

Postal bags burnt, convoy halted amid NH-202 blockade in Manipur

Imphal, July 28: A major disruption to government postal services and the interception of a security-escorted convoy along National Highway-202 have intensified concerns over law and order in Manipur, after postal consignments and essential goods were allegedly destroyed during an ongoing blockade in Ukhrul district. According to postal authorities, a government mail van carrying consignments for the Ukhrul, Somdal and Kamjong post offices was intercepted at Shangkai Kuki village while travelling along NH-202. The mail bags were allegedly seized by persons enforcing the counter-economic blockade before being set on fire.



Postal officials said a total of 37 government mail bags were destroyed, including 32 bags meant for the Ukhrul Post Office, four for Somdal and one for Kamjong. The consignments reportedly contained passports, ATM cards, educational certificates, registered letters, speed post articles, parcels, clothing, food items and other essential goods.

Following the incident, the Ukhrul Post Office lodged an FIR at Litan Police Station seeking a detailed investigation. Postal authorities have also suspended mail services across Ukhrul district until further orders, leaving hundreds of residents without access to essential postal deliveries. The Department of Posts has begun assessing the extent of the damage and is working on measures to restore ser-

vices in the affected areas. The postal disruption coincided with another incident on NH-202, where an escorted convoy travelling from Ukhrul to Imphal was intercepted near Shangkai village despite the presence of security personnel. According to sources, passenger buses, private vehicles and trucks carrying goods were stopped, and essential commodities allegedly un-

loaded during the blockade. Videos circulating on social media purportedly show goods being removed from vehicles while security personnel remained at the site. However, no official statement has yet been issued by Manipur Police or other security agencies regarding the incident or any action taken against those allegedly involved. The blockade has been enforced by the Working Committee of Kuki Civil Society Organisations (WCKCSOs)-Ukhrul since July 26, demanding uninterrupted transportation of essential commodities to Kuki-Zo inhabited areas. The latest incidents have renewed concerns over security along the Mahadev-Litan stretch of NH-202, a route that has witnessed several violent incidents in the past.

Assam Rifles nab seven insurgents in Manipur operations

Guwahati, July 28: In a significant counter-insurgency success, the Assam Rifles have apprehended seven insurgents during co-ordinated counter-infiltration operations in Manipur. The operation underscores the security forces' continued vigilance in safeguarding the state against insurgent activities and maintaining peace in sensitive border regions. According to official sources, the apprehension took place following intelligence inputs about attempted infiltration by armed groups. Assam Rifles personnel launched a swift and precise operation, intercepting the suspects and recovering incriminating materials. The insurgents were taken into custody for further interrogation, with authorities confirming that investigations are underway to ascertain their affiliations and operational plans. The operation highlights the Assam Rifles' proactive role in countering insurgency in Manipur, a state that has long faced challenges from armed groups seeking to destabilize peace and security. Officials emphasized that such actions are part of a broader strategy to strengthen border management, prevent



cross-border movement of insurgents, and ensure the safety of civilians in vulnerable areas. Security analysts noted that the apprehension of seven insurgents marks a significant disruption of potential insurgent activities. It also sends a strong message about the government's commitment to maintaining law and order and protecting citizens from threats posed by militant organizations. Local communities have welcomed the operation, expressing relief that security forces remain active in curbing infiltration attempts. Civil society leaders stressed the importance of continued cooperation between citizens and security agencies to ensure long-term stability in the region. The Assam Rifles reiterated their commitment to safeguarding Manipur and the wider Northeast, assuring that

operations will continue to neutralize threats and uphold peace. Authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and report suspicious activities to security agencies. This successful operation reflects the ongoing efforts of India's security forces to counter insurgency, strengthen national security, and promote peace in Manipur and the Northeast. In addition, officials highlighted that the success of this operation reflects improved coordination between intelligence agencies and ground forces. Enhanced surveillance technologies, combined with community inputs, have played a crucial role in detecting infiltration attempts early and enabling swift response. This integrated approach is expected to further strengthen counter-insurgency measures in the region.

Track settlement disrupts Lumding–Badarpur trains; cancellations, reschedules follow

Guwahati, July 28: Train services on the Lumding–Badarpur Hill Section have been disrupted after railway tracks near New Harangajao station developed a settlement, prompting the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) to impose restrictions on train operations and suspend night movement of passenger trains through the affected stretch. Railway officials said the settlement affected both Line-1 and Line-2 near New Harangajao station. At present, all trains are being operated through Line-3 under strict safety monitoring and regulated speed restrictions.

As a precautionary measure, passenger-carrying trains will not operate through the affected section between 7 pm and 5 am until restoration work is completed. Daytime train movement is continuing under enhanced safety protocols and continuous monitoring. Engineering teams, railway personnel and heavy machinery have been deployed at the site on a war footing to restore the damaged track. Railway authorities expressed hope that normal services would resume once repair work is completed safely. Trains Cancelled The following trains



have been cancelled: 15617 Guwahati–Dullab-

cherra Express (July 29) 15618 Dullabcherra–Guwahati Express (July 30) 15615 Guwahati–Silchar Express (July 29) 15616 Silchar–Guwahati Express (July 29 and 30) Trains Rescheduled Several trains have also been rescheduled: 15650 Narangi–Agartala Express (July 29): Departure rescheduled to 10:30pm 15649 Agartala–Narangi Express (July 29): Departure rescheduled to 11:30pm 15609 Guwahati–Sairang Express (July 29): Departure rescheduled to 11:30pm 15610 Sairang–Guwahati Express (July 29): Departure rescheduled to 9:30pm

15611 Rangiya–Silchar Express (July 29): Departure rescheduled to 11:30 pm 15612 Silchar–Rangiya Express (July 28 and 29): Departure rescheduled to 5:00 am on July 29 and 30 respectively 15646 Silchar–Charlapalli Express (July 29): Departure rescheduled to 4:10 am on July 30. Railway authorities have advised passengers to check the latest train status before commencing their journey and assured that every effort is being made to restore normal operations at the earliest. The Lumding–Badarpur Hill Section is a vital rail corridor connecting Assam with

southern Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, and Manipur. Disruptions on this route affect passenger convenience and freight movement, particularly essential commodities and agricultural produce. The NFR has mobilized additional resources to expedite restoration, with engineering teams working round-the-clock to stabilize the affected track. Officials emphasized that the settlement was caused by natural soil movement in the hilly terrain, a recurring challenge in the region. Continuous monitoring and preventive measures are being reinforced to minimize future disruptions.

Passengers have been urged to remain patient and cooperate with railway staff during this period. The NFR reiterated its commitment to safety, transparency, and timely communication, assuring that updates will be provided regularly through official channels. The disruption highlights the challenges of maintaining railway infrastructure in difficult terrain and underscores the importance of resilient engineering solutions. The Northeast Frontier Railway remains focused on restoring services swiftly while ensuring passenger safety and operational reliability.

North East NSS festival opens at Kohima Science College

Kohima, July 28: The North East NSS Festival 2026 commenced on Monday at Kohima Science College (Autonomous), Jotsoma, bringing together National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers from all eight Northeastern states under the theme “Viksit Bharat.” The inaugural programme was graced by Dr. Kekhrie Yhome, Advisor for School Education, Government of Nagaland, as the special guest. The programme was chaired by Dr. Subenthung P. Tsoepoe, Programme Officer, NSS, KSCJ, while the invocation was offered by Kivipu Jimomi, Chaplain, CCP, KSCJ. An introductory note was presented by D. Carthigueane, Regional Director, NSS, North Eastern Region, outlining the objectives of the festival and emphasising the role of the National Service Scheme in fostering leadership, social responsibility, and national integration among young volunteers. The programme also featured a special musical performance by Elvina Khangshou, an NSS volunteer. Addressing the gathering, Yhome expressed appreciation to the organisers for



bringing together young volunteers from all eight Northeastern states on one platform to celebrate the spirit of service, leadership, cultural diversity, and national integration. He said the National Service Scheme's motto, “Not Me, But You,” embodies the essence of selfless service and reminds volunteers that true leadership begins with serving others. He described NSS volunteers as ambassadors of compassion, responsibility, and positive change. Highlighting the region's di-

versity, Dr. Yhome said the Northeast is blessed with rich traditions, vibrant cultures, and resilient communities. Despite differences in language and customs, he said, the people of the region are united by a common commitment to serve humanity and contribute to building a stronger India. Calling the festival more than just a cultural gathering, he said it provides an opportunity for volunteers to learn from one another, build lasting friendships, exchange ideas, and inspire each other to

create meaningful change in their respective communities. He urged the participants to protect the environment, promote peace and harmony, support those in need, and encourage fellow youth to become responsible citizens, adding that every small act of kindness and service has the power to transform lives. Stressing the importance of youth in shaping the nation's future, Dr. Yhome said India's progress depends on the energy, dedication, and vision of young people. He encouraged the volun-

teers to continue upholding the ideals of the NSS with pride and commitment. Conveying his best wishes for the festival, Dr. Yhome expressed hope that every participant would return home with unforgettable memories, stronger friendships, and renewed inspiration to serve society. The festival will feature a series of cultural, educational, leadership, and community-oriented activities aimed at strengthening volunteerism and advancing the vision of a developed India.

Meghalaya Cabinet clears EV policy 2026, ₹25k incentive

Shillong, July 28: The Meghalaya Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, on Tuesday approved a series of major policy decisions, including the Meghalaya Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2026, aimed at promoting clean and sustainable mobility across the state. Under the new EV policy, the government will provide an incentive of ₹25,000 to every individual purchasing an electric vehicle, along with a complete waiver of vehicle registration fees. The initiative is intended to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, reduce carbon emissions, encourage clean transportation, and make electric mobility more affordable for citizens. The Cabinet also approved ₹22.37 crore towards land compensation for the construction of the 132 kV double-circuit transmission line from the 220/132 kV Saisiej Substation to the proposed 132/33 kV, 2×50 MVA Mawkanu Substation. The approval includes compensation for the Right of Way (RoW) required for the transmission corridor. The project is expected to strengthen Meghalaya's power transmission network, improve electricity reliability, and meet the state's growing energy demand. In another key decision, the Cabinet approved amend-



ments to the New Shillong Township Development Agency Rules, 2012, converting the New Shillong Township Development Agency into the New Shillong Development Authority (NSDA). The move is aimed at enhancing urban planning, governance, and infrastructure development in New Shillong by providing the authority with greater institutional capacity. The Cabinet also approved the continuation of Shri B. M. War, retired Chief Engineer (Civil) of the Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited (MeECL), as the Chief Technical Adviser (Generation). Additionally, the Cabinet approved the Meghalaya Border Areas Development Department (Research Wing) Service Rules, 2026, and cleared the

nomination of dignitaries who will take the salute during Independence Day celebrations at various locations across the state. The decisions reflect the state government's focus on sustainable development, strengthening infrastructure, improving governance, and enhancing public service delivery. Another key decision was the amendment of the New Shillong Township Development Agency Rules, 2012, converting the New Shillong Township Development Agency into the New Shillong Development Authority (NSDA). This move is aimed at enhancing urban planning, governance, and infrastructure development in New Shillong by providing the authority with greater institutional capacity and autonomy.

Meghalaya Cabinet clears new EV Policy offering cash incentives and fee waivers

Shillong, July 28: The Meghalaya Cabinet on Monday approved the State Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2026, aimed at promoting clean and sustainable mobility by encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles across the state.

Announcing the decision, Public Health Engineering Minister Marcuise N. Marak said the government will provide an incentive of Rs 25,000 to every individual purchasing an electric vehicle, besides offering a complete waiver of vehicle registration fees.

He said the policy reflects the government’s commitment to building a greener Meghalaya by reducing carbon emissions, promoting clean transportation and making electric mobility more accessible and affordable.

The policy covers electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers and four-wheelers, with separate incentive structures for each category.

Marak said more than 5,000 electric vehicles are already plying on Meghalaya’s roads, and the new incentives are expected to significantly



boost their numbers.

He added that the government has already identified locations for setting up electric vehicle charging stations across the state to support the transition to e-mobility.

The Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, also reviewed the state’s vehicle scrappage policy, which was notified last year.

Under the policy, owners who scrap vehicles older than 15 years and use the scrappage certificate to purchase a new electric vehicle will be eligible for an additional incentive. Marak

said the amount of the incentive is yet to be finalised.

The minister noted that neighbouring Assam has made faster progress in implementing vehicle scrappage facilities. He said Meghalaya is now encouraging private entrepreneurs to establish authorised scrappage centres in the state.

“The scrappage policy framework is ready. We will be happy to assist any entrepreneur who wants to establish a scrappage station in the state,” Marak said.Meghalaya currently does not have any vehicle scrappage facilities.

Kharge and Rahul advocate for a lasting solution to flooding

Guwahati, July 27: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday expressed their solidarity with Assam flood victims and demanded a permanent solution to the problem.

This year, 68 people have lost their lives in the Assam floods, which has left behind a trail of massive destruction.

They demanded a permanent solution to the problem, reminding how the BJP had come to power with that promise, and urged the governments to ensure relief and rehabilitation at the earliest for the affected people.

“Deeply distressed by the devastating floods in Assam, which have claimed at least 68 precious lives and caused immense suffering and destruction across the State. Almost 10 lakh people across 25 districts were affected,” Kharge said in a post on X.

He expressed his condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones.

“My thoughts are with all those who have lost their homes, livelihoods, crops and livestock,” he added.

The Congress president said the Union and state governments must mobilise every available resource for rescue, relief and rehabilitation.Substantial assistance from the PM-CARES Fund must be released immediately for the flood-affected families, and adequate compensation must be provided for every life, home and livelihood lost, he asserted.Kharge also pointed out that in its 2016 Assam Vision Document, the BJP had promised a permanent solution to the state’s recurring floods. During the 2021 Assembly election campaign,

the Union Home Minister again promised to make Assam “flood-free” within five years.

“Ten years of BJP rule have now passed. What happened to those solemn promises? Why has Assam’s so-called “double-engine government” failed to build a comprehensive flood-control, erosion-management and rehabilitation system?” Kharge questioned.

He maintained that Assam needs a permanent, scientifically designed strategy encompassing modern early-warning systems, stronger and regularly maintained embankments, wetland restoration, accountable river-basin management, climate-resilient infrastructure and dignified rehabilitation for displaced families.Kharge also appealed to all Congress leaders, workers and volunteers to provide every possible assistance to the affected people and support the ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts.Gandhi, conveying his condolences to the bereaved families, said the news of deaths caused by the devastating floods is deeply saddening.He expressed his solidarity with the lakhs of people affected by the deluge.“It is expected that the Central and state governments will leave no stone unturned in providing relief and rescue to the affected people,” Gandhi said in a post on social media.Mentioning the trail of deaths and damage left by the floods annually in the state, Gandhi affirmed that it was time to find a lasting solution to the problem.“A system that scientifically prioritises prevention, early warning system, robust infrastructure and rehabilitation — so that people do not have to face such devastation every year,” the Congress leader added.

Meghalaya Cabinet Approves EV Policy New Urban Authority

Shillong, July 28: Meghalaya officials cleared the Electric Vehicle Policy 2026 this Monday. Buyers get a Rs 25,000 cash incentive. The state will also scrap all registration fees for electric vehicles. Cabinet Minister Marcuise N. Marak spoke to reporters after the meeting. “The Cabinet has approved the Meghalaya Electric Vehicle Policy 2026. To encourage the adoption of electric vehicles, every buyer will receive an incentive of Rs 25,000. Registration fees for electric vehicles will also be fully waived,”

Marak said.The government also shifted its focus to power grids. Officials sanctioned Rs 22.37 crore for land compensation. This covers the Right of Way for a 6.5-km 132 KV transmission line. The line links the existing 220/132 KV Secondary Sub-Station to the proposed 132/33 KV, 2x50 MVA Mawkhanu Sub-Station. Power infrastructure gets a boost.

The Cabinet kept B.M. War on the payroll. War serves as the Chief Technical Advisor for Generation at the Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited. His tenure continues under the new order.Urban planning rules changed too. The state will convert the New Shillong Township Development Agency into the New Shillong Development Authority. They amended the 2012 development rules to make it happen. The new authority holds more power to manage city growth. This ensures better governance for the New Shillong expansion.

