

NCC cadets begin 12-day medical attachment at Zakhama Military Hospital

Kohima, Sept 15: A 12-day Military Hospital Attachment Camp for National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets commenced at the Army General Hospital in Zakhama, Kohima district, aiming to provide specialized practical training in basic healthcare, trauma care, and emergency response. Scheduled to conclude on September 25, the attachment program forms an integral component of the periodic NCC training curriculum designed to build medical preparedness and civic responsibility among youth.

A batch of 30 selected cadets—comprising 15 Senior Division boys and 15 Senior Wing girls from the NCC Group Kohima—is participating in the intensive attachment. Inaugurating the camp, the Commanding Officer of the General Hospital



welcomed the trainees and stressed the pivotal role of basic medical skills, regimented military discipline, and emergency response capabilities during disaster management operations and everyday community life. The inaugural proceeding was followed by a detailed orientation tour of the medical establishment and a baseline pre-training assessment to evaluate the participants' existing healthcare knowledge.

Throughout the 12-day module, specialist medical officers and military healthcare professionals will deliver structured instructional modules. The curriculum encompasses emergency medicine and triage, Basic Life Support (BLS), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), shock management, and techniques

to manage airway obstructions. Additionally, cadets will be trained in field trauma management—including fracture stabilization, splint application, hemorrhage control, animal bite treatments, and casualty evacuation protocols—alongside public health topics like vector-borne disease control, lifestyle disorder management, and biomedical waste handling.

The program prioritizes hands-on practical exposure, involving workstation drills on medical mannequins and practical sessions on vital-sign monitoring, bandaging, and injection safety. The camp will culminate on September 25 with a final proficiency evaluation, where outstanding cadets will receive certificates of merit recognizing their technical skills and operational readiness.

CBI books Arunachal activist Bhanu Tatak over FCRA violations

Activist accused of receiving foreign funds for protests

New Delhi, Sept 15: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Arunachal Pradesh-based lawyer and environmental activist Bhanu Tatak for allegedly receiving foreign funds in violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

Tatak, who serves as a legal adviser to the Siang Indigenous Farmers' Forum and coordinator of the civil society group Dibang Resistance, has been a prominent voice opposing mega hydropower projects in the northeastern state. The CBI alleges that she received over ₹17.6 lakh from various international organizations directly into her personal savings account without the mandatory FCRA registra-



tion or prior government clearance. According to the investigating agency, the funds were remitted by several overseas entities, including human rights networks based in the Philippines, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. The CBI claims these foreign contributions were

utilized to organize and sustain local protests against the proposed 12,500-MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project and the 2,880-MW Dibang Multipurpose Hydropower Project. The FIR further asserts that these activities adversely affected India's economic and strategic interests.

Jenjum Gadi exhibits 'Ngok Dolu'

New Delhi, Sept 15: Multidisciplinary designer and artist Jenjum Gadi has unveiled his latest solo exhibition, titled Ngok Dolu (My Village), at Gallery Vayu on Lodhi Road, bringing over 30 new artworks inspired by his upbringing in Arunachal Pradesh to the national capital.

Running through September 30, the exhibition features wall hangings, large-scale installations, and intricate brass sculptures that explore themes of nostalgia, environmental shift, and indigenous material culture. Drawing deeply from his childhood memories of growing up in Tirbin, a self-sustaining village in Arunachal Pradesh, Gadi translates the pastoral, architectural, and ecological rhythms of rural life into permanent metal forms. The collection captures everyday structures—bamboo homes, thatched roofs, cultivated fields, and rivers—contrasting the fleeting nature of memory with the deliberate permanence of brass.

A central recurring motif in Ngok Dolu is the cloud, which Gadi uses to envelop physical elements such as village livestock, traditional dwellings, and local women retrieving water. The artist treats the cloud as a silent witness to a landscape in perpetual transition, symbolizing how lived experiences slip away over time even as core cultural identity remains intact. Notable pieces in the exhibition include a large-scale brass installation depicting banana plants, along with detailed works like Maaktum Bayom and Lugo, which celebrate overlooked aspects of village life.

Chandrababu Naidu presents silk robes during annual Tirumala Brahmotsavams

Tirumala, Sept 15: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu presented traditional silk robes (pattu vashtams) to Lord Venkateswara at the Tirumala temple on Tuesday on behalf of the state government, marking the ceremonial commencement of the annual nine-day Srivari Salakata Brahmotsavams.

Arriving at the hilltop shrine accompanied by his wife Nara Bhuvaneshwari, HRD Minister Nara Lokesh, and Endowments Minister Anam Ramnarayana Reddy, the Chief Minister performed special prayers at the Bedi Anjaneya Swamy temple. Following long-standing temple tradition, Naidu carried the sacred silk garments on a silver plate atop his head in a solemn procession through the four



Mada streets surrounding the main temple complex before presenting them to priests inside the sanctum sanctorum, accompanied by Vedic chants, temple music, and traditional honours from the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams trust board. The formal presentation coincided

with Dwajaroohanam, the sacred flag-hoisting ceremony that officially signals the opening of the grand devotional festival. Following the ritual offering inside the sanctum sanctorum, the Chief Minister formally released the official TTD calendar and diary publication series for 2027.

