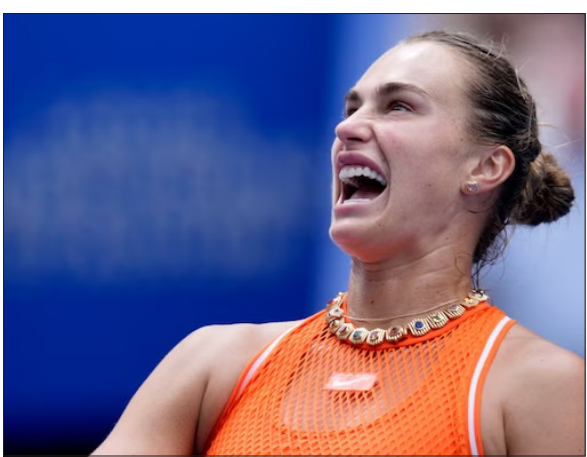
come out and say the rivalry is done. When it comes to women's cricket, it just gets magnified. India have never lost a women's ODI to Pakistan and in the T20I format they have had just three defeats. That came back in 2022, during the women's Asia Cup. India ended up beating them in the T20 World Cup 2026 by a comfortable margin as the dominance with the ball continued. And this time around, the noise and stakes are far less. India have little left to

prove in the group stage, having secured their place in the semifinals with two wins from as many games. Pakistan, meanwhile, have only played once so far and are also well placed to progress, with their final group fixture coming against Hong Kong. Even in the pre-match presser, Deepti Sharma made it a point to say that India will be focusing on their own game and have been a step ahead of Pakistan in their last few encounters. "Look, there is no advantage as such. The only thing is that whatever we have won against them (Pakistan), whether it is the Asia Cup or any other matches, we are always one step ahead of them. And that's it," said Deepti. Even in the buildup to the match, despite the broadcasters trying their best, it just seemed like any other match for both sides.

Aryna Sabalenka Jokes "I Might Get High" After Weed Smell Stops Match

Sabalenka Urges Fans to Be More Careful

New Delhi : A tennis match isn't always stopped because of the overpowering smell of weed, but Aryna Sabalenka saw the funny side of things at the US Open. However, the World No.1 urged fans not to smoke near the tennis court, joking that she may get high in the process. Sabalenka progressed to the fourth round at Flushing Meadows after her hard-fought win over Kamilla Rakhimova. However, the match caught the attention of everyone around the globe after it was stopped midway through the first set. Sabalenka complained to the chair umpire about someone smoking weed in the crowd. Sabalenka was at her jovial best at the press conference and a reporter asked her



about how much of a high she gets playing at the US Open. The Belarussian joked saying, that she can only hear stuff about weed at the moment, leading to laughs in the press room. "High? The level? Now I can only hear weed stuff. If they're gonna

keep smoking I might get high," said Sabalenka. This led to more questions about the smell of weed inside the court, which Sabalenka was able to answer while laughing. The World No.1 felt the smell might have been strong due to the windy

conditions but asked the fans to be a bit more aware about things. "That strong? Yeah. Also because it was a bit windy. I don't know if it was coming from the crowd or the outside because wind blows it into the stadium. I just hope they're gonna be a bit more aware of that stuff," said Sabalenka. Sabalenka went on to say that she is ok with fans having a good time but urged them not to do it while players are competing on a tennis court. "I was like, guys you can do whatever. You can smoke, whatever. You can relax as much as you can. But please don't do it around the tennis courts. It's a bit tricky to handle that smell while you're trying to compete at your best," said Sabalenka.