NFR marks historic first with direct container freight train to Nepal

Guwahati, July 28: In a landmark achievement for India-Nepal rail connectivity, the first-ever direct commercial container freight train, comprising 40 wagons carrying a consignment of canola, completed its journey from Kolkata Port to Biratnagar Customs Yard in Nepal, officials said on Monday.

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Chief Public Relations Officer Kapinjal Kishore Sharma said the historic movement marks the operationalisation of the revised India-Nepal Rail Transit Protocol and opens a new chapter in cross-border freight transportation.The train operated seamlessly under the revised transit framework, allowing direct rail movement of bulk cargo from Kolkata Port to Biratnagar without transshipment at

the border. According to officials, this is expected to reduce transit time, logistics costs, and cargo handling while improving trade efficiency between the two neighbouring countries.



Sharma said the achievement builds upon the broad-gauge rail link between Bihar’s Jogbani (India) and Biratnagar (Nepal), inaugurated in June 2023 by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and the former Prime Minister of Nepal.Following the signing of the revised Letter of Exchange in November 2025, direct commercial rail movement to Nepal has now become a reality.



The NFR CPRO pointed out that this milestone highlights the growing role of Northeast Frontier Railway in strengthening international rail connectivity and facilitating seamless

cross-border trade. The initiative is expected to boost bilateral commerce, improve logistics efficiency and further reinforce India’s commitment to enhancing regional connectivity through modern railway infrastructure.

Sharma said that building on this historic achievement, NFR will continue to strengthen cross-border rail connectivity, enhance freight logistics and support the growing trade and economic partnership between India and Nepal through efficient, reliable and customer-focused railway services.The Agartala-Akhaura (Bangladesh) rail link project, being implemented by NFR, is also nearing completion and is expected to enhance rail connectivity between the Northeastern states and Bangladesh.

State Cancer Institute test charges, patients face higher treatment



Shillong, July 28: Patients receiving treatment at the State Cancer Institute in Assam are set to pay more for diagnostic tests and hospital services following a revision of the existing fee structure implemented from July 22.The updated rates have increased charges for several essential medical procedures, raising concerns among cancer patients and their families over the additional financial burden.Under the revised structure, the cost of a hospital bed has increased eightfold, rising from Rs 200 to Rs 1,600 per day. Cytology test charges have also been revised from Rs 50 to Rs 630.Biopsy procedures, which are crucial for cancer diagnosis, will now cost Rs 2,700 compared to the earlier fee of Rs 1,000. Blood test charges have also witnessed an increase of around 60 per cent. The revised rates have also affected marker tests, which help doctors assess cancer conditions, with charges increasing from Rs 900 to Rs 2,000.Meanwhile, concerns have been raised over the reported discontinuation of free medicineThe revised fee structure came into effect on July 22 and applies to various tests and services provided at the institute.

Meghalaya farmers fight middleman reliance with new tech-driven organic hub



Shillong, July 28: Farmers in Meghalaya are breaking free from brokers. The North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) is rolling out a massive plan to stop seasonal distress sales. They are setting up a 1,000-acre marketing hub in Sohra to push local goods into

high-end markets. The project covers 5,000 farmers and 55 distinct farmland clusters across the state.

Technology is doing the heavy lifting. NECTAR is flying drones over farmland to build high-resolution maps and track crop health. These tools

provide GPS-based boundaries and scientific planning. Roughly 100 lead farmers will get specialized training at demonstration farms. They must also finish third-party organic certification to sell their goods internationally.

Marketing remains the primary hurdle for local growers. NECTAR plans to bridge the gap between rural producers and organized buyers to cut out middlemen. The Sohra hub will serve as the central site for gathering and selling certified organic crops. Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, Director General of NECTAR, highlighted the goal of the initiative. “Our objective is not only to promote organic farming but to build a complete ecosystem where technology, certification and assured market access work together to improve farmers’ incomes.”This push comes under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. It seeks to swap old, low-profit habits for modern standards. Success could shift the state away from cheap distress sales. Thousands of farmers now have a path toward a better share of the organic economy.

Assam Accuses Meghalaya of Flooding Guwahati Via Hill Construction

Guwahati, July 28: Shillong: Meghalaya officials are keeping quiet while they probe Assam’s claims that their hill-cutting activities are flooding Guwahati. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma blames construction in the Jorabat hills for unmanageable water runoff hitting the capital. He insists this development threatens the city and its airport.

Sarma points to a Supreme Court-mandated committee report that labeled illegal building near the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya a major risk. The



Assam leader wants his neighbors to stop the chaos. “I will only appeal

to the Meghalaya government to see how development in and around Jo-

rabat can be controlled... otherwise the flood scene in Guwahati will be unmanageable,” Sarma said.

The issue heads to the Supreme Court soon. Meghalaya Cabinet Minister Marcuise Marak responded on Monday, stating the state is currently reviewing the situation. “Every detail will come out once the examination is done,” Marak said. The Meghalaya government previously stopped work in Byrnihat due to pollution issues, and Sarma hopes for similar restraint in Jorabat to save Guwahati from future disasters.

Fleet With 549 Vehicles and New Forensic Units Nagaland Police Revamps



Kohima, July 28: Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio officially flagged off a massive new fleet of 549 vehicles and 12 mobile forensic vans on Monday at the Police Complex in Chümoukedima. The acquisition, costing approximately Rs 81.65 crore, marks the primary output of a nearly Rs 150 crore police modernization initiative for 2025-26. These assets aim to replace 35 to 40 per cent of the state’s ageing police transport. This is a massive upgrade. The state previously received only Rs 4 to 6 crore annually for such efforts.

The diverse fleet includes 152 light motor vehicles, 325 medium vehicles, 68 heavy vehicles, four motorcycles, and various specialized units like ambulances and water tankers. Rio stressed that these vehicles must prioritize remote areas and op-

erational needs rather than rank or seniority. The 12 mobile forensic vans are designed to bridge geographical gaps, as the state currently relies on a single forensic laboratory in Dimapur. These vans carry tools for fingerprinting, narcotics and explosives detection, cyber forensics, and biological sample collection.

DGP Rupin Sharma noted that the police force has historically focused on counter-insurgency, leaving investigative and forensic gaps. The shift aligns with new national criminal laws requiring mandatory forensic examination for crimes carrying sentences over seven years. Addressing this transition, Sharma stated, “Traditionally, Nagaland Police has been built up around armed policing.” The state cabinet has now approved an independent Directorate of Forensic

Sciences to bolster this scientific shift. Plans are underway to recruit legal officers, IT experts, and forensic specialists via the Nagaland Public Service Commission to fill five newly advertised technical posts.On the July 13 IED blast that killed an Assam Rifles soldier, officials confirmed they are following multiple leads. While the state government proposed handing the investigation to the National Investigation Agency, the Ministry of Home Affairs has yet to formally communicate a decision. Meanwhile, ADGP Sandeep M. Tamgadge confirmed all investigating officers are undergoing mandatory training on the iGOT Karmayogi platform. Officers are also utilizing specialized workshops hosted by the NIA and NIELIT to handle emerging cybercrime and terrorism challenges.

Heavy rains are caused by deep depressions; Baleshwar records 246 mm of rain

Bhubaneswar, July 28: Odisha experienced heavy rains on Tuesday as the state's northern and coastal areas continued to get torrential rain due to a strong depression over the northwest Bay of Bengal. Baleshwar received one of the highest rainfall totals in the state, 246.6 mm, in the 24 hours ending Tuesday morning. District authorities responded by stepping up drainage efforts and keeping emergency teams ready.As a precaution, all government, government-aided, and private schools in the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, and Kendujhar, as well as Anganwadi centers, will remain closed.In some areas of Odisha, significant to extremely heavy rainfall has been caused by the deep depression



sion over the northwest Bay of Bengal and the nearby West Bengal-North Odisha beaches.

Weather officials have warned of more precipitation. Continuous rain in Baleshwar town flooded a number of low-lying neighborhoods, interfering with daily living and impeding traffic on main thoroughfares.Teams were sent by the district administration to remove collected water,

and firefighters were prepared to transfer inhabitants to safer areas in the event that the situation worsened. The severity of the weather system during the previous three days was demonstrated by rainfall records. Rainfall in the Balasore district was 405 mm on July 26 and 354 mm on July 27. The district recorded an additional 173.1 mm by Tuesday morning, and Balasore town alone received 204 mm.

In Raichur, an 8-year-old falls into a water-filled trench and perishes

New Delhi, July 28: In the Raichur district of Karnataka, an eight-year-old kid perished on Sunday after falling into a water-filled trench excavated for a railway construction project, according to authorities.The boy wandered out while playing after accompanying his parents to their agricultural field close to Kapagal village in Manvi taluk. According to the authorities, his parents later discovered him in a 9–10-foot-deep pit that had been dug out for a railroad column and had filled with water.Around 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, an event happened close to Kapagal village in Manvi taluk. The parents investigated the neighborhood after realizing their son was missing, according to Manvi Police Inspector Somashekar Kencha Reddy. “The parents found the boy in a water filled pit dug by the Railway Department at Survey No. 223, adjacent to their land. They pulled him out and rushed him to Lakshmi Hospital, Manvi. Doctors declared him dead. His body was later shifted to the government hospital mortuary,” he said. The family of the youngster has accused the contractor, engineers, and railway officials of failing to safeguard the excavation site. Manvi police have started an investigation after registering crime no. section 106(1) (culpable homicide) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in response to a complaint from the boy's father.”The boy's father filed a complaint accusing the railway authorities, the contractor, and the engineers of being negligent. They claimed that the disaster occurred as a result of insufficient safety measures being implemented during the railway construction project. We are looking into the issue and will take the necessary steps,” Kencha Reddy stated. According to Manvi MLA G Hampayya Nayak, individuals in charge of the construction project will face consequences. “The relevant authorities have received instructions, and the responsible contractor and engineer will face consequences. The family of the deceased child will also receive compensation from the government, he stated. The incident has highlighted safety concerns at railway construction sites in the district, with social activist Shivkumar Kamthane Sindol pointing out the lack of safety measures around unsecured pits. He urged the government to implement safeguards and penalize negligent contractors and engineers, especially since many works are near agricultural fields, posing risks to farmers and children. Raichur Deputy Commissioner Poovitha S confirmed an inquiry is in progress, stating that instructions for enhanced safety measures have been issued to railway officials. An FIR has been filed, and compensation will be provided to the affected family following the investigation.

CJP After Midnight Discussions with the Government

New Delhi, July 28: “No demonstrator will be left on their own. Following a late-night meeting with government officials, the Cockroach Janta Party declared, “We are all in this together,” saying that they had promised the organization that more states would issue notices protecting protesters. The statement was made just hours after the CJP claimed that officials had communicated government orders from Bihar and Assam that offered protesters reprieve and warned of more protests over what it described as a “breach of agreement” over police intervention against demonstrators.CJP Chief Spokesperson Saurav Das wrote that the government had reaffirmed its commitment to withdrawing cases against protesters, releasing those detained, and guaranteeing similar protections through notifications from the Union government and other BJP/NDA-ruled states in a late-night update posted on X at one in the morning. Government representatives met with CJP leaders to discuss assurances regarding the withdrawal of FIRs against protesters in Bihar and Assam, committing to similar guarantees from other BJP/NDA-ruled states. CJP leaders expressed concerns about the government's fulfillment of these promises, but were shown a press release stating no future actions would be taken against protesters. Discussions included securing similar notifications from other states to protect protesters from legal repercussions. CJP emphasized their commitment to ensuring that no protesters face legal action.

The CJP rejected the Center's initial offer to alter Dharmendra Pradhan's portfolio

New Delhi, July 28: The Center's initial suggestion to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) during last week's rallies in the nation's capital, which demanded Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation as Education Minister, was to alter Pradhan's portfolio.According to sources, Union Ministers JP Nadda and Jitendra Singh, who were negotiating with the group, informed the CJP team of the idea to alter Pradhan's ministry.On July 20, Nadda and Singh first visited the CJP team at Singh's home, despite a widespread crackdown on demonstrators in the capital's streets during the demonstrators' call for a march on Parliament. Sources said that Nadda and Singh offered to shift Pradhan from Education to a different ministry as a way to end the impasse, but it was rejected by CJP negotiators Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka. The CJP was adamant on Pradhan's exit from the government and had made it clear that nothing short of his resignation would satisfy the protesters.



Sources claim that the Union ministers informed the CJP that the Prime Minister has the authority to remove a minister or alter a portfolio.Pradhan's departure was the only compromise, according to the CJP. The CJP negotiators thought that accepting anything less than a resignation would cause a severe response among the demonstrators, according to additional sources. Just hours before the third session of negotiations between the CJP and Union ministers, Dharmendra Pradhan tendered his resignation as Education Minister on Saturday afternoon. The CJP then canceled its demonstration. Head of the Opposition Additionally, Rahul Gandhi has stated unequivocally

that merely altering Pradhan's portfolio would not win over the opposition or the students.Additionally, he had demanded that Pradhan be removed from office. ”Dharmendra Pradhan represents the disarray inside the educational system. Gandhi had remarked, “He has to leave.”Pradhan said in his resignation letter that he had resigned in order to prevent “anti-national forces” from taking advantage of the unrest around exam paper leaks. ”So that anti-national forces do not take advantage of the situation that has arisen at Jantar Mantar and across the country, so that the unity of the country remains intact, so that the future of not a single student of India gets entangled in legal complexities, and so that our children invest their time in studying and focus on building their careers - considering all these aspects, I have submitted my resignation to the Honourable Prime Minister,” he said in a two-page note in Hindi posted on social media.

During the Amarnath Yatra in J&K, a bus skids off the road, injuring 39 pilgrims

New Delhi, July 28: In the Kangan area of Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district, their speeding bus skidded off the road on Tuesday, injuring at least 39 pilgrims participating in the Amarnath Yatra, according to officials. The driver lost control of the bus while negotiating a bend, causing it to fall on a house near Hariganwan. Although the house sustained significant damage, it kept the bus from sliding into the Sindh River.

According to the officials, nobody was inside the residence when the disaster occurred.They said that the 39 pilgrims were hurt on their way back from the sacred cave shrine of Amarnath. Locals and security guards evacuated them to the hospital so



they could receive medical attention. Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor (LG), asked how the injured were doing.I asked health officials and the Deputy Commissioner of Ganderbal about the health of pilgrims participating in the Shri Amarnathji Yatra who were hurt in the tragic road accident in Ganiwan, Ganderbal, earlier this morning. Sinha wrote on his

Phulbani Medical College is renamed by the Odisha chief minister in honor of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati

Bhubaneswar, July 28: The Government Medical College and Hospital in Kandhamal district will be renamed in honor of Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, according to an announcement made by Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.The medical college in Phulbani town of Kandhamal will be renamed in recognition of Saraswati's contributions to tribal welfare and education in the district, Majhi announced on Monday night.Additionally, the state government would fund the construction of the Jalespata ashram, school, and girls' hostel with ₹13 crore from the Chief Minister's Special Assistance Fund. The budget includes ₹60 lakh for a river lift water supply project that would serve the ashram,



school, and hostel, ₹5 crore for building a 300-seat girls' hostel, and ₹3 crore for the protection and development of the ashram heritage site. The remaining money will be used to rehabilitate existing fa-

cilities and construct classrooms, restrooms, hostel buildings, and boundary walls.The CM stated that the activities were designed to boost the district's educational infrastructure while maintaining the ashram's historical and cultural value.On August 23, 2008, armed attackers invaded Saraswati's Jalespata ashram and opened fire, killing him and four associates. Saraswati was a veteran VHP activist who worked in Kandhamal for decades. Before running away, the attackers fired about fifty shots. At least 39 people were killed and hundreds of churches were damaged or destroyed as a result of the massive communal violence that followed his assassination in Kandhamal. In relation to the violence, almost 800 criminal prosecutions were filed.

Meta on Facebook's decision to remove PM Modi's video

New Delhi, July 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's video was blocked on Facebook on Tuesday, according to a statement from Meta, which claimed that the clip had been “removed in error.” The video has now been restored, it said. According to insiders, the global head of public policy at Meta (Facebook and Instagram) was called by the ministry of information and technology shortly after.The controversy centers on a video message that Prime Minister Modi posted last week, referring to young people as “friends” in the midst of the intense protests over the NEET paper leak issue. Acknowledging the seriousness of the situation, he said that the Center will introduce a law that would establish expedited courts and more severe penalties for anyone implicated. In his late-night speech, Modi addressed the worries of parents and kids, stating that the administration acknowledged the seriousness of the situation. “Friends, I am aware that the paper leak is a serious problem. Numerous students and their parents have suffered greatly as a result.