Nagaon Lok Sabha bypoll tests key political parties

Guwahati, Sept 15: The upcoming October 6 by-election for Assam's Nagaon Lok Sabha constituency is shaping up to be a high-stakes, multi-cornered contest as the ruling BJP, Congress, AI-UDF, and TMC deploy their top strategies to capture the strategic parliamentary seat.

The seat fell vacant after former two-time Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi resigned from Parliament following his switch to the BJP ahead of the 2026 Assam Assembly elections. To retain control over the constituency, the BJP has nominated former Nagaon District Commissioner and bureau-



crat Devasish Sharma, who recently joined the party after taking voluntary retirement. Meanwhile, the Congress has fielded former MLA Sibamoni Bora, aiming to protect its traditional regional stronghold. Adding to the political dynamics, the AIUDF has

fielded party chief Badrudin Ajmal, while the TMC is also positioning itself aggressively to capture opposition voters.

The contest holds heightened significance following recent electoral constituency realignments. Delimitation

shifts have restructured the local demographic composition across Nagaon's assembly segments, raising the minority electorate share to over 51 percent. Opposition leaders argue that the AIUDF's entry will split the anti-incumbency vote bank, whereas ruling party strategists view the bypoll as a crucial referendum on regional development and governance performance. With public campaigning escalating rapidly across Morigaon and Nagaon districts, the Election Commission has finalized preparations for polling on October 6, followed by vote counting on October 9.

Arunachal Congress opposes heavy security deployment for Siang dam survey

Itanagar, Sept 15: The Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) has strongly condemned the heavy deployment of central armed police forces in Siang and Upper Siang districts, demanding an immediate withdrawal of security personnel mobilized for survey work on the proposed 11,000-MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP).

Addressing a press conference in Itanagar on Tuesday, APCC spokesperson Johny Yangfo asserted that public trust cannot be manufactured under the shadow of guns, administrative pressure, or financial inducements. The party urged the state government to immediately halt all coercive pre-feasibility report (PFR) activities—being conducted by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)—and initiate



a transparent, structured dialogue with affected indigenous communities, village Kebangs, and civil society groups.

The statement follows intense local resistance across several villages, including Riga, Konkar, and Ugen, where residents erected barricades to block security con-

voys and survey machinery from entering project sites. While acknowledging that security forces may be stationed to maintain public order, the Congress emphasized that armed personnel should never be utilized to suppress democratic dissent or intimidate local landowners who harbor legitimate fears regarding

mass displacement, loss of ancestral territory, cultural erosion, and high seismic vulnerabilities in the fragile Eastern Himalayas. "Siang is not a battlefield, and its indigenous people are citizens, not adversaries," Yangfo remarked, warning the government against adopting a heavy-handed approach.

Landslide on NH-702 disrupts critical connectivity in Longleng

Kohima, Sept 15: Continuous heavy rainfall across Nagaland's northern belt triggered massive landslides along the Changtongya-Longleng Road (NH-702), completely severing direct vehicular connectivity to Longleng district headquarters, administration officials confirmed on Tuesday.

The obstruction was reported between Chainage 5+785 and 6+050 following overnight downpours that destabilized fragile hill slopes, bringing down vast volumes of mud, rock, and organic debris onto the carriageway. Longleng Deputy Commissioner W. Manpai Phom issued a formal travel advisory declaring the affected national highway stretch completely impassable for all vehicular traffic pending safety clearance.



To facilitate emergency mobility, district authorities diverted commuters to an alternate route via the Tangha-Kangching-Merangkong bypass road, though traffic movement along this stretch remains strictly restricted to light motor vehicles. Heavy commercial vehicles, including supply trucks carrying essential commodities, have been

ordered to suspend operations until primary highway restoration is complete. Disaster management teams, mechanical engineering divisions, and heavy excavators have been deployed on a priority basis to clear thousands of tons of fallen earth and stabilize vulnerable overhangs along the corridor. However, intermittent rainfall and ongoing

slope instability continue to hamper clearance efforts, raising safety concerns for ground crews. District authorities urged commuters to comply strictly with traffic diversions and exercise maximum caution when navigating alternative rural roads, assuring that full connectivity will be restored as soon as geotechnical stability is established.

Nagaland reiterates complete freeze on creation of new posts and fresh recruitment

Kohima, Sept 15: The Nagaland government has reiterated a complete embargo on the creation of new administrative posts and fresh public sector recruitment across all departments until further orders. The directive forms part of stringent interim expenditure control measures enforced while the state conducts a comprehensive review of its public sector workforce. The Personnel & Administrative Reforms (P&AR) Department issued a binding Office Memorandum directing all administrative

heads, directorates, state public sector undertakings, and autonomous boards to strictly adhere to the recruitment ban. The notification explicitly halts the processing of all proposals related to post creations, including cadre structure reviews currently under administrative consideration. Under the revised guidelines, exceptions will only be entertained under extraordinary circumstances, requiring a comprehensive Cabinet Memorandum with detailed justification. Furthermore, proposals to

fill critical existing vacancies must undergo rigorous technical scrutiny by the Manpower Rationalisation Committee and the State Level Committee on Expenditure Rationalisation and Revenue Mobilisation (SLC-ERRM) prior to cabinet submission.