According to the prime minister, the administration has taken a number of actions against leakers during the last two and a half months.The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, which the Center later introduced, calls for harsher penalties for violators, including up to ten years in prison, increased fines, and the creation of Special Fast-Track Courts to try cases under the Act. ”Mr. Modi, our students are demanding Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation,” the opposition said in a scathing response to Modi's video, characterizing his response as “hollow” and “desperate.” Don't use this pitiful midnight video to belittle their brains. 1. Fire Pradhan. 2. Penalize individuals who assault pupils. 3. Rahul Gandhi apologized on X.

The most recent draft notification designating Western Ghats as ecologically sensitive is about to expire

New Delhi, July 28: On Monday, July 27, the sixth and most recent draft notice, which was issued on July 31, 2024, to designate more than 56,000 square kilometers of the Western Ghats as an ecologically sensitive area (ESA), expired. States were unable to agree on the final demarcation and extent. While discussions including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and an expert committee on the subject continue, a seventh draft notification is probably going to be released.In 2010, the Union government started the process of safeguarding and announcing an ESA for the 1,600-kilometer mountain range. In 2011, a group headed by environmentalist Madhav Gadgil suggested that the Western Ghats be designated as an ESA. Another panel under the late former Indian Space Research Organisation chief K Kasturirangan later reviewed the issue, and the first draft notification to deliberate and discuss the matter was issued on March 10, 2014.Five more notifications have since been issued and expired. The latest one specified that an area of 56,825.7 square kilometres of the ghats would be notified as an ESA across the six states. The concerned states have differed over the final area to be demarcated and the restrictions on development and other activities. Notifications of ESA drafts expire after 725 days. ESA proposes a number of limitations aimed at protecting biodiversity. These include polluting operations including thermal power plants, mining and quarrying, red category businesses, and large-scale development projects.According to the most recent draft, the ESA would cover 449 square kilometers in Gujarat, 17,340 square kilometers in Maharashtra, 1,461 square kilometers in Goa, 20,668 square kilometers in Karnataka,

6,914 square kilometers in Tamil Nadu, and 9,993.7 square kilometers in Kerala.Discussions between the states and the expert group that the environment ministry established in 2022 are still ongoing. The group is led by Sanjay Kumar, a former director general of forests. The committee's term has been extended until July 2027, according to officials with knowledge of the situation. ”Talks are ongoing and going nicely. We will soon address the last areas of concern. An official with knowledge of the situation stated, “The committee will share that with the ministry.” The official stated that the committee will be consulted before a fresh draft is released. With at least 325 internationally threatened species, the Western Ghats on India's west coast are regarded as a biodiversity hotspot. In 2012, it was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. When HT inquired about the latest draft's expiration date and the status of notifying the ESA, the ministry remained silent.

The ministry informed Parliament on July 20 that the process was still in progress. It stated that the ministry established a committee to review the recommendations made by the six states, taking into account the ecosystem's conservation features as well as the rights, privileges, requirements, and developmental goals.According to the ministry, the committee is considering the state governments' views and concerns before making final recommendations regarding the draft notification. It further stated that before completing the draft notification, the government will review the suggestions. According to the ministry, the state governments have been notified of the comments, objections, and suggestions it has received regarding the draft notification.

Massive controversy is sparked by Kangana Ranaut's crude remarks against Generation Z

New Delhi, July 28: The rhetoric and posts made by students during the recently concluded rallies at Delhi's Jantar Mantar and several other locations have received a lot of attention. The entire arc was covered with the posters, signs, slogans, and memes, which ranged from imaginative and humorous to occasionally obscene.Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut has now sparked controversy by making offensive remarks about Gen Z demonstrators. Ranaut unleashed her own tirade with a number of offensive remarks while criticizing the demonstrators' vocabulary. Ranaut described the protestors' profanity and Instagram posts during the demonstrations at Jantar Mantar and other locations as “puke-inducing” and wrote: “Never in my life have I seen so much ugliness in one place.” These Gen Z protest reels will make you throw up. Never in my life have I seen everything in every single frame so startling and so crude all at once. It's the way they talk and the language they use.”The BJP MP continued by raising concerns about the demonstrators' upbringing. “Ewww, who is birthing and raising them?” Kangana Ranaut's controversial remarks regarding protesters, whom she derogatorily referred to as “cockroaches,” highlighted her views on the cultural and moral standing of certain segments of Indian society. She articulated that India is filled with beautiful, culturally sophisticated people, contrasting them with the protesters, whom she accused of projecting filth and ugliness. Ranaut expressed a personal need for healing from what she described as the harmful impact of the protesters' actions and public perception. Moreover, she directed sharp criticism towards “Hindu women” associated with the protests, labeling them as “so-called westernised Indian women,” claiming they are “corrupt and ugly” and incapable of fulfilling roles as homemakers. She referred to this group as “Generation Gutter,” asserting that many lack academic prowess and contribute little to society. These statements have sparked significant political backlash. Congress leader Bhaji Jagtap questioned Ranaut's empathy as a woman towards the treatment of students during the protests, expressing astonishment at her lack of remorse. AIMIM leader Waris Pathan condemned her language and urged the Prime Minister to take action regarding the disrespectful comments made by his MPs. Pathan challenged Ranaut's knowledge of educational terms, suggesting her criticisms were unfounded and urged her to apologize to the younger generation.

PM Modi Talks About India's Future Space Plans with the Founders of Skyroot

New Delhi, July 28:Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with the founders of Skyroot Aerospace, the firm that successfully launched Vikram-1, India's first privately manufactured orbital-class rocket, on Monday. Following the meeting, Prime Minister Modi stated that their enthusiasm, drive, and optimism are a reflection of the dynamic nature of the nation's private space ecosystem.”A wonderful conversation with Pawan Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka from Skyroot Aerospace,” PM Modi remarked on X.He remarked that among many other fascinating topics, the success of Vikram-1 was undoubtedly a major topic of debate.I'm glad to learn



about their experiences thus far and their perspectives on the future. Their enthusiasm, drive, and optimism capture the lively essence of our private space ecosystem. “Warm regards to the whole Skyroot team,” he remarked. Skyroot Aerospace said its

founders Pawan Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka had the privilege of sharing the company's journey, the successful Vikram-1 mission, and the vision for the future of space. According to the business, the prime minister talked about technology,

long-term goals, and future prospects for India's private space industry.

We are still motivated by his support of young entrepreneurs and his faith in India's expanding innovation ecosystem,” the statement stated.

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The Hardest Reform of All: Making People Believe Again

The transition from one prime minister to another is often a defining moment in any government’s early journey. The public forms quick impressions, expectations rise, and the new administration has a narrow window to demonstrate whether it represents genuine change or merely a continuation of the past. For Andy Burnham, who has begun his tenure as prime minister with a message of urgency and optimism, the central challenge is not only delivering specific policies but convincing a sceptical electorate that political action can still improve people’s lives. After years of economic uncertainty, rising living costs, strained public services, and declining trust in institutions, many citizens have become accustomed to the belief that some problems are simply too large or complicated for governments to solve. Burnham’s early political strategy has been to challenge that assumption and argue that meaningful change is not only desirable but achievable.

In his first days in office, Burnham has sought to present a sharp contrast with the cautious approach associated with his predecessor, Keir Starmer. Instead of emphasising constraints and difficulties, he has focused on the idea that government has the power and responsibility to address long-standing social problems.

His early commitments, including measures aimed at easing the cost of living crisis, ending rough sleeping, and reforming social care, are designed not merely as policy announcements but as statements of political confidence. The message behind these initiatives is that problems affecting millions of people are not unavoidable features of society but challenges that can be addressed through determined public action.

This emphasis on possibility represents a significant political argument. Modern societies often develop a sense of inevitability around inequality and social hardship. Many people accept that poverty, homelessness, and inadequate care for the elderly or vulnerable are unfortunate realities that cannot be fully resolved. Governments frequently reinforce this perception by presenting themselves as managers of limited resources rather than agents of transformation. Burnham’s approach challenges this narrative by arguing that many social problems are ultimately the result of political choices and can therefore be changed through different political decisions.

His statement on rough sleeping captures this philosophy. By arguing that homelessness is an issue a government can solve if it chooses to do so, Burnham has moved the de-

bate away from whether such problems are inevitable and towards whether sufficient political will exists to address them. This approach is significant because it places responsibility directly on government institutions. Rather than treating social crises as permanent conditions, it frames them as failures that require solutions. Such a message can be politically powerful because it offers voters something often missing from modern politics: a sense of hope and agency.

However, promising change also creates significant risks. Once a government suggests that major problems can be solved, the public expects visible results. Ambitious language can inspire support, but it also raises expectations that must eventually be matched by effective implementation. Delivering reforms in areas such as social care and housing requires substantial resources, administrative capacity, and long-term planning. The gap between political promises and practical outcomes has contributed significantly to public distrust in recent decades. Burnham’s challenge will therefore be not only to present an optimistic vision but to demonstrate that his government has the ability to turn that vision into measurable improvements.

Predictably, criticism of his agenda has already begun. Opponents have questioned how proposed reforms will be financed and warned against policies they portray as economically risky. Conservative critics have attempted to associate his approach with excessive state intervention and higher taxation, while sections of the media have focused on potential costs before detailed policies have even been fully announced. Such criticism reflects a broader political debate about the role of government, taxation, and public spending. While scrutiny of government plans is necessary in a democracy, the debate often becomes unbalanced when questions about affordability are applied more aggressively to some political approaches than others.

The demand for financial responsibility is legitimate, particularly when governments propose major reforms requiring significant investment. However, public discussions about spending should also consider the costs of inaction.

Previous governments have made expensive decisions with long-term consequences, including costly responses to crises, inefficient public spending, and policies that created significant economic burdens. The question facing voters is therefore not simply how much a policy costs but whether failing to act may ultimately cost more.

Beyond Assumptions: How Science Is Transforming Our View of History

The discovery that the Upton Lovell Shaman, a prominent figure who lived in what is now Wiltshire around 4,000 years ago, was actually a woman has opened a new chapter in the study of ancient societies. For decades, archaeologists believed that this individual was male because of the valuable objects buried alongside the remains, including ceremonial artefacts, tools, and items associated with religious authority and metalworking. The assumption seemed natural within older interpretations of Bronze Age societies, where positions of power, spiritual leadership, and specialised skills were often automatically associated with men. However, advanced ancient DNA analysis conducted by researchers at the Francis Crick Institute has revealed that the remains belonged to a female individual. This finding is not merely a correction of a historical detail; it represents a deeper challenge to the assumptions that have shaped interpretations of the ancient world for generations. It demonstrates how modern scientific techniques are forcing historians and archaeologists to reconsider long-held beliefs about identity, gender roles, social organisation, and human behaviour in the past.

The significance of the Upton Lovell discovery extends far beyond one archaeological site. It highlights a broader transformation taking place in the study of human history due to advances in ancient DNA technology. Over the past two decades, genetic research has repeatedly overturned established ideas about how ancient populations lived, migrated, interacted, and evolved. Many conclusions once consid-

ered reliable have been revised as scientists gained the ability to examine biological evidence preserved in ancient remains. These discoveries have revealed a past that is far more complex, interconnected, and unpredictable than earlier generations of researchers imagined. Instead of isolated communities developing separately over thousands of years, genetic evidence has shown a world shaped by migration, cultural exchange, intermarriage, disease, and constant movement between populations.

One of the most remarkable revelations from ancient DNA studies has been the extent of interaction between early humans and Neanderthals. For much of the 20th century, Neanderthals were often portrayed as a completely separate and extinct branch of humanity with little connection to modern humans. Genetic research has dramatically changed this understanding by showing that early Homo sapiens and Neanderthals encountered each other, interacted, and had offspring. Many populations outside Africa today carry traces of Neanderthal DNA, proving that these groups were not distant strangers but connected communities that shared aspects of their lives and environments. This discovery transformed scientific understanding of human evolution and demonstrated that ancient history is not a simple story of replacement but one of contact and exchange.

Ancient DNA has also challenged assumptions about the appearance and identity of earlier populations. For many years, popular images of ancient Europeans were shaped by modern expectations rather than scientific evidence.

Genetic studies have suggested that some of the earliest modern humans in Britain had darker skin pigmentation than many people previously imagined. Such findings challenge simplistic ideas about ancient populations and remind us that human diversity has always been part of history. The past was not populated by groups that neatly matched modern categories of race, nationality, or identity. Instead, ancient societies were dynamic, constantly changing communities shaped by movement and adaptation.

The power of ancient DNA research lies in its ability to provide evidence about aspects of human life that traditional archaeology cannot always reveal. Archaeological discoveries such as tools, buildings, pottery, and burial sites provide valuable information about past societies, but they often leave unanswered questions about biological relationships, migration patterns, health conditions, and population changes. DNA analysis has helped researchers trace ancient movements of people across continents, understand family structures within communities, identify the spread of diseases, and reconstruct relationships between different groups. It has offered a new dimension to archaeology by connecting physical remains with biological histories.

However, ancient DNA is not a complete answer to every mystery of the past. While genetics can reveal that populations moved, mixed, or disappeared, it often cannot explain why these events occurred. For example, genetic evidence has shown that the communities responsible for building Stonehenge

experienced dramatic population changes after the arrival of the Bell Beaker people around 2400 BC. The earlier Neolithic population appears to have declined significantly within a relatively short period. Yet DNA alone cannot fully explain whether this change resulted from migration, disease, conflict, social transformation, environmental pressures, or a combination of factors. Understanding such events requires combining genetic evidence with archaeology, anthropology, environmental studies, and historical interpretation.

This limitation is important because it reminds researchers that science works best when different forms of evidence are considered together. DNA can reveal patterns of biological change, but human societies are shaped by culture, beliefs, politics, technology, and environmental conditions. The lives of ancient people cannot be reduced to genetic information alone. A person’s identity was influenced not only by ancestry but also by social roles, relationships, skills, and community recognition. The case of the Upton Lovell Shaman demonstrates this clearly. The discovery that the individual was female does not simply replace one label with another; it raises broader questions about gender, authority, and social organisation in Bronze Age Britain. It suggests that women may have held forms of religious, economic, or political influence that earlier interpretations overlooked.

The discovery also exposes how modern assumptions can influence the way researchers understand the past. The belief that a powerful spiritual figure must

have been male reflected contemporary ideas about gender rather than direct evidence from the archaeological record. Similar examples appear throughout history. A recent analysis of plaster casts from Pompeii challenged the popular belief that two victims preserved after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius represented a mother and child embracing during their final moments. Genetic evidence revealed that the individuals were not related and that the adult was male. The earlier interpretation had become popular because it reflected a familiar and emotionally appealing human story, even though there was no scientific evidence supporting the assumption.

These examples reveal a fundamental challenge in studying ancient societies: humans naturally interpret the past through the lens of their own experiences and expectations. Researchers, museums, and the public often search for connections between ancient people and modern life. While this instinct is understandable, it can sometimes lead to interpretations that tell us more about contemporary society than about the people who lived thousands of years ago. The past becomes more meaningful when it is approached with curiosity and openness rather than forced into familiar narratives.

Ancient DNA research therefore offers not only new information but also an important lesson in intellectual humility. Every discovery reminds us that historical knowledge is constantly evolving. What appears certain today may be revised tomorrow as new evidence emerges and better technologies become available. This

does not weaken our understanding of history; instead, it strengthens it by encouraging more careful, evidence-based interpretations. Science progresses not by protecting old assumptions but by questioning them.

The growing influence of ancient DNA technology represents one of the most exciting developments in modern historical research. It has expanded our understanding of human migration, relationships, diseases, and social structures while revealing the complexity of ancient lives. Yet its greatest contribution may be the reminder that history is far richer and more surprising than previously imagined. The people of the past were not simple representatives of fixed categories but individuals who lived complex lives shaped by their environments, communities, ambitions, and beliefs.

Ultimately, the story of the Upton Lovell Shaman is not only about discovering that a particular ancient figure was a woman. It is about recognising how easily assumptions can become accepted as facts and how new evidence can transform our understanding of humanity.

Ancient DNA does not provide every answer, but it continues to challenge comfortable narratives and encourage deeper investigation. The more we learn about the past, the clearer it becomes that human history is a story of diversity, movement, adaptation, and complexity. Perhaps the most valuable lesson from these discoveries is not simply what they reveal about ancient people, but what they teach us about the importance of questioning what we think we already know.

The Freedom of Not Having Life Completely Figured Out

For many people, turning 40 arrives with a powerful set of expectations. It is often imagined as the age when uncertainty disappears, ambitions are fulfilled, and life finally settles into a predictable rhythm.

By this point, society suggests, one should have a stable career, financial security, a home, a family, and a clear understanding of who they are. Yet for many people entering their fifth decade, the reality feels very different. Instead of arriving at a final destination, they find themselves still questioning, changing, and searching.

The idea that adulthood eventually becomes a perfectly organised life is one of the most persistent myths of modern existence. In reality, life remains a process of adjustment and discovery at every age.

The experience of living between different worlds has long fascinated writers and thinkers. The German novelist Christa Wolf once reflected on the experience of standing “between all fronts”, referring to the political divisions of the Cold War era between East and West Germany and competing ideological systems.

Yet the idea carries a wider human meaning. To exist between two places, identities, or stages of life can feel both liberating and unsettling. It can mean freedom from having to choose one fixed identity, but it can also create a sense of uncertainty, as though one is permanently waiting to arrive somewhere else.

For many millennials, this feeling of being in-between has become a defining feature of adulthood. They have grown up during a period of rapid social,

technological, and economic transformation. Traditional markers of stability — permanent employment, home ownership, predictable career paths, and early financial independence — have become increasingly difficult to achieve.

As a result, many people who are approaching 40 find themselves questioning why their lives do not resemble the stable picture they imagined when they were younger. The anxiety is not simply about age itself but about the gap between expectations and reality.

The transition into this new decade often brings a moment of reflection. Many people look back at their 30s as a period of intense change, experimentation, and personal growth. Relationships may end, careers may shift, cities may change, and identities may evolve. These experiences can be frightening, but they can also create opportunities for reinvention. The difficulty lies in accepting that transformation does not always lead immediately to stability. Sometimes change creates a new beginning without providing a clear destination.

The belief that life becomes completely organised by 40 often begins in childhood. Younger people tend to view older adults as figures of certainty and confidence. Someone turning 40 appears, from a child’s perspective, to have solved the mysteries of life.

They seem to possess everything associated with adulthood: a home, financial security, routines, confidence, and a clear sense of direction. But this image is often an illusion. Behind every apparently settled life are doubts, unfinished dreams, per-

sonal struggles, and unanswered questions.

The reality for many people entering their 40s is far more complicated. They may wonder why their careers have not progressed further, why they have not achieved certain financial goals, or why their personal lives do not match earlier expectations. Questions about past decisions become unavoidable. Should they have chosen a different career? Stayed in a relationship? Moved to another place? Made different choices at crucial moments? Such questions are natural reflections of a life that has been actively lived rather than evidence of failure.

The temptation to imagine an alternative version of life is universal. People often create mental timelines in which one different decision would have led to complete happiness and certainty. If only they had chosen another profession, moved to another city, married someone else, or taken a different opportunity, everything might have worked out perfectly. But such thinking overlooks an important truth: every path contains uncertainty. Even choices that appear successful from the outside come with challenges, compromises, and moments of doubt.

A major shift occurs when people stop viewing uncertainty as a temporary problem and begin accepting it as a permanent part of existence. The desire to “arrive” at a final version of oneself can create unnecessary frustration because human identity is never truly complete. People continue learning, changing, and adapting throughout their lives. The absence of complete certainty does not mean life is unsuccessful; it

often means life remains open to possibility.

This realisation can come through unexpected experiences and places. Moving to a new city or environment can initially intensify feelings of uncertainty. Being removed from familiar surroundings forces people to confront themselves without the comfort of established routines and identities. Yet these moments of displacement can also reveal new forms of belonging. A place that initially seems unfamiliar may eventually become a space where a person feels more connected and peaceful than ever before.

Living between different worlds can also offer a unique perspective. Those who have experienced multiple cultures, countries, careers, or identities often develop the ability to see situations from different viewpoints. They become comfortable with complexity and ambiguity.

Instead of seeing life as a simple path from one stage to another, they recognise that human experiences are layered and constantly evolving.

The idea of being “in-between” is often associated with uncertainty, but it can also represent possibility. A person standing between different places has the ability to look in multiple directions. They can understand where they came from while remaining open to where they might go next. The middle ground is not necessarily a waiting room before the “real” life begins. It can itself be a meaningful place where growth, creativity, and self-discovery occur.

Modern culture often celebrates achievement, certainty, and visible success. People are encour-

aged to present their lives as carefully organised stories with clear progress and accomplishments. Social media has intensified this pressure by creating the impression that everyone else has reached stability and fulfilment. But behind these carefully constructed images are the same uncertainties and questions that affect everyone. Recognising this shared experience can create a more honest understanding of adulthood.

Turning 40, therefore, does not have to represent the end of uncertainty. Instead, it can mark a deeper acceptance of life’s complexity. The goal is not necessarily to eliminate doubt but to learn how to live alongside it. Growth does not always happen through reaching fixed destinations; sometimes it happens through navigating unfamiliar spaces and embracing change.

The most valuable lesson from entering a new stage of life may be that uncertainty is not a sign of being lost. It is often evidence of curiosity, adaptation, and continued development. The people who appear most confident are not always those who have solved every problem but those who have learned to accept that life will always contain unanswered questions.

Perhaps the greatest freedom comes from realising that there is no final moment when everything becomes completely settled. Life is not a journey towards a perfect state of certainty but an ongoing process of becoming. The space between where we have been and where we are going is not empty. It is where much of life actually happens — where we learn, change, discover, and create ourselves again and again.

Global Market Signals Remain Weak; Asian Equities Under Selling Pressure

Mumbai: Global markets are showing signs of weakness on Tuesday, with mixed trends witnessed in the US market during the previous trading session. Dow Jones futures are also trading with marginal losses. Meanwhile, European markets ended the previous session on a positive note, while Asian markets are witnessing selling pressure today.

In the United States, Wall Street remained under pressure in the previous session due to heavy selling in shares of semiconductor companies. The S&P 500 index closed marginally higher by 0.02 per cent at 7,413.18 points. In contrast, the Nasdaq ended the session down 0.18 per cent at 24,932.08 points. Dow Jones futures were trading slightly lower by 0.03 per cent at 52,196.36 points.

European markets maintained a positive trend during the previous session. The FTSE index gained 0.42 per cent to close at 10,781.75 points. Similarly, France's CAC index ended 0.40 per cent higher at 8,406.06 points. Germany's DAX index also recorded a strong performance, rising 262.03 points, or 1.03 per cent, to close at 25,361.03 points.

Asian markets are witnessing broad-based selling pressure on Tuesday. Out of nine major Asian markets, eight indices are trading in the red. Thailand's stock market remained closed due to a holiday, leaving the SET Composite Index unchanged. Gift Nifty was trading 0.16 per cent lower at



24,002.50 points, while the Straits Times Index declined 0.21 per cent to 5,608.48 points.

The impact of heavy selling in US semiconductor stocks was also visible in South Korea's stock market. The South Korean benchmark KOSPI index was trading sharply lower, declining 692.60 points, or 10.25 per cent, to 6,063.15 points.

Japan's Tokyo Stock Exchange also witnessed intense selling pressure, dragging the Nikkei in-

dex down by 2,611.19 points, or 4.02 per cent, to 62,320 points. Similarly, Taiwan's Weighted Index declined 1,609.79 points, or 3.69 per cent, to 42,024.40 points. The Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.98 per cent to 3,820.52 points, while the Jakarta Composite Index slipped 0.08 per cent to 6,181.10 points. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was also trading marginally lower by 0.06 per cent at 25,192 points.

Indian Stock Market Under Pressure Amid Volatility Sensex and Nifty Trade



New Delhi: The domestic equity market remained under pressure amid volatile trading during the early session on Tuesday. Benchmark indices opened marginally lower and briefly moved into positive territory on the back of buying support immediately after the opening bell. However, renewed selling pressure soon erased the gains, leaving both the Sensex and the Nifty trading almost flat. After the first hour of trade, the Sensex was up 0.02 per cent, while the Nifty was trading 0.01 per cent higher. Among the market heavyweights, shares of TCS, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra and Cipla were trading higher by 2.23 per cent to 4.28 per cent after the first hour of trading. On the other hand, Hindustan Unilever, Bharat Electronics, Coal India, NTPC and Power Grid Corporation declined between 1.68 per cent and 3.85 per cent. Active trading was witnessed in 2,745 stocks during the early session. Of these, 963 stocks were trading in the green with gains, while 1,782 stocks were trading in the red. Among the 30 Sensex constituents, 12 stocks advanced while 18 declined. Similarly, on the Nifty,

24 of the 50 constituent stocks were trading higher, whereas 26 were in negative territory.

The BSE Sensex opened at 76,831.75, down 4.03 points from its previous close. Supported by early buying, the index climbed to an intraday high of 76,988.48 before profit-booking and fresh selling emerged. Continuous selling pressure dragged the index to an intraday low of 76,705.22 shortly after 10:00 a.m. Amid sustained buying and selling activity, the Sensex was trading at 76,851.34 at 10:15 a.m., up 15.56 points.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty opened 24.70 points lower at 23,971.25. Early buying lifted the benchmark to an intraday high of 24,040.90, but subsequent selling pared the gains. At 10:15 a.m., after the first hour of trading, the Nifty was quoted at 23,998.25, up 2.30 points from its previous close.

In the previous trading session on Monday, the Sensex had rallied 776.01 points, or 1.02 per cent, to close at 76,835.75. The Nifty had also gained 228.50 points, or 0.96 per cent, ending the session at 23,995.95.

Govt plans 44 airports Hub and Spoke model

Mumbai: The Centre plans to develop a network of 44 airports, including four major hub airports, to strengthen India's international air connectivity and support its ambition of becoming a global aviation hub, a senior government official said on Tuesday, according to PTI. The announcement came as Air India launched its 'Easy Connect' Hub and Spoke services from Amritsar, making it the second city after Varanasi to be integrated into the airline's expanding domestic-to-international connectivity network. Speaking at the launch event in Amritsar, Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha said the government's long-term plan includes the development of four hub airports and 40 spoke airports across the country.

Coal India slips 3% post Q1; analysts retain bullish view, see 19% upside

New Delhi: The global brokerage noted that Coal India's Ebitda was a miss, below Jefferies' estimates, led by higher-than-expected costs. It added that, cash Ebitda per tonne contracted mainly due to higher material consumption (explosives, oil & lubricant)

The global brokerage noted that Coal India's Ebitda was a miss, below Jefferies' estimates, led by higher-than-expected costs. It added that, cash Ebitda per tonne contracted mainly due to higher material consumption (explosives, oil & lubricant) Emkay noted that Coal India reported an "in-line 1QFY27", with Ebitda at ₹143.5 billion, broadly matched consensus estimates on like-for-like basis, "albeit 14.7 per cent above our estimate". Emkay noted that Coal India reported an "in-line 1QFY27", with Ebitda at ₹143.5 billion, broadly matched consensus estimates on like-for-like basis, "albeit 14.7 per cent above our estimate". The brokerage added that earnings remained resilient despite higher raw-material costs



and other expenses offsetting revenue growth. Operationally, production declined 7.5 per cent y-o-y to 169.6mt, though offtake grew 3.6 per cent yoy to 198mt, supported by strong dispatches. E-auction premiums remained healthy at 47 per cent despite accounting changes, Emkay said. "Incorporating the 1QFY27 results, we continue to model a 6 per cent offtake volume compound

annual growth rate over FY27-29E, broadly in sync with the projected 7 per cent growth in power demand, with incremental support from a likely reduction in Indonesia's coal production target. Accordingly, we maintain 'Add' and target price of ₹475," the brokerage said MOFSL noted that Coal India's Q1FY27 revenue stood "largely in line, driven by higher volume offtake".

The brokerage, however, highlighted that Coal India's earnings came under pressure due to cost pressures arising from the geopolitical situation. "We expect some of these cost headwinds to stabilise in the coming quarters. Going forward, we expect Coal India to post a 3-4 per cent volume compound annual growth rate in FY26-28, while a higher share of e-auction volumes and improved premiums should support overall

NSR and margins". It added that this is expected to translate into an annual growth of 4 per cent and 9 per cent in revenue and Ebitda over FY26-28. MOFSL noted that the company's focus on increasing coal-washer capacity will improve its market share in domestic coking/non-coking coal. Further, management continues to focus on expanding its coal mining operations, which will be funded through internal accruals.

"We retain our estimates and reiterate our 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹510," the brokerage said.

Tata Chemicals falls 3% as Q1 PAT tanks 81%. Should you buy, sell or hold

New Delhi: Tata Chemicals share price: Shares of Tata Chemicals declined over 3 per cent on Tuesday, July 28, after the company posted a massive decline of 81 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) in the consolidated net profit for the quarter ended June 30, and as analysts retained their bearish views on the counter.

Tata Chemicals' share price hit the day's low of ₹675.80 on the BSE, down 3.26 per cent from its last closing price of ₹698.60. The company posted its earnings post-market hours on Monday.

As of 9.50 AM, Tata group stock was down 2.8 per cent at ₹678.65 compared with a 0.02 per cent increase in the BSE Sensex to 76,849. The Tata group stock has languished over the last few years, losing 27 per cent in 12 months, 37 per cent in 24 months and 35 per cent in the past

36 months.

From its 52-week high of ₹1,026, scaled in September 2025, the stock is currently down 34 per cent. Its 52-week low stands at ₹581.30, hit in March this year. Hurt by lower realisations, reduced other income, and lower JV income, Tata Chemicals, a leading supplier to the glass, detergent, industrial and chemical sectors, on Monday reported an 81 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 60 crore for Q1 FY27. Its net profit stood at Rs 316 crore in the year-ago period. However, its operating performance exceeded brokerages' expectations as earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) came in at ₹555 crore in Q1 FY27 compared with ₹649 crore in Q1 FY26. The figure was above consensus estimates by 15 per cent, largely led by a

stronger-than-expected performance in the India business.

International operations remained weak due to lower soda ash realizations and Chinese pricing pressure, and is expected to remain under pressure in the near term due to global soda ash oversupply and higher input and logistics costs. Following the earnings announcement, brokerages remain cautious on the Tata group stock given the challenging near-term environmentsolar glass and electric vehicles. Benefits from these end-use industries are likely to play out gradually, while the current oversupply persists," said Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL).

JM Financial echoed similar views, and said it remains cautious on the structural outlook for soda ash, with pricing expected to remain weak due to persistent global over-

supply, driven by elevated Chinese utilisation rates, record inventory levels (~1.7mmt) and strong exports, delaying demand-supply rebalancing. "Additionally, the ongoing geopolitical disruption is likely to increase raw material costs, with the Kenya unit expected to exhaust its HFO inventory and the India unit its limestone inventory by Q3FY27, necessitating procurement at significantly higher prices. Accordingly, given the muted industry outlook, we maintain our estimates and reiterate our Reduce rating," said the brokerage. It has a June 2027 target price of ₹730.

Meanwhile, MOFSL analysts said that although the company has expansion plans in India, the payoff remains contingent on a broader cyclical recovery, limiting near-term upside.

Silver Remains Unchanged in Domestic Bullion Market Gold Prices Rise India

New Delhi: Gold prices witnessed an upward trend in the domestic bullion market during early trading on Tuesday, while silver prices remained unchanged. Following the latest increase, gold became costlier by ₹870 to ₹980 per 10 grams across most bullion markets in the country, except Chennai and Mumbai, where prices rose by as much as ₹950 per 10 grams. After the price revision, 24-carat gold was trading between ₹145,870 and ₹146,050 per 10 grams in most major bullion markets, while 22-carat gold was priced between ₹133,710 and ₹133,860 per 10 grams. Silver prices remained steady, with the metal continuing to trade at ₹239,900 per kilogram in the Delhi bullion market. In Delhi, 24-carat gold was quoted at ₹146,050 per 10 grams, while 22-carat gold was priced at ₹133,860 per 10 grams. In Mumbai, 24-carat gold was trading at ₹145,870 per 10 grams and 22-carat

gold at ₹133,710 per 10 grams. In Ahmedabad, retail prices stood at ₹145,950 per 10 grams for 24-carat gold and ₹133,760 per 10 grams for 22-carat gold. In Chennai, 24-carat gold was selling at ₹145,870 per 10 grams, while 22-carat gold was priced at ₹133,710 per 10 grams.