The policy enforcement follows the establishment of a dedicated Working Group on Comprehensive Manpower Rationalisation, chaired by Secretary Akunui Meyase. Tasked with assessing sanctioned positions, active staff numbers,

and structural redundancies across all government establishments, the panel is reviewing the impact of digital governance and automation to optimize administrative efficiency. State officials emphasized that the temporary recruitment freeze is essential to prevent unsustainable fiscal expansion, eliminate redundant posts, and realign state expenditure toward long-term development initiatives. Under the updated enforcement guidelines, all administrative departments, state public sector under-

takings, and autonomous boards have been strictly barred from issuing fresh recruitment advertisements or submitting candidate requisitions to the Nagaland Public Service Commission (NPSC), the Nagaland Staff Selection Board (NSSB), or district recruitment boards without prior multi-tier clearance. The Personnel & Administrative Reforms (P&AR) Department clarified that any proposals already pending administrative review will be returned to their respective originating offices for mandatory

compliance with the newly instituted vetting protocol. To avoid disrupting ongoing administrative processes, the government confirmed that active recruitment drives where official advertisements were published or requisitions formally lodged prior to September 14 will proceed unaffected, while compassionate appointments remain fully exempted from the freeze. The interim restrictions are slated to remain in force until the Working Group on Comprehensive Manpower Rationalisation completes

its state-wide audit and submits its final recommendations to the Finance Department. Tasked with examining establishment strength, active payroll data, and functional post justifications across all government entities, the working group's findings will form the structural blueprint for future public sector hiring and administrative re-engineering in Nagaland. State economic advisors anticipate that this structural review will curb recurring establishment overheads, eliminate redundant admin-

istrative tiers, and establish a modern, technology-enabled framework for public service delivery. Crucially, administrative analysts note that Nagaland spends over 90 percent of its non-developmental budget on establishment overheads, including civil servant salaries, pensions, and debt servicing. This high structural expenditure leaves minimal fiscal headroom for capital investments and infrastructure development, making comprehensive manpower rationalisation a priority for state economic planners.

“There are no longer any protests Akhil Gogoi criticizes the Assam government and declares a hunger strike



Dispur, Sep 12: On Tuesday, September 15, Akhil Gogoi, the leader of the Rajiur Dal, claimed that Assamese regional political parties and organizations had virtually “withered away” and are no longer speaking out against the government.

Speaking at a news conference, Gogoi claimed that groups that had previously spearheaded democratic protests were now doing things like planting trees, lighting lamps, and giving blood, but they were not raising their voices when the government committed wrongdoing. “Therefore, we need to raise our voices as we did with Krishak Mukti Sangram

Samiti,” he declared. On 23 September, Gogoi declared a democratic protest. Prior to it, he declared he would go on a hunger strike against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in front of the Assam Secretariat, Janta Bhawan. He stated, “So we have to speak up like we did when we were with Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti.”

On September 23, Gogoi declared a democratic protest. Prior to it, he declared that he would go on a hunger strike against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in front of Janta Bhawan, the Assam Secretariat.

After the recent floods ruined people’s homes and means of subsistence, he questioned the government about the absence of funding for flood victims and inquired why financial aid had not been given. Gogoi also questioned why ministers Dharmeswar Konwar, Sushanta Borgohain, and Mayur Borgohain had not been prosecuted. He questioned why they had not been arrested or removed from their posts as ministers. Gogoi declared, “I will only sit for the people.” After the recent floods ruined people’s homes and means of subsistence, he

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After 63 years, Assam’s famous Saraighat Bridge receives a Rs 7-crore makeover significant restoration is finished

Dispur, Sep 15: On September 15, Railroad (NFR) successfully finished the Rs 7-crore repair and strengthening project for Guwahati’s famous Saraighat Bridge.

The rehabilitation project started on July 13, 2026, and was finished on September 15, according to NFR CPRO Kapinjal Kishore Sharma. The project was started in order to improve the bridge’s condition, fortify important structural elements, and guaranty that its structural integrity satisfies contemporary load-bearing and safety standards. For more than 60 years, the Saraighat Bridge—which was put into service in 1962—has been an essential connection between Assam and the rest of the nation. For the flow of people and products throughout the Northeast, the old bridge that crosses the Brahmaputra is still crucial. A disturbed expansion joint at the Amin-



gaon end, damaged supporting steel members, structural fissures, and voids in spalled concrete were among the problems that NFR stated inspections had revealed needed immediate attention. Eight of the bridge’s eleven expansion joints were also

damaged by water intrusion. On the road deck, there were several potholes and damaged areas. Even though pothole repairs had been done multiple times between January and May of this year, excessive traffic caused the repaired surfaces to sustain

damage once more, especially because there was not enough time for curing while maintaining bridge functionality.

Eight defective expansion joints were disassembled and fixed as part of the rehabilitation, while damaged concrete road deck sections were removed and recast. Additionally, underlying steel structural components were strengthened and restored in a number of places. Sharma described the repair as a significant intervention to protect a vital component of the country’s infrastructure and stated that the work was done with an emphasis on safety, structural integrity, and long-term durability.

The project’s completion is anticipated to improve the ancient Saraighat Bridge’s long-term dependability, since it continues to be one of Assam’s main entry points and a crucial connectivity.

Gauhati High Court requests a response from the Assam government about retired forest officer MK Yadava’s reappointment

Guwahati, Sep 15: In response to a public interest lawsuit contesting the reappointment of retired Indian Forest Service official MK Yadava, who was given a third post-retirement contractual extension as Special Chief Secretary (Forest), the Gauhati High Court has requested the Assam government’s answer.