In Kolkata, 24-carat gold was trading at ₹145,900 per 10 grams and 22-carat gold at ₹133,710 per 10 grams. gold was trading at ₹146,050 per 10 grams and 22-carat gold at ₹133,860 per 10 grams. In Patna, 24-carat gold was priced at ₹145,950 per 10 grams, while 22-carat gold was selling at ₹133,760 per 10 grams. In Lucknow, 24-carat In the state capitals of Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Bhubaneswar, 24-carat gold was trading at ₹145,900 per 10 grams, while 22-carat gold was priced at ₹133,710 per 10 grams. Silver prices in these markets remained unchanged.

PM urged to uphold climate pledges made as mayor and ban new North Sea oil drilling

UK: Leading climate scientists who created Greater Manchester’s carbon neutral by 2038 commitment are urging Andy Burnham to unequivocally reject new drilling in the North Sea.

In a letter to the prime minister they said he, as mayor of Greater Manchester, had unveiled one of the UK’s most ambitious local climate programmes that tackled housing, green growth and public transport.

Reports over the weekend continued to suggest Burnham was set to give the green light to controversial new drilling in the North Sea by approving the Jackdaw and Rosebank oilfields, which were given approval under the Conservatives but put on hold by legal action. The ruling in court said a more detailed assessment of the environmental impact was required to take into account the effect on the climate of burning any fossil fuels extracted.

Prof Kevin Anderson and

scientists from the Tyndall Centre at the School of Engineering at the University of Manchester, who wrote the open letter to the prime minister, said it was “with considerable concern” that they had read reports suggesting his government intended to approve the further development of the Rosebank and Jackdaw oil and gasfields. To do so would send a signal around the world that the UK was backtracking on its international climate commitments, they said. If the reports were accurate that he intended to give the go ahead to drilling at Jackdaw and Rosebank, the scientists wrote, “they represent a profound departure from the principles you promoted as Mayor of Greater Manchester”.

Labour made a manifesto promise that no new oil and gas licences would be issued, but Jackdaw and Rosebank were already in the system at the time of the last general election. A consultation on Jackdaw will finish on 8 August.



With extreme heat and wildfires across the UK and Europe this summer, the academics said the evidence showed global emissions must be cut by 8% every year if the world was to meet the upper limit of a maximum of 2C of heating in the Paris climate agreement.

Anderson and his colleagues urged Burnham to adhere to commitments he made when announcing the Greater Manchester carbon neutral by 2038 policy.

They undertook the carbon budget analysis that underpinned the target

championed by Burnham in 2024, when he said Greater Manchester could be front and centre of the green industrial revolution.

At the time Burnham said he needed greater powers than those of a mayor to deliver the pace of change required to tackle the climate

crisis.

Now he has those powers, the scientists who helped him create the carbon neutral plan in Manchester said he must not abandon unequivocal scientific evidence in the face of short-term political pressure.

“The scientific evidence has only strengthened since those earlier commitments were made,” the letter said.

“Global temperatures have already risen to the lower limit of the Paris Agreement’s temperature range (1.5°C). Extreme weather events are becoming increasingly evident across the UK, most vividly the widespread moorland fires driving air quality to unsafe levels in Greater Manchester.”

Remaining global carbon budgets, which give policymakers headroom for action, continue to shrink rapidly. If governments are to respect even the weaker 2C interpretation of the Paris Agreement, global carbon dioxide emissions must now fall by almost 8% every year, starting immediately, they said.

“Against that backdrop, approving the further development of oil and gasfields cannot be reconciled with the UK’s repeated commitment to honour its international climate obligations,” the letter said.

Anderson and his colleagues said any approval of new drilling would send the wrong signal to the rest of the world.

“It would suggest that, on climate change, the UK is prepared to step back from obligations it has repeatedly urged other nations to uphold.”

The letter urged Burnham to show the same commitment to evidence and political courage that characterised his leadership in Greater Manchester in response to pressure to open up new drilling in the North Sea.

“Future generations will not judge governments by the ingenuity with which they justified expanding fossil fuel production,” the scientists wrote. “They will judge whether, when faced with unequivocal scientific evidence and clear international commitments, they had the courage and compassion to act in a manner consistent with the obligations they had freely entered into.”

Health worker monitored for Ebola in London hospital after working in DRC

London: A humanitarian worker is being monitored at a specialist hospital in London after potential exposure to the Ebola virus.

The UK resident was medically evacuated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where the worker had been treating patients with the disease, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said.

UKHSA said the person was evacuated as a “highly precautionary measure”, adding: “The individual is not currently displaying any symptoms and remains well, but as a precautionary measure they have been evacuated on a flight chartered solely for the evacuation.

“They are now being assessed and monitored in isolation by infectious disease specialists at a London hospital.”

The agency said the incubation period of Ebola ranges from two to 21 days

and the individual will be closely monitored and is required to isolate throughout this period.

There are no confirmed cases of Ebola in the UK and the risk to the general public remains low.

Richard Pebody, the director of epidemic and emerg-



Precautionary measures were taken after the patient was admitted to the Queen Elizabeth University hospital.

An outbreak of the disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda in May was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and then spreads in the human population through direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people and with contaminated surfaces and materials such as bedding or clothing.

According to WHO, symptoms can include fever, fatigue, malaise, muscle, pain, headache and sore throat. These are followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, rash, and symptoms of impaired kidney and liver functions.

infections at the UKHSA, said: “This individual has been transferred out of an abundance of caution and we’re pleased they remain well.”

Last month, a patient suspected of having the Ebola virus at a Glasgow hospital tested negative.

Ed Miliband indicates development and climate will be at heart of UK



UK: Britain’s foreign secretary, Ed Miliband, is to indicate he will put the climate crisis and overseas development at the heart of UK international relations by taking up the country’s seat on the board at the World Bank.

The position, which is usually delegated to a junior minister, means Miliband will play an active role in shaping the changes to the World Bank that developing countries have called for, and ensuring the climate remains a core focus for overseas aid.

Miliband, who was energy and net zero secretary under Keir Starmer, will say: “International development is not an add-on to British foreign policy – it is central to it. By taking on the role of UK governor to the World Bank, I want to send an unambiguous signal that this government is serious about its global leadership on development and climate.”

His announcement comes as fires continue to devastate swathes of France and Spain, and after Scotland called for military aid to tackle a blaze that engulfed the Cairngorms. Conditions approaching drought across England and parts of Wales have prompted hosepipe bans, and the heatwave that swept across Europe in June is estimated to have cost the continent’s grain farmers €2bn (£1.7bn) in lost revenue.

By taking up the World

Bank seat personally, Miliband is sending a clear signal that while other politicians even now argue against net zero policies, the Foreign Office will continue to drive climate action.

The move comes at a crucial time for the international lender, which has come under heavy pressure from the Trump administration to reverse a previous focus on climate finance. Last month, the publicly funded bank scrapped its goal for 45% of its finance to be directed to climate-related ends.

Experts welcomed Miliband’s decision as a boost to climate action. Lord Stern, a professor of economics at the London School of Economics, said the foreign secretary’s take-up of the UK governor’s seat would “send a powerful and important signal” to the world.

“As a former chief economist and senior vice-president of the World Bank, I know that the UK can punch above its weight,” he said. “But only if the leadership is there from the top. In recent years, that has slipped. Ed Miliband will be restoring development and climate to the priority in our international relationships that they must have, in a world facing climate and biodiversity crises, and with real and growing threats to the wellbeing of the world’s poorest.”

Other countries have been wary of challenging the US

on its anti-climate stance, for fear of reprisals and after widespread cuts to developed countries’ overseas aid. The UK is one of six countries with its own seat at the World Bank board.

Mohamed Adow, a director of Power Shift Africa, a thinktank, said Miliband could champion changes at the lender that would help the poor.

“The real test is whether the UK uses its influence to push the World Bank to deliver far more finance for climate action and adaptation, to get money to countries faster, and ensure the poorest nations are not forced deeper into debt to respond to a crisis they did least to cause,” Adow said.

“If this appointment marks the start of renewed British leadership on global climate and development, it will be warmly welcomed across Africa.” Miliband will face a shrinking aid budget and tough decisions over allocation. Starmer slashed overseas aid to 0.3% of gross national income, a sharp reduction from 0.5% under the Conservatives and the 0.7% reached under the last Labour government. Climate finance was also cut by 14%, from £11.6bn for the period 2021 to 2026 to £2bn a year. Britain’s prime minister, Andy Burnham, was criticised last week for saying his planned £2 cap on bus fares in England would be funded mainly by changing

Palestine Action activists face being sentenced as terrorists

Israel: Five Palestine Action activists face being sentenced as terrorists for breaking windows and throwing red paint at a branch of Barclays Bank in Lancashire.

Brendon O’Hagan, 28; Amanda Kelly, 31; Hmeera Atiqnisar, 31; Mohammed Malik, 28; and Alma Yaniv, 70, were found guilty of causing £212,000 of damage during a direct action protest in Burnley in August 2024. They targeted the bank because it held shares in the Israeli weapons firm Elbit Systems.

After last month’s verdicts the judge, Philip Parry, told the prosecution and the defence he intended to consider a “terrorist connection” to the offending, despite neither the jury nor the defendants having previously been informed of the possibility.

Four other Palestine Action activists last month became the first defendants convicted of property damage whose offending – during a raid on Elbit’s Filton factory near Bristol – was deemed by Mr Justice

Johnson post-conviction to have a “terrorist connection”.

Parry attached Johnson’s judgment when asking lawyers for submissions on whether there was a terrorist connection in the Barclays case.

Malik said: “The judge and the CPS [Crown Prosecution Service] are now seeking to sentence us as terrorists for red paint and a few splintered windows. This goes far beyond the charges before the court and raises serious concerns about the increasing use of counter-terrorism legislation to persecute political dissent.

“The attempt to now sentence us as terrorists demon-



strates the extremely dangerous precedent set by Judge Johnson, who sentenced four Palestine Action protestors as terrorists for destroying Israeli quadcopter drones.”

The Palestine Action co-founder Huda Ammori said it was an example of “the floodgates flowing” from Johnson’s decision. The bank protest took place before Palestine Action was banned as a terrorist group and was not assessed by the home secretary nor officials to be a terrorism incident.

Responding to Parry, the CPS argued that the Barclays five should be sentenced as terrorists, despite prosecutors

having not raised the possibility before or during the trial. The Guardian understands the CPS is arguing that the terrorist connection only came to light from admissions made by the defendants at trial, including relating to their affiliation to Palestine Action and that the protest was part of a wider campaign against Barclays.

The director of the human rights organisation Liberty, Akiko Hart, said the case further highlighted “the deep flaws in the UK’s counter-terror laws which capture activity most people would never consider terrorism”.

The Labour MP and former shadow chancellor John McDonnell said: “Trying direct-action protesters under criminal law but then sentencing them under terrorist legislation cannot be seen in any way as fair or just. It is a practice that seems to be specifically targeted to silence the voices of people speaking out against the genocide in Gaza.”

Makeup professionals discuss lipstick errors that you should cease committing



If there is a single makeup item that all women cherish, it is certainly lipstick. Regardless of the number of lipstick shades we possess in our collection, we often find ourselves reaching for just a few more. However, let me inform you that there are frequent errors that some of us commit when applying lipstick. Sounds weird, right? But that’s true. From skipping lip prep and choosing the wrong shade to overlining excessively or layering on too much product, small mistakes can make your lips appear dry, uneven, or less defined. The good news is that most of these common lipstick errors are easy to fix. By avoiding a few simple habits and adopting the right techniques, you can achieve smoother application, longer wear, and a polished finish every time.

So, this Lipstick Day, we have brought resolutions to some of the common lipstick mistakes that you have been making by makeup experts. According to Makeup expert Drishti Madnani, Co-founder, Shryoan Cosmetics, “Good lipstick is not just determined by the colour selection but rather the preparation and application process that precedes it”. She further shares some of the common mistakes that we tend to make while applying lipstick

Lip prep

Madnani says, “One of the most common mistakes that people make is the application of lipstick straight on dry and peeling lips”. She further mentions that lip care

is one of the keys to the perfect lip makeup look, so exfoliation and moisturising steps should never be skipped. Moreover, people tend to pick up colours that are in trend without paying attention to their skin tone and the event.

Overapplication and skipping lip liner

“In addition, people tend to over-apply makeup products in an attempt to extend their wear time, which, however, results in smudging and patchiness”, Madnani says. To avoid that, people should apply thin layers, blot, and build colour step-by-step. Moreover, skipping a lip liner is yet another common mistake, particularly when using a bold colour.

Apply lipstick in a clean manner

“One of the habits that I would advise everyone to get rid of is applying lipstick straight away without considering cleanliness, especially at beauty counters”, advises Madnani. She also insists on making sure that you always cleanly apply lipstick. Lastly, remember to apply lipstick in a way that complements the rest of your makeup.

Madnani concludes by saying that lipstick is the easiest way through which you can be confident about yourself. Through proper preparation, application, and choosing the right shades, you will be able to make any lipstick look good, be comfortable, and last longer. Always keep in mind that makeup is not all about trends; it’s about individuality.

How to choose the right lipstick

Know your skin undertone: Warm

undertones suit coral, peach, orange-red, and terracotta shades. Cool undertones look great with berry, plum, pink, and blue-based reds. Neutral undertones can wear most shades comfortably.

Choose according to your skin tone: Nude lipsticks should be one or two shades deeper than your natural lip colour for the most flattering look. Richer skin tones can carry deeper browns, wines, and bold reds beautifully.

Consider the occasion: Soft pinks, nudes, and mauves work well for everyday wear, while vibrant reds, burgundies, and bold berry shades are ideal for parties and festive events.

Pick the right finish: Matte lipsticks offer long-lasting wear, satin finishes provide a comfortable balance, and glossy formulas create a fuller-looking pout.

Match your lip condition: If your lips are dry, opt for moisturising or cream-based lipsticks with nourishing ingredients like hyaluronic acid, shea butter, or vitamin E.

Think about longevity: Transfer-resistant and long-wear formulas are excellent for workdays, weddings, or events where frequent touch-ups aren’t convenient.

Coordinate with your makeup: Pair bold lipsticks with subtle eye makeup, and complement dramatic eye looks with nude or muted lip shades for a balanced appearance.

Test before buying: Whenever possible, swatch the lipstick on your fingertips or jawline in natural light to see how the shade complements your complexion.

A dermatologist offers four tips for shaving buttery-smooth legs

Hair removal is a beauty regimen that frequently appears to involve a compromise. Waxing and using epilators can resemble a voluntary commitment to discomfort, while shaving has developed a negative image, often associated with issues such as thicker hair growth, darker skin, and persistent strawberry legs. However, the reality is that many of these shaving-related concerns are more closely linked to the shaving technique employed rather than the razor itself. By adopting the correct method and making a few adjustments, you can achieve silky-smooth skin without the irritation, bumps, or ingrown hairs that typically accompany the process.

Dr Neera Nathan, a dermatologist and skin cancer surgeon trained at Harvard, has shared four simple shaving hacks to help you get silky-smooth skin while avoiding razor burn, bumps and strawberry legs. In an Instagram video shared, the dermatologist highlights, “If you want legs that are silky smooth but get ingrown hair like this every time you shave, listen up. I’m a dermatologist. Let me show you four shaving hacks for legs that are smooth like butter.”

Ditch women’s razors

Dr Nathan calls women’s razors a “complete scam,” arguing that many are designed with multiple blades that can push hair back beneath the skin instead of cutting them cleanly. According to her, this increases the likelihood of ingrown hair. She recommends switching to a single-blade razor for better results.

She explains, “This may blow your mind, but most women’s razors are a complete scam. This is the Pink Tax at its finest. A lot of these women’s razors have tons of blades that can actually push hair under the skin causing ingrow. Instead, try a single blade razor generally marketed for men for less irritation and fewer bumps.”

Don’t skip exfoliation

Dr Nathan emphasises the importance of regular exfoliation to remove dead skin cells and leave the skin feeling smoother. She recommends using a chemical exfoliant or glycolic acid before shaving, explaining that it helps soften body hair and prepares the skin for a closer, more comfortable shave.

The dermatologist notes, “Do not sleep on the power of exfoliation, but I don’t mean that ratchet dry brush. Try a gentle chemical exfoliating cleanser like



this in the shower before shaving to help soften and loosen trapped hair. Or put a spray cap on your glycolic acid. Spritz on your legs a few times per week to help the hairs grow out instead of in.”

Never skip shaving cream

Next on Dr Nathan’s list is shaving cream, which she says should never be skipped. It softens the skin and hair while creating a smooth surface for the razor to glide over, resulting in a closer shave. She highlights, “I am begging you to never skip shaving cream. Creates this slippery surface to minimise friction between the razor and your skin for a closer shave.”

Use a urea moisturiser

Urea moisturisers help deeply hydrate and soften the skin while also acting as a mild exfoliant, gently removing dead skin cells. Dr Nathan advises, “I highly recommend a urea moisturiser to soften hair, get rid of dead skin, and hydrate.”

Five tech items that make my work and vacation trips easier



After years of traveling for both work and family vacations, I have ceased to pack gadgets merely because they appear to be useful. Each item in my bag must justify its presence by addressing a genuine need. Some assist me in maintaining productivity, others provide comfort during extended days of exploration, while a select few enhance the overall travel experience.

From preparing for an interview just moments before it commenced to enduring Singapore’s relentless heat with two children in tow, these devices have consistently demonstrated their value. Below are five reliable tech essentials that I am unwilling to leave behind whenever I prepare my luggage.

1. Dyson Airwrap

I bought my Dyson Airwrap in 2021, and it continues to be one of the smartest purchases I have made. The two attachments I use the most are the brush attachment and the blow dryer attachment. Together, they help me get polished hair in very little time, no salon appointment needed.

One memory that always makes me smile happened at an airport. I had an important interview lined up with a founder, and after a long flight my hair looked far from presentable. I pulled the Airwrap out of my cabin bag, found a power socket at the airport, and got myself interview ready before heading out. As a journalist, turning up looking fresh matters, and this little routine has saved me more than once. It is compact enough for travel and helps me look put together wherever I am.

2. Nuuk handheld fan

The Nuuk handheld fan is my newest travel favourite, and it quickly proved its value during a family trip to Singapore.

The heat was relentless, and this little gadget became something my children and I reached for constantly.

It is compact enough to slip into a handbag, yet packed with features. The adjustable fan angle, cooling mode, Ice Touch function, and adorable design make it far more than a basic handheld fan. I also love how stylish it looks. It

almost feels like an accessory that happens to keep you cool. It earned a permanent place in my travel bag after that trip.

3. Kindle

My Kindle has been with me since 2014, and it still works as well as it did on day one. Keeping it inside a protective sleeve has kept scratches away, and it still looks remarkably good after years of travel.

Long holidays are exactly when I appreciate it the most. Instead of carrying several paperbacks that add unnecessary weight, I can pack an entire library in one slim device.

Reading has always been one of my favourite ways to unwind while travelling, and my Kindle makes that incredibly easy without taking up precious luggage space.

4. Meta Ray Ban glasses

My Meta Ray Ban glasses are fitted with prescription lenses, which means I can comfortably wear them throughout the day instead of swapping between different pairs. They have become one of the most entertaining and useful pieces of travel tech I own.

Capturing spontaneous photos and videos is effortless, and the built-in speakers let me listen without reaching for earphones. The feature I enjoy the most is simply looking at a monument, painting, or historic site and asking Meta to explain what I am seeing.

As someone who loves history, that feels like carrying a knowledgeable guide everywhere. The text translation feature has also made reading directions and signage in shops and menus at cafes much easier during international trips.

5. iPad A16

My iPad A16 has almost completely replaced my laptop while travelling. It is lighter, easier to carry, and powerful enough for everything I need to do on the move.

My work does not stop just because I am travelling. I still need to read documents, write articles, edit content, use graphic tools, respond to emails, and stay connected with my team. The iPad handles all of that without making my backpack feel heavy. Since I also use an iPhone, moving files, answering messages, and switching between devices feels effortless. It has become my preferred travel workstation and one gadget I never leave behind.

Travel has taught me that the best gadgets are not always the newest ones. They are the ones that consistently make life easier, save time, or solve problems when you least expect them to.

My Kindle has stayed with me for more than a decade, while the Nuuk fan earned its place after a single trip. Each of these devices has proved its value through real use, not marketing claims. If I had to pack for a flight tomorrow, these five tech essentials would be the first things to go into my bag.

How to look like a celebrity in a simple saree: 6 easy tips to elevate your look

A simple saree remains timeless, yet donning it in the same manner repeatedly can render your appearance monotonous. Rather than opting for a new one, consider revitalizing it with a few straightforward styling enhancements.

Have you ever pondered how celebrities such as Deepika Padukone, Ananya Pandey, or Kriti Sanon manage to present the same saree in a unique way each time? The key is in exploring the myriad of styling options available. Regardless of whether it is cotton, silk, chiffon, organza, georgette, or satin, a solid-coloured saree acts as an ideal foundation for crafting diverse looks. Below are some simple styling suggestions to consider.

Choose a statement blouse: The blouse is a complete game-changer that changes the whole personality of your saree. Instead of a basic

matching blouse, choose the unique designs, texture, or colours. Some of the popular choices are sequined, embroidered, and boat-neck blouses.

Options from Amazon: Add a stylish belt

A saree belt instantly gives structure to your outfit while highlighting your waist. It’s a styling trick often seen on celebrities and influencers. Choose: Metallic belts for receptions, Embellished belts for weddings, Fabric belts for ethnic looks, Leather belts for Indo-western styling.

Add a statement piece of jewellery

The right piece of jewellery can instantly make a plain saree look glamorous. However, balance is key. If your blouse is heavily embellished, keep the jewellery minimal. If your saree is extremely simple, opt for bold accessories. Pick the right footwear

Footwear not only completes your outfit but also affects the overall drape of the saree. Some excellent choices are the following: Block heels for comfort, Metallic stilettos for parties, Embellished wedges, Traditional juttis, Kolhapuri sandals for casual ethnic looks. Experiment with draping styles

Instead of sticking to the same style every time, experiment with different draping techniques to suit the occasion and your personal style. You can opt for the timeless Classic Nivi drape for a traditional look, a belted drape for a modern twist, an open pallu for effortless elegance, or a front pallu style for festive celebrations.

Styles like the Gujarati drape, mermaid drape, pant-style drape, and cape drape also add a contemporary touch while allowing you to showcase the same saree in a completely new way.

Ten Proven Strategies to Prevent Frizz and Humidity in Monsoon Hair Care

The humidity during the monsoon season can cause significant damage to your hair, resulting in frizz, dryness, and manageability issues. Professionals from Schwarzkopf Professional and TRESemmé discuss the impact of humidity on hair and provide straightforward advice to maintain smooth, healthy, and manageable hair throughout the season.

Why Does Hair Get So Frizzy During the Monsoon?

Humidity causes hair to absorb excess moisture from the air, making the hair cuticle swell and lift. The result? Frizz, flyaways, reduced shine and hair that’s much harder to style.

It’s Not Just Humidity: Dry Hair Is the Real Culprit

According to Supriya Punyani, Head – Beauty & Wellbeing R&D India, Hindustan Unilever Pvt. Ltd., humidity often exposes an existing lack of hydration. Dry or porous hair absorbs moisture unevenly, leading to frizz

and loss of definition. Hydration Is the Secret to Smooth Hair

Hydrated hair has a smoother cuticle, making it less likely to absorb excess moisture from the environment. A hydration-first routine can help keep hair soft, shiny and manageable even on humid days.

Choose Haircare That Targets Frizz

Look for shampoos, conditioners and treatments specifically designed to smooth the hair cuticle, strengthen the hair fibre and provide long-lasting humidity protection.

Don’t Ignore Hair Damage

Dry, damaged and porous hair is more vulnerable to environmental stressors. Regular repairing treatments can restore strength, improve elasticity and reduce frizz over time.

Leave-In Products Can Make a Big Difference

Using a leave-in conditioner or serum creates a lightweight protective layer around the hair, helping lock in hydration while shielding strands from hu-



midity. Build a Consistent Haircare Routine

Experts recommend following a complete routine that includes cleansing, conditioning, repairing treatments and leave-in protection. Consistency is key to keeping frizz under control throughout the monsoon.

Healthy Hair Starts From Within

Hair that is well-nourished and properly hydrat-

ed is naturally smoother and easier to manage. Focusing on long-term hair health delivers better results than temporary styling fixes.

Monsoon frizz doesn’t have to be inevitable. By prioritising repair, hydration and humidity protection, you can keep your hair smoother, shinier and healthier throughout the rainy season, no matter how humid it gets.

Priyanka Chopra catches daughter malti marie grooving to tune maari entriyaan

Mumbai : Priyanka Chopra Jonas has shared a heartwarming glimpse into her family life, revealing a special moment when her three-year-old daughter, Malti Marie, watched one of her mother’s popular on-screen performances. The actor posted the candid moment on her Instagram Stories, calling it a surreal experience with the caption, “Who would have thought?”. The photo captured Malti Marie sitting comfortably in front of a television, watching Priyanka’s performance in the song ‘Tune Mari Entry’ from the 2014 action-drama movie Gunday, produced by Yash Raj Films. Taken from behind, the image showed the toddler with her curly hair styled in pigtails as she focused on the screen. Priyanka also tagged her husband, singer Nick Jonas, along with their daughter’s Instagram profile while sharing



the family moment. The actress’ caption reflected the emotional significance of the occasion. “Who would’ve thought?,” she wrote, describing what appeared to be a full-circle moment as her daughter discovered one of her mother’s earlier entertainment projects. Priyanka and Nick Jonas welcomed Malti Marie via surrogacy in January 2022.

While the couple occasionally shares glimpses of their family life on social media, they have generally maintained a balance between public appearances and personal moments. The song ‘Tune Mari Entry’ remains one of Priyanka Chopra’s notable dance performances. It features vocals by Bappi Lahiri, KK, Neeti Mohan, and Vishal Dadlani. The music

was composed by Sohail Sen, while the lyrics were penned by Irshad Kamil. The song also featured Ranveer Singh and Arjun Kapoor alongside Priyanka Chopra. On the professional front, Priyanka will be seen as Mandakini in SS Rajamouli’s upcoming globe-trotting epic ‘Varanasi’. The makers recently unveiled her fierce first look, accompanied by the caption, “To more adventures.... more discoveries... and journeys across every horizon.” The makers recently unveiled her fierce first look, accompanied by the caption, “To more adventures.... more discoveries... and journeys across every horizon.” With production entering its final phase following the unveiling of the film’s first glimpse at the Anney Animation Festival in June, ‘Varanasi’ is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on April 7, 2027.

Batwara 1947 trailer: Sunny Deol is back in full force

Mumbai : Ever since its first posters and teaser were unveiled, Sunny Deol’s Batwara 1947 generated significant buzz among moviegoers. Produced by Aamir Khan Productions, the film promises to revisit the Partition of India through an emotionally charged story of survival and courage. With the trailer now finally out, audiences have been given a compelling preview of the film’s scale, intense performances, and the human cost of one of the most defining moments in the subcontinent’s history. Set against the backdrop of the 1947 Partition, Batwara 1947 follows a family whose lives are irrevocably altered as violence, fear, and forced migration tear apart communities that once lived side by side. Yet, amid unimaginable loss and deepening divisions, the film celebrates the courage



to choose kindness over hatred and hope over despair. The trailer features Sunny in an action-packed avatar, taking on several men as he desperately tries to get his family to safety amid the chaos of Partition. After crossing into Pakistan, his character is shown being allotted a sprawling haveli that once belonged to a Hindu family. The house, however, is still occupied by Shabana Azmi’s character, who appears to be the

family’s matriarch, setting the stage for an emotionally layered conflict. Sunny Deol delivers a commanding performance as a man who refuses to surrender his conscience, while Shabana Azmi is extraordinary as an elderly woman whose grace and wisdom become the film’s moral centre. Preity Zinta brings warmth, grit and emotional depth to a woman fighting to hold her family together through impossible circumstances.

Suri Cruise drops father’s last name

Agency : Hollywood action icon Tom Cruise and actress Katie Holmes’ daughter Suri has legally dropped her father’s last name. The 20-year-old legally changed her last name to Noelle from Cruise, according to the voter registration records obtained people.com. Suri currently attends Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and registered to vote in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania during her freshman year in October 2024. Her registration reads Suri Noelle. Noelle is also Holmes’ middle name. Cruise and Holmes welcomed Suri in April 2006, married in November 2006, and divorced in 2012. Months before Suri registered to vote as Suri Noelle, she used the name for her high school graduation in June 2024. That same weekend, Cruise was seen attending Taylor Swift’s Eras tour at London’s Wembley Stadium. Two months later, in celebration of her daughter’s accomplishment, Holmes made rare comments about Suri while speaking to Town & Country. “I’m proud of my daughter. Of course, I will miss the close proximity, but I’m really proud of her and I’m happy,” she said. “I remember being this age, this time of beginnings. It’s exciting to learn about yourself, and I loved that time, so it makes me happy to think about it like that.” Then in December 2024, Holmes publicly addressed comments about Suri’s relationship with Cruise, denying the reports that she inherited a trust fund from her father. On the work front, Cruise is gearing up for the release of Digger Tom Cruise to star as ‘most powerful man in the world’ in 2026 film ‘Digger’ by Alejandro González Iñárritu. The film is to release on October 2, 2026.



Ranbir Kapoor’s Ramayana team surprises fans with special merch



Mumbai : The Ranbir Kapoor-starrer Ramayana is one of the most awaited films of the year, and Indian fans are eagerly anticipating the release of its trailer. Recently, the film’s team made a high-profile appearance at San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC) 2026. Attendees, fans, and au-

dience members at the event received a unique gift box from the team, and one attendee shared a video showcasing everything included inside. Inspired by the ancient epic Ramayana, the film follows the story of Rama, who is believed to be an avatar of Lord Vishnu. It traces his

journey as the prince of Ayodhya, his exile, and his battle against Ravana. The film also stars Sai Pallavi as Sita, Yash as Ravana, Sunny Deol as Hanuman, and Ravi Dubey as Lakshman. The soundtrack for the film is composed by Hans Zimmer and A.R. Rahman.

Kangana Ranaut’s CJP comment sparks backlash: 8 major controversy headlines

Mumbai : BJP MP Kangana Ranaut sparked a massive political controversy by launching a scathing attack on the Gen Z-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protests and student demonstrations over NEET exam irregularities. The Mandi MP took to Instagram to mock the movement and its participants. Ranaut called viral reels and videos from the protests “puke-inducing” and described them as jarring and crass. She questioned the protesters’ upbringing, writing, “ewwww who is birthing and raising them?”She allegedly made highly controversial remarks directed at young women at the demonstrations, labeling the demographic “Generation Gutter” and criticising their conduct.



Ranaut argued that citizens cannot “arm-twist” an elected government into deciding who to sack or retain. She stated that if protesters want systemic change, they should “stand for elections yourself” instead of trying to dictate terms from Jantar Mantar. She praised the Delhi Police for acting as a protective shield, claiming that Members of Parliament inside

the complex were frightened that the protesting crowd could turn violent and attack. During a promotional media interview for her movie Emergency in August 2024, Ranaut alleged that India was saved from an existential disaster during the 2020–2021 farmers’ agitations. She claimed that the protests were heavily orchestrated by foreign agendas, asserting that if the union leadership

had not shown foresight, India would have succumbed to a “Bangladesh-like crisis.” She further alleged that bodies were seen hanging and rapes were taking place at the protest sites. The statement triggered intense political backlash, forcing her own party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), to issue an official public disclaimer stating she was “neither permitted nor authorized” to speak on party policy, explicitly directing her to stop issuing such statements. The highly personal attack on the Gandhi family’s multi-faith heritage sparked a fierce row in Parliament, with opposition leaders condemning her for reducing serious legislative debates down to crude, personal identity politics.