On September 11, a division bench made up of Chief Justice Ashutosh Kumar and Justice Arun Dev Choudhury sent a notice to the state administration requesting a response to the PIL before the next hearing on October 15. On May 14 of this year, Yadava, who retired in February 2024, received his most recent extension. On November 12, his current term is set to expire.

Through attorney Abir Phukan, Assam-based environmental activist Rohit Choudhury filed the PIL, which contested the reappointment and questioned the modifications made by the Assam government to its post-retirement engagement policy. PIL challenges the 2024 policy modification. A 2018 Assam government office memorandum, according to the petition, only permitted post-retirement



employment in “rare and exceptional circumstances” and called for review by a committee with state authority. According to the appeal, the policy was changed in 2024 to eliminate the need for such committee consideration in cases where the Chief Minister has already approved a request.

The petition claimed that the change was made just prior to Yadava’s superannuation.

In February 2024 and February 2025, Yadava was granted post-retirement ex-

tensions; the most recent re-engagement took place in May of this year. Choudhury has also questioned the most recent appointment, citing unfavorable remarks purportedly made about the officer’s use of forest land by the Union Environment Ministry.

In order to make the decision to give Yadava his third extension, the petitioner has requested documents and information. He has also requested a hold on any further extensions beyond his current term as temporary

relief. Examining the diversion of forest land, The Environment Ministry’s action over the usage of forest land for Assam Police commando battalion camps in Geleky, Sivasagar district, and Damchera, Hailakandi district, is referred to as the PIL. The Assam Forest Department was instructed by the ministry’s regional headquarters in Shillong to file a lawsuit against Yadava for allegedly authorizing the two camps in contravention of the forest conservation law. In May 2024, Yadava received a

show-cause notice for allegedly violating the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 2023. The petition claims that under Yadava’s tenure as Assam’s Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, the camps were approved for around 26 hectares in Geleky and 11 hectares in Damchera.

The Environment Ministry had also expressed concern about the Damchera camp and ordered the Assam government to cease operations there in 2024.

The PIL points out that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma subsequently wrote to then Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav seeking post-facto approval for the camp, citing national security and the need to tackle forest encroachment. The approval was subsequently granted. Choudhury has argued that the alleged diversion of forest land has wider public-interest implications, particularly in view of the floods reported from the Geleky area in July this year.

The Assam government is yet to respond to the allegations before the High Court.

During Archives Week, the chief minister of Manipur urges the preservation of old documents and scripts

Imphal, Sep 15: On September 15, Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh emphasized the need of conserving the state’s old manuscripts, archival documents, and native script, claiming that they represent Manipur’s historical identity and cultural legacy.

At the Manipur State Archives Complex in Keishampat, Imphal, the Chief Minister was giving a speech at the 44th Archives Week Celebration and Records Exhibition-2026. The Manipur government’s Department of Art & Culture was in charge of organizing the event. Khemchand was pleased to see the well-preserved collection of old manuscripts and archive documents that people had brought from their homes. He expressed gratitude for their efforts and added that keeping these records showed how much they loved the state and its history. According to the Chief Minister, the old Puyas, or traditional books of Manipur, include important records of ancient culture. These documents encompass topics like as archaeological relics, traditional home construction, lifestyles, chronicles, queen legends, and knowledge of medicinal herbs. Khemchand was pleased to see the well-preserved collection of old manuscripts and archive documents that people had brought from their homes. He expressed gratitude for their efforts and added that keeping these records showed how much they loved the state and its history.

According to the Chief Minister, the old Puyas, or traditional books of Manipur, include important records of ancient culture. These documents encompass topics like as archaeological relics, traditional home construction, lifestyles, chronicles, queen legends, and knowledge of medicinal herbs. According to him, these records both reflect the historical identity of the state and show the scientific nature of Manipur’s traditional knowledge system. “These historical traits form the foundation of Manipuri society,” Khemchand stated, adding that

Manipur’s ancient literature and archive materials provide glimpses into the state’s rich cultural legacy.

As the only state in Northeast India with its own alphabet, the Chief Minister further emphasized the significance of Manipur’s own script. He said that the state is proud of the indigenous script’s preservation. Incentives for manuscript custodians are being considered by the government. According to Khemchand, the government is thinking of offering rewards to anyone who have protected and conserved historical documents over time. He said he had already discussed the matter with the Minister and Commissioner of Art & Culture and instructed the department to submit a proposal to the State Cabinet. The government, he added, was prepared to extend all possible assistance to take the proposal forward at the earliest.

Recalling Manipur’s political history, the Chief Minister said the state witnessed what he described as Asia’s first democratic form of government on October 18, 1948. He said such important milestones are documented in archival records, underscoring the need to preserve them for future generations.

During the programme, Khemchand inaugurated the New Stack Room Building of the Manipur State Archives and launched a Reading and Teaching Programme on old archaic scripts.

He also released the 2026 archival publication “Colonial Tour Records of Manipur” and opened the records exhibition showcasing documents and materials related to the state’s history and heritage. The manuscripts displayed at the exhibition included contributions from Nongmaitem Phulendro Meitei, Thoudam Bimolchandra Singh, Laisom Hemjit, Yengkhom Amuthoi Meitei and Chingakham Dorendro.