Raghav Juyal claims hero got him removed from film just days before shoot

Mumbai : Raghav Juyal left television at a time when he had carved a niche for himself and became a household name as a dancer and reality show host. Following a hiatus where he was looking for parts to resume his film journey with, he landed a role in Salman Khan’s Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan. But it was Karan Johar and Guneet Monga Kapoor’s Kill that changed the game for him. Speaking exclusively to News18, Raghav recalls the times when he had missed out on a big film by a whisker right before Kill came his way. Talking about it, he tells us, “I was selected for a film. It was about to go on floors and I was all set to begin the shoot for it. And then suddenly, the calls stopped coming from them. They then told me that they’re looking for a big face.” And the reason why he got rejected broke his



heart. “This is before Kill. Main unko bola tha ki main khaa-peeke apna face bada karta hoon kyunki abhi to mera chhota face hai. Main aise mazaak kar deta hoon. Mujhe koi farak nahi padhta. I later got to know that the hero of the film told the makers to not cast me in it. Mujhe bahot dukh hua tha tab,” he shares. “But everything that happened to me after that incident turned out to be really good. I was like, thank god, I didn’t do that film. And interestingly, that film

never got made. Kaafi bade studio ki film thi. It was supposed to go on floors many a times but it never did,” adds the Gyaarah Gyaarah and Street Dancer 3D actor. Up next for Raghav is Bhai Tera Star Hai, which marks his first film as a solo protagonist. As he looks back at the last 16 years of his journey, he says that he always knew he’s in it for the long haul. “Main jo bolta hoon, woh hota hai. I wouldn’t call it manifestation but kaam karne ki power. When I said that I would

become the best dancer, I became one,” he says. “When I said that I would become the best host, I became one. And when I said that I would become the best actor, I became one. And now that I’m saying that I’ll become a superstar, I know that I’ll become a superstar. I can already feel that within me. Woh baad mein bahar reflect hoga. And it’s not my delusion that’s talking,” Raghav further continues. The 750 scripts that came to him in 2024 bear a testament to his self-belief. “After Kill, I received some 750 scripts where I was the solo lead. I chose Bhai Tera Star Hai, Ikaai and a few others. I didn’t do any roles where I was the hero’s best friend after The Ba***ds Of Bollywood. I had already said no to those roles at an award show. And since I did that, no one got me those parts,” he remarks.

Bhushan Kumar snubs Oscars, says national award means more for Rajkummar Rao’s srikanth

Mumbai : The release of Srikanth led to a number of predictions. Many had tipped the film as a strong National Award contender with Rajkummar Rao widely predicted to bag the Best Actor award for his performance. Some also felt that it could be India’s official entry to the Oscars. And though Srikanth was among the top five films shortlisted by the internal selection jury, it failed to get the final nod. Eventually, it won the Best Hindi Feature Film award at the 72nd National Film Awards. Speaking exclusively to News18, producer Bhushan Kumar says, “As an Indian, winning the National Award is a bigger deal than the Oscars. The National Awards is our country’s highest honour.” But was he upset with Srikanth missing out on becoming India’s official Oscar entry? “There are many layers to that conversation. You’ve to cross many stages to reach the Oscars. Making a good quality film isn’t enough. There are many factors involved. It’s a complicated thing and that’s why I didn’t hope for it. There are so many things that need to be done to reach the Oscars,” he tells us. But co-producer Nidhi Parmar Hiranandani shares that the big miss led her to ‘not have hopes’.



“Yes, there were talks about our film being considered for Oscars many times, which never happened. But I don’t think anyone sat down and had a serious discussion about it at all. However, that’s also why, the National Award was something we didn’t even think about. But then the news came out of nowhere. Any honour is good but the National Award is an honour everybody wants,” she remarks. Reportedly, Srikanth was made on a budget of Rs 27 crore and it ended up minting about Rs 50 crore at the domestic box office. But putting the film together during the pandemic was no cakewalk

due to budgetary constraints. Talking about it, Kumar says, “There wasn’t any pay cuts. But we had to discuss the remuneration structures because this is a different kind of a film.” “We had zeroed down on the number right since the very beginning and yes, it was much lesser than the money that Rajkummar was charging for other films. We created a set-up keeping in mind the correct costing and budget. We had explained the same to all the actors. In fact, there was no budget to cast Sharad Kelkar,” he adds. For the unversed, Sharad charged one rupee for Srikanth.

Samay Raina jokes about Alia Bhatt’s Alpha box office: “uski bhi nahi chali”

Mumbai : Dancer-actor Raghav Juyal and content creator-turned-actor Niharika NM appeared on the latest members-only bonus episode of Samay Raina’s India’s Got Latent Season 2 to promote their upcoming comedy Bhai Tera Star Hai. They were joined on the panel by Munawar Faruqui and Rohan Joshi, with the episode streaming exclusively for paid members of Samay Raina’s YouTube channel. It was during one of the promotional moments

for the film that Samay took a dig at Alia Bhatt’s Alpha. During the latest members-only episode of India’s Got Latent Season 2, Samay Raina asked Raghav Juyal to promote his upcoming film Bhai Tera Star Hai. As Raghav mentioned the film’s title, Samay teased him for repeatedly plugging it, saying that if he had to keep promoting it himself, it was hardly the mark of a “star”. Raghav hit back, pointing out that Alia Bhatt had also promoted Alpha when she

came on the show with co-star Sharvari. Samay then mocked Alpha’s box office performance, saying, “Khair, uski bhi nahi chali.” Alia Bhatt and Sharvari were the first celebrity guests on India’s Got Latent Season 2 episode 1, appearing on the premiere episode to promote their YRF Spy Universe film Alpha. Their appearance generated a lot of buzz online, with clips from the episode going viral on social media as the actors joined Samay Raina’s trademark humour

during the promotional outing. Before taking a dig at Alpha, Samay had publicly backed the film’s release. As a goodwill gesture after Alia Bhatt and Sharvari appeared on India’s Got Latent, Samay Raina booked an entire theatre for Alpha in Mumbai for a special screening and invited around 250 fans to watch the film with him. Sharing the announcement on Instagram, Samay said it was his way of thanking the actors for launching the new season of

the show. He later revealed that he had even video-called Alia after the screening to tell her that the audience had enjoyed the film. India’s Got Latent Season 2 airs new episodes every alternate Saturday at 7 PM IST, streaming on Netflix and on Samay Raina’s YouTube channel. The show has followed this bi-weekly format since it premiered on June 20, 2026, with a fresh set of contestants and celebrity panellists featured each episode.



Delhi LG takes action against new dumping after reviewing MCD’s trash and waterlogging procedures



New Delhi, July 28: At a critical meeting of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Monday, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu reviewed the main civic priorities in the nation’s capital and gave officials instructions to continue being “vigilant, proactive, and accountable” in order to provide effective civic services.All of the zonal deputy commissioners, the commissioner, and the extra commissioners attended the meeting.Sandhu evaluated the state of garbage disposal and solid waste management during

the meeting, along with the steps being made to keep the national capital’s drains clean and waterlogged. While praising the MCD authorities for their efforts to clean up historical garbage at dumpsites, he reaffirmed the need for new waste being transported to these locations to be handled scientifically at the same time. Sandhu oversees the fight against new dumping He also emphasized that allowing incoming garbage to accumulate uncontrolled would undermine the progress gained through clean-up efforts, and he instructed authorities

to set up strong monitoring systems to guarantee that daily processing maintains up with daily input. Additionally, Sandhu voiced worries about around 50% of the garbage not being separated at the source. Additionally, he noted that dumpsites were disposing of around half of the garbage produced every day. Citing the success achieved by the Indore Municipal Corporation, he directed officials to explore implementing the model there as a pilot project in one zone of the MCD, underlining that it could prove to be a successful model worth emulating. Sandhu reviews measures against vector-borne diseases Sandhu also reviewed measures that have been taken to prevent vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria in the monsoon season. He also reviewed issues related to traffic congestion at toll gates and toll tax collection points and the status of implementation of the PM-UDAY Scheme. Sandhu directed that a comprehensive action plan should be formulated to curb air pollution in Delhi. Additionally, he said a dedicated road safety audit should be conducted for MCD roads to address the safety concerns.He stressed that every MCD officer must “remain vigilant, proactive, and accountable in delivering efficient civic services.” A cleaner, safer, and more resilient Delhi can only be achieved through timely execution and a strong sense of responsibility, he said.

An unexpected call-up for the Sri Lanka Tests is given to the uncapped star Ravindra Jadeja, who returns to the Indian squad



Sri Lanka: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) revealed the team for the forthcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, marking the comeback of veteran Indian all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja. Jadeja returns to support India’s spin assault in Subcontinental conditions after fully recovering from a tennis elbow injury he suffered during the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) in May. Spin-bowling all-rounder Saransh Jain, who joins the 15-man team to replace Washington Sundar, who was unable to be selected owing to a hamstring injury acquired during the ODI series in England, has also received his first call-up for India. A seasoned campaigner for Madhya Pradesh with 181 First-Class wickets to his name, Jain secured his spot following impressive performances for India A against Sri Lanka A recently. Saransh has established himself as a reliable bowling all-rounder over 54 First-Class matches, proving to be a mainstay for Madhya Pradesh and earning recognition at the India A level. Operating primarily as a right-arm off-spinner, he has claimed 181 wickets at an average of 27.30 and a controlled economy rate of nearly 3.01 runs per over, with best innings figures of 6/75.With the bat, the left-handed lower-middle-order hit-

ter offers vital depth, having amassed 2,223 runs across 85 innings at an average of 31.75. He has registered 14 half-centuries and two First-Class century (top score of 103), making him a well-rounded utility player who can fill in the void left by Washington Sundar. In a press release, the BCCI said: “The Men’s Selection Committee has selected India’s squad for the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka. Ahead of the series, the team will play a four-day practice match in Colombo, starting on 7 August.”The BCCI also said that Sai Sudharsan and Jasprit Bumrah’s availability will be subject to fitness clearance from

the BCCI COE. Washington Sundar was not available for selection for the first Test.India’s squad for Tests against Sri Lanka: Shubman Gill [C], KL Rahul [VC], Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant [WK], Sai Sudharsan*, Dhruv Jurel [WK], Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar, Jasprit Bumrah*, Mohd. Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Devdutt Padikkal, Saransh Jain Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com India’s tour of Sri Lanka kicks off with a four-day practice match in Colombo on 7 August, followed by the two Test matches scheduled in Galle (15–19 August) and Colombo (23–27 August).

Shilpa Shyla Admires Her First Commonwealth Games Medal “Cannot Even Describe How I Feel”

New Delhi: After winning bronze in the women’s shot put F57 event at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Indian para-athlete Shilpa K. Shyla acknowledged her overwhelming happiness and that the accomplishment was beyond words. “This was my first time attending the games, and I am very happy,” Shilpa said to ANI in reflection on her medal-winning performance. I have no words to express how I feel. I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has helped me. I was greatly assisted by Satyapal Sir. Additionally, I have had a lot of help from my trainers, Raghavendra sir and Eshan SD sir. Pushpa ma’am helped us out during the camp as well. I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has helped me once more. Shilpa had originally finished fourth in the event with a personal-best throw of 7.26 metres, but was elevated to the bronze medal after Nigeria’s Eucharia Iyiazi was disqualified following an official review.The revised results saw fellow Indian Sharmila Dhanakar retain the gold medal with a season-best throw of 9.81m, while Ghana’s Zinabu Issah secured silver with 8.65m, giving India its first double



podium finish of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games.Head coach of the Indian para-athletics team for the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), KR Satyanarayana, praised Shilpa’s dedication and backed her to continue her upward trajectory. Speaking to ANI, Satyanarayana said, “Shilpa’s stars were good, and she had also trained well. In this same event, our Sharmila won gold. Both Sharmila and Shilpa trained at

the same location, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in Bengaluru. It is a wonderful moment for Indian Para-athletics. There is immense talent in India’s rural areas. On Shilpa’s behalf, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you. Shilpa has trained exceptionally well over the last six months with the goal of winning a Commonwealth medal. She performed even better here than she did during

her training. As her coach, I am personally very happy. Shilpa also has a chance to win a medal at the upcoming Para Asian Games.” The upgraded bronze increased India’s medal tally to 10 medals at the Games -- two gold, five silver and three bronze.Hailing from Kanchigara Koppalu village in Karnataka’s Mysuru district, Shilpa lost her left leg in a road accident at the age of four. She later completed her postgraduate studies and a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) before taking up para-athletics, where she has steadily risen through the ranks to earn her first Commonwealth Games medal. India’s medal winners in Glasgow so far are Mirabai Chanu (gold, weightlifting), Sharmila Dhanakar (gold, women’s shot put F57), Rishikanta Singh (silver, weightlifting), Muthupandi Raja (silver, weightlifting), Gyaneshwari Yadav (silver, weightlifting), Sarvesh Kushare (silver, men’s high jump), Valluri Ajaya Babu (silver, weightlifting), Bindyarani Devi (bronze, weightlifting), Shilpa Shyla (bronze, women’s shot put F57) and Jhandu Kumar (bronze, para powerlifting).

Maharashtra merger rumors are sparked by Amit Shah’s consecutive talks with NCP factions



New Delhi, July 28: On Monday, Union Home Minister met separately with both Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) sections, igniting new rumors of a merger between the two groups. MPs from both parties arrived in Delhi for the Monsoon Session of Parliament, where the meetings took place. Shah initially met senior NCP leader Sunil Tatkar, who subsequently stated in an X post that the two leaders talked about a number of important topics. Later, there were rumors that Sharad Pawar would join the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which is run by the Bharatiya Ja-

nata Party, after the Union Home Minister met with NCP(SP) MPs Supriya Sule and Bajrang Manohar Sonwane. Sule and Sonwane, however, downplayed the rumors, claiming that they had met Shah to extend an invitation to attend Sule’s daughter Revati’s wedding celebration. The leaders of the NCP-SP also stated that they talked about a number of matters pertaining to their individual parliamentary seats.The Bharatiya Janata Party, according to political insiders, wants the two NCP sections to get back together before joining the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The sources claim that talks on

this topic are still going on between the central leadership of the BJP and both NCP groups. There have allegedly been talks recently about a potential union between the two NCP groups. Recently, Sule dismissed speculation about her party joining the NDA or merging with the Ajit Pawar faction. She said that the Sharad Pawar-led faction has not received any proposal from either the BJP, any NDA ally, or the Congress. “There has been no proposal from anyone. Neither Sharad Pawar, Jayant Patil, Anil Deshmukh, Rajesh Tope nor any other senior leader of our party has received any offer,” she said.“Neither the BJP nor the Congress nor any NDA ally has contacted us. When there is no proposal, the question of merger or joining any alliance does not arise,” the Baramati MP said. Sule dismissed the idea that the party MPs or MLAs were under pressure to join the ruling alliance, saying that all eight NCP (SP) MPs firmly rally behind party chief Sharad Pawar.“We meet regularly. None of our MPs or MLAs has told me that they want to take a different political stand. Everyone is happy where they are,” she said.

Jauhar University is given a reprieve when the demolition order is stayed by the Moradabad Commissioner

Moradabad, July 28: Moradabad Commissioner Aunjaneya Kumar Singh on Monday stayed the demolition order against the Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, till further order. This means that until a final decision is made, all administrative actions will be halted. Jauhar University, created in 2006 by Samajwadi Party politician Azam Khan, is located 12 kilometers from the Rampur Railway Station. On July 15, the Rampur Development Authority (RDA) ordered the destruction of 38 of the university’s 40 buildings.A regional junior engineer filed a report about unapproved building on the university’s campus, which prompted the action. Subsequently, the RDA ordered the destruction, claiming that 38 structures had been built without a building plan’s permission. But in Uttar Pradesh, where assembly elections are scheduled for early next year, the ruling sparked controversy.