Union minister To develop talent, Mizoram needs better sports facilities and coaching



Aizawl, Sep 15: In her examination of Mizoram’s sports ecosystem on September 15, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse emphasized the necessity of bolstering coaching, facilities, and support systems to enable athletes from the Northeast to compete at the national and international levels. During his two-day visit to Mizoram, Khadse

spoke with state Sports Minister Lalnginglova Hmar on strategies to develop sporting talent in the state, sports infrastructure, and center-state coordination. The Union minister also visited the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in Aizawl, where she inspected the facilities and interacted with athletes, coaches and support staff.

During her interaction with sportspersons, Khadse

heard about their training programmes, competition experiences and aspirations. She emphasised the need for quality coaching, sports science, rehabilitation, nutrition and greater exposure to competitive events. She said the Khelo India programme was creating pathways for young athletes and stressed that quality facilities and training opportunities should

be available closer to where athletes live and train. Khadse also highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen sports infrastructure in Mizoram, including a Khelo India project for laying a synthetic hockey turf and installing lighting at the SAI Training Centre in Aizawl. The Union minister said Mizoram has strong sporting potential, particularly in football and hockey, and that the achievements of athletes from the state underline the need for sustained institutional support. She said Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of building a stronger sporting culture involves identifying talent at the grassroots level and providing athletes with structured pathways to achieve excellence. The visit comes amid efforts by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and SAI to expand sporting opportunities in the Northeast and develop a more athlete-centric sports ecosystem in the region. Later in the day, Khadse visited Saitual. She is scheduled to visit Kolasib on Wednesday as part of her two-day Mizoram visit.

A truck carrying Rs 40 crore worth of yaba was discovered in Tripura, and the driver was taken into custody

Agartala, Sep 15: In a major anti-narcotics operation, a joint team of the Tripura Police, Assam Rifles and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized around five lakh yaba tablets worth nearly Rs 40 crore in North Tripura’s Panisagar area and arrested a truck driver, officials said. According to Panisagar SDPO Kishlaya Shishodia, the operation was launched based on specific intelligence inputs after the truck entered Tripura from the Assam side. The joint team intercepted a Tata truck travelling from Assam towards Agartala at a naka point in Panisagar. The vehicle was searched in the presence of an Executive Magistrate, during which officials discovered a specially designed concealed chamber in-

side the truck. A large consignment of yaba tablets was found hidden in the compartment.

Police said the seized contraband weighed around 50 kg and comprised approximately five lakh yaba tablets, with an estimated international market value of nearly Rs 40 crore. The truck driver was detained following the recovery and subsequently placed under formal arrest. A case has been registered under relevant provisions of law, and the accused is being produced before a court as part of the legal proceedings. The seizure comes amid intensified efforts by security and enforcement agencies to curb the trafficking of synthetic drugs through.

HIV prevalence in Meghalaya is twice as high as the national average CM Conrad Sangma



Dispur, Sep 15: On September 15, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma declared that the state’s HIV prevalence was double that of the country and urged a concerted,

“whole-of-society” strategy to combat the illness. Sangma, who chaired the first meeting of the Meghalaya State Council on AIDS, stated that the state’s HIV prevalence was 0.40 percent,

whereas the national average was 0.20 percent. According to him, the number of new HIV infections in Meghalaya has risen by 58.74% since 2010, with over seven cases being found every day. Sangma stated, “There are currently 618 HIV cases, including 60 pregnant women living with HIV.”

According to him, just 77.2% of HIV-positive individuals are now receiving treatment, despite a 61.18% decrease in AIDS-related mortality since 2010.

The chief minister stated, “Our biggest gap today is not diagnosis but treatment and retention,” citing stigma and budgetary limitations as the main obstacles to routine care and follow-up. Sangma claims that 2,381 identified individuals have not yet started treatment, underscoring the necessity of strengthening the state’s retention and treatment systems.

Uttar Pradesh’s BJP allies have not yet released their Uniform Civil Code cards



Lucknow, Sep 15: Particularly in front of the assembly elections in the most populous province in the nation, the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners in Uttar Pradesh appear to be exercising care when announcing their support for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

After Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared on September 13 that the UCC would be implemented in all NDA-ruled states before 2029, the divisive topic has returned to the state’s political discourse. Along with the Ram Temple and the repeal of Article 370, UCC is part of the fundamental ideological troika of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). “The UCC has consistently been included in the BJP’s electoral program and major goals, such

as the repeal of Article 370 in J&K. “The party is dedicated to bringing UCC,” stated state BJP main spokesperson Dinesh Pratap Singh. “The state government will now take this action following the statement made by the Union home minister.” Before the 2027 assembly elections, a portion of the BJP thinks the UCC might assist the party in opposing the opposition’s platform in the caste-sensitive state.

According to a senior BJP leader who wished to remain anonymous, “the narrative around UCC will help the party counter the opposition’s poll plank on caste to some extent.” However, the BJP’s allies in Uttar Pradesh are treading carefully and have not yet revealed their formal stance. “At this time, I will not comment on the matter. Anil

Dubey, national general secretary of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), stated, “I will return after consulting the party high command.” The RLD, which is led by Jayant Chaudhary and is a part of the NDA at the state and at the federal level, is primarily composed of Jats and farmers in western Uttar Pradesh.

Apna Dal (Soneylal), another alliance partner with a primary base of Kurmis and non-Yadav OBCs in eastern Uttar Pradesh, has not yet openly declared its support for the UCC. RP Gautam, the party’s state chief, declined to comment, stating that the party high command would address the matter. Anupriya Patel, the leader of the party, serves as a junior minister in the Center. Additionally, Om Prakash Rajbhar’s Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) has not stated its position on the UCC. Indeed, none of the UP partners of the BJP have publicly disagreed with Shah’s claim regarding the UCC.

Akhilesh Yadav, the leader of the Samajwadi Party, stated in a Tuesday post on X that “the public understands that the UCC [that] BJP is talking about actually has a different full form: UCC = Underground Communal Conspiracy.” Bring UCC after fulfilling prior commitments. Bring UCC after transferring ₹15 lakh into accounts. Bring UCC after creating two crore employment.

The ED chief advises officials to pursue insolvency cases with big haircuts



New Delhi , Sep 15: According to a statement released by the agency on Tuesday, Rahul Navin, the head of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), has instructed all of his teams to concentrate on identifying frauds in insolvency cases involving abnormally huge “haircuts” by which promoters re-acquire assets. He also brought up the issue of state police forces failing to file charges on the agency’s recommendations and ordered ED officers to spot red flags and launch money laundering investigations against “masterminds” in such situations during the agency’s two-day quarterly conference that began on Monday.

He suggested utilizing the police’s authority under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to seize properties and forming cooperative teams with state police. Additionally, Navin mandated that ED’s requests for extradition, international cooperation, and fugitive “management” be re-

viewed. The cutting direction was issued just days after a National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) ruling that approved Zee founder Subhash Chandra’s repayment plan of just ₹6.5 crore for loans he personally guarantied against acknowledged claims of ₹22,000 crore sparked outrage. A bigger NCLT bench delayed the ruling. Chandra has been charged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) due to a discrepancy in his declared

income during the standing guaranty for a loan from LIC Housing Finance and throughout the insolvency process following the loan’s default. According to sources, ED is also scheduled to initiate a complaint in the subject shortly.

The zones should uncover “frauds under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and the PMLA (prevention of money laundering act), including re-examination of collusive resolution cases

involving disproportionately large haircuts through which promoters re-acquire assets,” according to Navin’s statement outlining the core operational thrust areas for ED in the upcoming days. The “interplay between the IBC and the PMLA” was the focus of a conference special session.

“The session examined the legal tension between the immunity under Section 32A of the IBC and the attachment powers under the PMLA on the one hand, and the moratorium under Section 14 (which provides a moratorium during proceedings) on the other. Recurring malpractices were identified, including inflation of related-party claims, manipulation of the Committee of Creditors (CoC), asset stripping, and artificially large haircuts through which promoters regain control of assets,” the ED stated. It further said that pprofessionals, fitigations under the PMLA against the masterminds”.

Gujarat police break up an interstate bomb threat network, leading to two arrests

Gandhinagar, Sep 15: Two people were arrested in Bihar and Jharkhand in connection with an inter-state network involved in sending bomb threat emails, police said on Tuesday. One of the accused’s devices included up to 5,13,847 email addresses and passwords, according to a senior police official. The Gujarat Secretariat received

a bomb threat email on September 10, which prompted the start of the investigation. The Gujarat Police Cyber Center of Excellence (CCoE) was directed to Bhagalpur in Bihar and Deoghar in Jharkhand by technical examination of the email correspondence and other digital traces, according to Gujarat Police (CCoE) authorities.

The accused were identified as Roushan Kumar of Bhagalpur and Gulshan Kumar Singh of Deoghar. A device used by Kumar to operate the bomb-threat email account was seized and contained 7,215 email IDs and their corresponding passwords, according to police officials. Officials investigating the matter have found

that Singh was supplying lists of email IDs and passwords to people in different parts of the country for use in sending threat emails, police said.

“A total of 5,13,847 email IDs and passwords were found on Singh’s devices. The list included the email ID used to send the threat to the Gujarat Secretari-

at,” said Vivek Bheda, SP, CCoE, Gandhinagar. “We are going to write to them about whatever loopholes we have found and ask them (Google) to plug them at the earliest so that further propagation can be prevented. We are going to do this through the home ministry. A notice will be sent to them,” Bheda said.

A dispute arises over the NIA’s request to join the ED’s investigation into the 2022 Coimbatore explosion

Jayawardenepura, Sep 15: Last week, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) made an unsuccessful attempt to interfere with an Enforcement Directorate (ED) interrogation of important suspects in the 2022 Coimbatore bombing by an Islamic State-inspired module.