After PM Modi’s Facebook video was removed, Meta acknowledged the mistake and restored the platform’s material

New Delhi, July 28: On Tuesday, July 28, Meta said that a Facebook video featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking out against test paper leaks had been reinstated after being inadvertently deleted owing to a technical fault. After people saw that PM Modi’s video was momentarily disabled on Facebook, Meta released a statement.“The content was removed in error and has since been restored,” a representative for Meta said in a statement. In the early hours of July 28, the Meta-owned social media platform temporarily blocked access to the video before reinstating it.The video, which was initially made public on July 23, was Prime Minister Modi’s first direct speech to Generation Z during the 36-day student protests sponsored by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) over purported anomalies in the NEET-UG 2026 exam. In the video, the Prime Minister assured



students that the government would take stronger action against examination paper leaks, saying stricter legal provisions would be brought before the Union Cabinet.“I have issued directions to departments to set up Fast-Track Courts,” Modi had said, adding that a draft legislation providing for stringent punishment and special courts to deal with paper leak cases would be

discussed by the Cabinet before being introduced in Parliament.He also said the government had ensured that the academic year of nearly 22 lakh students was not disrupted and vowed that “nothing is more important than the welfare and future of our youth.” The Centre subsequently introduced the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment

Bill, 2026, which proposes tougher punishment for offenders, including imprisonment of up to 10 years, enhanced fines and the establishment of Special Fast-Track Courts to try offences under the Act.The agitation was formally called off on July 25 after Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned from the Cabinet. The government also reached an understanding with the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) and activist Sonam Wangchuk, agreeing to withdraw cases against protesters, prevent police intimidation and bring in stronger anti-paper leak legislation.The agitation, which began on June 20, demanded accountability over alleged irregularities in competitive examinations, reforms in the education system and the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and compensation for families of students who allegedly committed suicide due to the paper leak.

Radical “Average Fielding” Advice From Sunil Gavaskar To The BCCI: “Show The Door”

New Delhi: Sunil Gavaskar, a legendary batsman for the Indian cricket team, encouraged the administration to “show the door” to all of the squad’s “average fielder.” In the wake of India’s T20I series defeats to England and Ireland, Gavaskar has asked the management to remove players

whose fielding has been subpar from the team. India’s fielding has come under heavy criticism in recent games, notably the three against Zimbabwe. Gavaskar continued by saying that the skipper shouldn’t have to conceal “three or four players” if they aren’t playing well. “A player must be dis-

missed if he is a mediocre fielder. Gavaskar stated on Sportstar, “There is just no way a captain has to hide three or four players, hoping the ball won’t go anywhere near them.”Following their consecutive series defeat, the team and head coach Gautam Gambhir received harsh criticism.

ISSF World Cup: Manu Bhaker wins bronze in the women’s 25-meter pistol, while Esha Singh wins gold

Hangzhou: At the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Hangzhou, China, Indian shooters Esha Singh and Manu Bhaker produced an unforgettable double podium finish in the women’s 25m pistol event. Esha won gold, while Manu took home bronze, continuing India’s outstanding medal total. In the eight-woman final, Esha delivered a calm and dominant performance, scoring 40 hits to take first place. Manu, a double Olympic champion from Paris in 2024, fought through a hotly contested final, surviving a pivotal shoot-off before finishing with 28 hits to win the bronze. The Indian duo had laid the foundation with outstanding performances in qualification. Manu topped the standings with 586-20x, while Esha followed closely with 585-18x as both comfortably progressed to the medal round. Former Asian Games gold medalist Rahi Sarnobat narrowly missed out on the final after shooting 582-16x, while Simranpreet Kaur Brar (576-20x) and Abhidhya Ashok Patil (573-16x) com-



peted under Ranking Points Only (RPO) status.Speaking after her victory, Esha admitted the expectations following her record-breaking triumph at the ISSF World Cup in Munich earlier this season had added to the challenge. “This match was very pressure-ridden for me because of the previous medal I had. The better you get in your event, the more you feel that weight of prestige you have to conquer. I’m happy that I was able to get past it today and grateful that I had the ability to endure it. I really love competing here in Hangzhou. Recalling how the competition went during the Asian Games, where I won four medals, I was really excited to come back. Being familiar with the range, the

lighting, and the atmosphere in the final hall definitely counted in my favour,” Esha said.The victory marks another significant milestone for the 21-year-old from Hyderabad, who earlier this year created history in Munich by setting both the senior and junior world records with 43 hits in the final. A Paris 2024 Olympian and Arjuna Awardee, Esha has continued her rapid rise among the world’s leading pistol shooters.As she prepares for the big tournaments on the international calendar, Manu stated that the bronze medal was a significant milestone.This medal serves as a stepping stone, which makes it extremely significant. It helps me understand what is effective and where I want to go.

Coach apologises for Gurindervir after Commonwealth Games horror show



New Delhi: Star Indian sprinter Gurindervir Singh was disappointed in the Commonwealth Games 2026. India's fastest man ran his 100m heat in 10.39 seconds, far below his best timing, finishing 28th out of 76 athletes. The result meant that Gurindervir was knocked out of the competition in the very first round itself, failing to make it to the semi-finals of the event. The sprinter's first coach, Happy Singh, apologised to the country and sprinting fans for his performance and called Gurindervir's showing far below expectations. The country hopes that when an athlete runs for the country, they will

do well. I apologise to the nation as Gurindervir's first coach. He could not deliver close to what the people had hoped from him," Happy Singh said on NNIS after the event. "Either a person wins or learns, but that process of learning becomes too drawn out if the competition comes once in four years. If a person goes to these events only to learn, they take on a lot of pressure on them. But what is done is done, we cannot do anything about it. All we can do now is to support him," he added. Gurindervir's current coach at Reliance, James Hillier, came up with an explanation at the event, stating that Gurinder-

vir was suffering from a hamstring injury, one that the camp had been keeping under the radar. "Everyone will look at the timings and go, why couldn't he do his best? He's had a hamstring injury for the last month, we've been keeping it quiet. Where he is at now, he can do the first 60m very well," James Hillier was quoted by NNIS. The sprint timings once again put the focus on India's big-event pedigree, given the fact that Gurindervir clocked far below his personal best. The sprinter finished second in his heat and gave a thumbs-up to the crowd. He perhaps felt that his timing was enough to secure a position in the semi-finals. However, that was not the case. The top seven athletes had received byes for the semi-finals, while the 17 fastest men were picked from the heats. Gurindervir eventually finished 28th overall among the athletes competing in the heats, with Barbados' Kuron Griffith taking the final qualifying spot in 10.24 seconds. Indian sprinter Gurindervir Singh faced disappointment at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, running 10.39 seconds in the 100m heats and finishing 28th out of 76, failing to reach the semi-finals. His first coach, Happy Singh, apologized to the nation for the underperformance. Gurindervir's current coach, James Hillier, revealed the sprinter had been battling a hamstring injury for a month, kept secret from the public. The result highlighted challenges in India's performance at major international events.

Tiger Shroff named in Durand Cup squad, set for professional debut



New Delhi : Tiger Shroff is set to trade the silver screen for the football pitch, with the Bollywood actor named in Mumbai FC's squad for the Durand Cup and potentially in line to make his professional debut in the tournament. Shroff has been registered with the club and is currently training with the team, according to co-owner Zoheb Am-

rani. The actor could travel with the squad for at least one of their group-stage matches in Shillong. He's registered with the squad, and we are trying our best to arrange everything. A person like Tiger, we'll need a lot of security in tier-2, tier-3 cities. People can gather around, and it could be chaotic," Zoheb told Sportstar. "And since social media is so

ruthless, things can actually escalate. Keeping that in mind, we've got a date from him. If everything goes well, he will definitely travel for one of the games. He's training with the team at the moment," he added. Shroff has been associated with Mumbai FC since its inception in 2024 and has regularly featured for the side in the Mumbai District League. His involvement, however, goes beyond simply being a celebrity face attached to the club. Zoheb first got a look at Tiger Shroff's abilities in an influencers league game in 2023, which featured the likes of Ranbir Kapoor and Mahendra Singh Dhoni as well. "It was during an influencers league with personalities and former sportspersons in 2023 that I realised that Tiger can play;

he has that technical understanding of the game," Zoheb recalled. When he founded the club, Zoheb asked Shroff to come and join them for practice sessions. "He likes that slide tackle, those dribbling 1v1 moments," he said. And soon, Tiger wanted to play the game professionally. Zoheb initially believed that the actor was joking. However, he followed through. "I got his CRS (Centralised Registration System) registration done. I explained to him that this is not some ordinary tournament that you just go and play. proper registration, there's a proper ID card, there's a proper referee who checks everything. I must say he was very professional," Zoheb said of Shroff's involvement in the Mumbai District League.

Mansukh Mandaviya congratulates Bindyarani on Commonwealth Games 2026 bronze medal

New Delhi: Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya congratulated Indian weightlifter Bindyarani Devi after she clinched the bronze medal in the women's 58kg event at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow on Monday, hailing her contribution to India's growing medal tally at the Games. Mandaviya shared a post on X and wrote, "Grit, grip, and glory! Many congratulations to Bindyarani Devi on winning a Bronze medal in Women's 58kg category and securing India's fifth medal in Weightlifting. Keep making the nation proud." Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also lauded the Manipuri weightlifter for her achievement, congratulating her in a post on X. He wrote, "By winning the bronze medal in the women's 58 kilogram category of the weightlifting competition at #CWG2026, Bindyarani Devi has brought glory to the country. Heartiest congratulations on this remarkable achievement and infinite best wishes for a bright future. This success of hers is an inspiring example of hard work and indomitable courage."



Rafiatu Folashade Lawal, who won gold with a Commonwealth Games record total of 229kg, and Canada's Ann Sophie Taschereau, who claimed silver with 215kg. Bindyarani made a composed start in the snatch after her coaches lowered her opening attempt from 85kg to 83kg. She cleared 83kg comfortably before successfully lifting 85kg and 87kg, ending the snatch phase level with England's Eliza Pratt but ahead on countback. In the clean and jerk, her opening lift of 110kg was overturned following a jury review due to an elbow buckle during the jerk. Showing remarkable composure, she returned to successfully lift 112kg on her second attempt, taking her overall total to 199kg and briefly moving into the silver-medal position. She then attempted 116kg in search of a personal best but could not complete the lift, with her total of 199kg

ultimately securing the bronze medal. The podium finish marked Bindyarani's second Commonwealth Games medal after winning silver at the Birmingham 2022 Games. The achievement was particularly significant as it came after she recovered from a knee injury in 2023 and adapted to competing across the 55kg and 58kg weight categories. Bindyarani's bronze took India's tally at the Glasgow 2026 as Mirabai Chanu (gold, weightlifting), Rishikanta Singh (silver, weightlifting), Muthupandi Raja (silver, weightlifting), Gyaneshwari Yadav (silver, weightlifting), Bindyarani Devi (bronze, weightlifting) and Jhandu Kumar (bronze, para powerlifting).

CM Vishnu Deo congratulates Gyaneshwari on Chhattisgarh's Commonwealth Games medal



New Delhi: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai congratulated weightlifter Gyaneshwari Yadav after she won the silver medal in the women's 53kg event at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The Chief Minister said Yadav's achievement had made both Chhattisgarh and the country proud and would encourage more youngsters to take up sports. The 23-year-old from Rajnandgaon delivered the best

performance of her career to finish second with a total lift of 199kg. In a statement issued on Monday night, Sai praised Yadav's determination and said her success reflected the sporting talent emerging from the state. "The daughter of Rajnandgaon has proved that talent, when backed by dedication, discipline and relentless hard work, can achieve success even on the international stage," Sai said. "It is not merely a personal achievement for

Gyaneshwari Yadav but an honour to the talent, hard work and determination of the people of Chhattisgarh. Our objective is to create an environment where the youth of Chhattisgarh can excel in national and international competitions and bring laurels to the state and the country," he added. Sai also wished Yadav success in the competitions ahead and said he was confident she would continue to bring glory to India and Chhattisgarh. Deputy

Chief Minister Arun Sao, who also holds the sports and youth welfare portfolio, congratulated the weightlifter in a social media post, calling her silver medal a proud moment for both the state and the nation. Yadav produced one of the standout performances of the weightlifting competition, equalling her personal best of 88kg in the snatch before lifting a personal-best 111kg in the clean and jerk.

TVS Racing commits to nurturing future champions with Apache bikes for Madras Club riders

Chennai: TVS Motor Company, part of TVS VENU, a global leader in the two-and three-wheeler segments, reinforced its commitment to nurturing India's future racing champions by handing over 10 TVS Apache RR 200 Mini Motorcycles to the Madras Motor Sports Club (MMSC). The purpose-built TVS Apache RR 200 Mini will form the backbone of a structured rider development programme for aspiring racers aged 10-14 years, equipping them with professional racing skills under the guidance of experienced instructors and TVS Racing champions, according to a release. The TVS Apache Junior Programme is a first-of-its-kind initiative for children aged 10 to 14 years, aimed at helping young riders discover and develop their racing potential.

The programme offers a structured learning pathway featuring world-class training and mentorship at the Madras International Karting Arena (MIKA). Participants will train on specially developed TVS Apache RR 200 Mini motorcycles, which will be available for rent as part of



the programme. The initiative introduces young riders to the fundamentals of racing, including discipline, precision, control and safety, while making professional motorsport more accessible. It also aims to create a strong foundation for future racing champions and strengthen India's grassroots motorsport ecosystem. As part of the programme, a structured pathway has been created to nurture future champions, beginning with the TVS

Apache Junior Programme for riders aged 10-14 years, followed by the TVS OMC Rookie Category for those aged 15 years and above, which provides entry into competitive circuit racing. Riders can then progress to the TVS OMC RR 310 Expert Category for advanced racing development before moving on to the TVS Racing International Championship, offering opportunities to compete on the global racing stage.

Justin Greaves creates history with five consecutive wicket maidens during WI vs PAK 1st Test



Port of Spain: West Indies' Justin Greaves scripted history on Monday by becoming the first bowler in Test cricket, since comprehensive records became available, to register five consecutive wicket maidens. Greaves achieved the feat during a match-changing spell either side of lunch on the third day of the first ICC World Test Championship Test against Pakistan in Trinidad, where he tore through the visitors' batting line-up, according to the ICC. The spell also marked Greaves' maiden five-wicket haul in Test cricket.

He surpassed the previous record of four successive wicket maidens, registered by former England fast bowler Stuart Broad against South Africa in Johannesburg in January 2016. Greaves said he kept his approach simple during the spell, following the advice of West Indies captain Roston Chase to bowl consistently in the right areas and trust the process. "When I came on captain Roston Chase just said 'continue to be disciplined in what you are doing' and to see if I can get some wickets for the team," Greaves said, as quoted by ICC. The ball

nipped around and I got some reward. Anytime I get the ball in hand the team looks to me to be that solid player for them (and) try to dig us out of situations. To get five wickets for the first time in Test cricket, I'm really happy, but there's still a lot of work to do in the game," he added. Pakistan appeared to be in a strong position to build a sizeable first-innings lead after reaching 244/3, with Shan Masood having completed his century. However, Greaves dismissed the former Pakistan captain to trigger a dramatic collapse. The West Indies all-rounder

then removed Aamer Jamal, Ali Usman and Mohammad Rizwan in successive overs without conceding a run, leaving Pakistan struggling at 267/8 at lunch in reply to the hosts' first-innings total of 311. Greaves continued his impressive spell after the break, having Mohammad Abbas caught behind in his opening over to complete five consecutive wicket maidens.

Pakistan were eventually bowled out for 282 following a superb display of seam bowling from the experienced right-arm. However, Pakistan hit back before the close of play,

reducing the West Indies to 126/7 and limiting their overall lead to 155. Shamar Joseph, unbeaten on 22, and Kemar Roach, on five, will resume batting on the fourth day. In response to SL's first innings total of 308, West Indies was 168/5. Then it was marathon knocks from Amir (233 in 373 balls, with 19 fours and three sixes) and Chase (194 in 324 balls, with 13 fours and two sixes), which took West Indies towards a massive lead, ending the innings at 626/9 declared with a 318-run lead. Sri Lanka's legendary pair of Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene

(624 runs for the third wicket) hold the record for the highest Test partnership, coming against South Africa in 2006. Coming to the match, Sri Lanka ended day 3 at 15/1, trailing by 303 runs, with Nishan Madhusanka and Kasun Rajitha at the crease. After being put to bat first by WI, SL made 308 runs in the first innings, courtesy a century from skipper Dhananjay de Silva (120 in 168 balls, with 17 fours) and a fifty from Dinesh Chandimal (54 in 67 balls, with five fours). Justin Greaves (3/39) and Shamar Joseph (2/32) ended as top bowlers for WI.