Only Jameesha Mubeen, the suicide bomber, was killed in the vehicle-borne explosion near the Arulmigu Kottai Sangameshwara Thirukovil temple in Coimbatore on October 23, 2022. Since then, the NIA, which is looking into the matter, has detained more than a dozen people. After learning about the financing operations of the module in question, the ED filed a money laundering complaint in June. It petitioned a special court in Chennai to question four suspects, including Sheikh Hidayatullah and Umar Faaruq, two of the main masterminds. The two are incarcerated at Tiruchirappalli Central Prison. Aboo Hanifa and Pavas Rahman, who are both incarcerated at Puzhal Central Jail, were two other people that the ED had attempted to question. In order to raise money for terrorist activities, ED told the court that Hidayatullah and Faaruq



planned a fraudulent Covid-19 vaccination certificate scam in 2021–2022. Pavas Rahman and another accused, Sharan Mariappan, who is currently on bail, assisted in the scheme, and Aboo Hanifa handled the proceeds. Maulvi Zahran bin Hashim, the architect of the April 21, 2019 bombings in Sri Lanka, is said to have spoken with Hidayatullah. The money was utilized to buy explosives and other supplies for the blast in Coimbatore. The accused must be questioned in order to “unearth the complete modus operandi and money trail,” the fi-

nancial crimes inquiry agency told the court. Hidayatullah and Faaruq were to be questioned for four days, and Hanifa and Rahman were to be questioned for six. While referring to the ED as a “third party,” NIA, the case’s predicate offense agency, argued in court that it has “no objection for the ED to interrogate and record the statements of the accused persons” as long as its chief investigating officer (CIO) and his team are “given access to the interrogation session.” This means that any new information

revealed during the investigation will be used to determine whether any new information emerges from NIA’s point of view as part of further investigation in this case. It further asserted that its presence won’t be damaging to ED’s investigations. While accepting ED’s plea, the court ruled in its order on September 10 that it was “not inclined to permit” NIA to join the ED interrogation. A senior government official, who didn’t want to be named, said “Indian criminal procedure does not contain a provision which expressly authorises two independent investigation agencies to jointly interrogate an accused, especially when they have separate first information reports (FIRs). It can only happen either through a court order or orders are issued officially by the state or central government a joint team, special investigation team (SIT), etc, which is not there so far in the Coimbatore blast probe.” “We have seen this happen unofficially so many times,” he added. A second official said, “the NIA could have always asked ED later to share its interrogation details unofficially”.

Fans were left waiting after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay’s London event was canceled due to safety

Chennai , Sep 15: Police claimed safety concerns as the reason for the cancellation of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay’s function in London. Many admirers, some of whom had waited in line for hours, were unhappy by the cancellation. On Tuesday, his supporters had assembled outside The Shard, the highest structure in London, but the gathering was canceled when the Metropolitan Police interfered, citing safety concerns. A member of the chief minister’s staff declared over a megaphone, “We are canceling the program because we don’t have permission due to public safety concerns.” All of these people have been waiting, so I think it makes sense. A teenage fan who had spent hours camping at the actor-turned-politician’s hotel stated, “This is hardly the kind of crowds we see in Tamil Nadu,” according to news agency PTI.

The IT wing of Vijay’s TVK also confirmed the cancellation, saying that while party workers and supporters were eager to meet CM Vijay, the meeting could not go ahead due to safety concerns and a request from the London Metropolitan Police. “We would be incredibly excited and filled with love to meet Thiru C. Joseph Vijay, the chief

minister of Tamil Nadu.” However, an inevitable circumstance has emerged where the Chief Minister and Victorious Leader cannot meet with you, taking into account the public’s safety and the London Metropolitan Police’s request,” it stated in a post on X.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that no one make an effort to meet him. Additionally, we humbly ask that you refrain from making any effort, such as waiting at the hotel’s entrance or along the Victorious Leader’s route. Vijay, who is currently on a UK visit, witnessed the signing of several MoUs in London on Monday for investments reportedly worth over ₹12,300 crore. The investment push aims to make Tamil Nadu a leading hub for advanced manufacturing and technology in Asia. It is expected to create more than 9,400 high-value jobs across the state.

The biggest investment commitment came from auto component company Samvardhana Mutherson International Limited. Along with its European and UK-based joint venture partners, the company signed an MoU with Guidance Tamil Nadu to invest around ₹11,000 crore over the next five years, news agency PTI reported.

Ashneer Grover responds to the UPI merchant fee by saying Call it tax End of day consumer pays



New Delhi, Sep 15: Entrepreneur Ashneer Grover on Tuesday reacted to the recent announcement of a merchant charge on UPI transactions above ₹2,000 and said that the move does stand to ultimately impact consumers. In a TV interview, the former BharatPe co-founder questioned the move to impose a fee on merchants accepting UPI payments above ₹2,000,

despite the government’s clarification that UPI payments between two individuals will remain free of charge, irrespective of the amount.

Grover argued that any levy imposed with respect to UPI payments should clearly be called a “tax”. In an interview with Times Now, Grover was asked about the argument that only those who can “afford” the fee are being asked

to pay it. Shredding the logic, Grover answered: “Then call it tax. Why are you calling it a ‘charge’, ‘MDR’, or claiming that it won’t affect the customer?”. Citing an example, Grover asked if one would be willing to pay ₹500 every month for breathing just because they can “afford” it. “Is there any logic to it?”, he asked. A video of his interaction went viral.

MCD informs SC that 1.1K illegal constructions were removed in three months

New Delhi, Sep 15: According to its most recent status report presented to the Supreme Court, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has demolished about 1,100 unauthorized structures over the last three months and has another 760 demolition orders in the works. According to the study, the civic government has also taken action against over 5,900 properties for commercial misuse of residential spaces; 33 of these houses have been shut.

The Supreme Court is keeping an eye on state governments’ and civic organizations’ nationwide efforts to combat commercial misuse and unapproved building.

The MCD claimed that assessing residential areas throughout Delhi was a “mammoth” task and requested additional time to finish it in its report, which was based on a study carried out in 175 of the 272 wards under its authority. Between June 1 and Sep-

tember 10, the MCD demolished 1,094 properties found to have unauthorised construction, while another 760 demolition orders are pending execution. Around 550 premises were sealed, while show-cause notices for sealing were issued to 777 properties. The report said unauthorised construction was detected at around 1,600 properties, where show-cause notices have been issued for further action. On commercial misuse, the MCD said it inspected 654 colonies comprising more than 370,000 dwelling units across its South, South East, North West and West zones.

“For a city as vast as Delhi, with hundreds of colonies and thousands of residential units, it may seem a gigantic task to cover all areas. The complete survey of properties in the MCD area is a mammoth task,” the corporation told the court while seeking additional time to complete the exercise.

The New Zealand Parliament approves the “More jobs, higher pay for Kiwis

Wellington , Sep 15: New Zealand’s Parliament has passed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India, prime minister Christopher Luxon said on Wednesday, calling the move a “landmark” deal, which will ensure more jobs and higher income for ‘Kiwis’. “People told me a Free Trade Agreement with India wasn’t possible. Well, today that deal passed its final vote in Parliament. It’s happening. This landmark deal means more jobs, higher incomes for Kiwis. It means more New Zealand products being sold in India by opening the door to 1.4 billion Indian consumers,” he wrote in a post

on X. “It’s one of the ways we will grow the economy to help you get ahead – fixing the basics and building the future.” The FTA was cleared with lawmakers voting 93-29 in favour of the legislation, taking the bilateral trade pact closer to implementation. The bill was passed with the support of the ruling National Party and the main opposition Labour Party, securing a clear majority in Parliament, news agency ANI reported. The FTA was signed by India and New Zealand on April 27. “The India FTA opens the door for Kiwi ex-I Zealanders,” according to Bloomberg.

The Delhi airport, a Bangladeshi national was discovered smuggling gold from Saudi Arabia within underwear

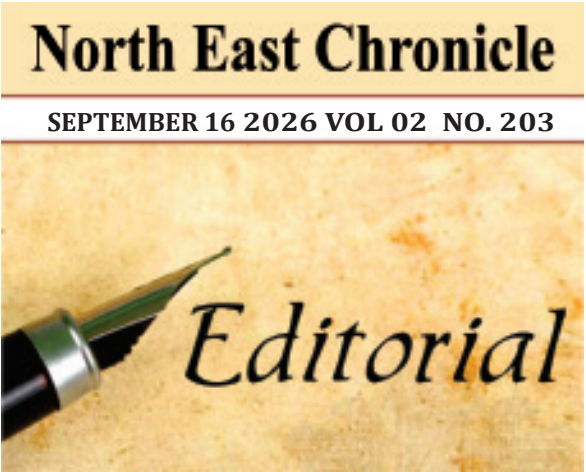
New Delhi, Sep 15: A Bangladeshi national was caught at Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport on Monday. The passenger, as per customs officials, was caught smuggling gold from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. An official statement said the passenger landed at Delhi Airport’s Terminal 3 after his flight from Jeddah. The passenger was then scheduled to board a flight for Dhaka, but was intercepted.

Officials added that a total of 1,596 grams of gold was found on the passenger, which was smuggled and concealed in his undergarments. “The passenger was intercepted by the Central Industrial Security Force (Ministry of Home Affairs), IGI Airport, New Delhi-37, in the international transit area. While intensive checking by central industrial security force

officers, three brownish-white, oval-shaped capsules, suspected to contain gold in chemical paste form, weighing 1596 grams approx. (including packing material) was recovered from the passenger, who had concealed it inside his undergarment,” the official statement added. Customs officials added that the passenger admitted to smuggling the gold from Jeddah to Delhi.

The Bangladeshi national added that he had been asked to drop off the gold with someone in the transit area at Delhi airport.

“The said recovered gold weighing 1346 grams has been seized under section 110 of the Customs Act, 1962. The said passenger has been placed under arrest in terms of section 104 of the Customs Act, 1962,” the officials said.



The end of democratic anonymity

The digital landscape has fundamentally shifted, transforming the human body from a vessel of personal agency into a heavily monitored terrain. As we navigate the complexities of modern existence, biometric data collection and algorithmic surveillance have quietly normalized, permeating our daily routines with alarming seamlessness. This normalization is no longer a dystopian fantasy but a concrete reality, underscored by the relentless expansion of facial recognition technologies. We stand at a critical juncture, forced to examine the escalating tension between the state's pursuit of national security, the insatiable corporate drive for profit, and our fundamental right to absolute individual privacy today.

Historically, identity verification relied upon external tokens, such as passwords or physical documents, which could be changed, discarded, or securely hidden away. Today, the authentication paradigm extracts our very biology. Iris scans, fingerprints, and facial geometries are permanently inextricably linked to our physical being, offering no possibility of reset if compromised. The commodification of these intrinsic biological markers exposes a severe vulnerability. When private corporations and government agencies harvest this data en masse, they construct comprehensive digital architectures of control. This architecture constantly maps our physical movements, social associations, and personal preferences, systematically eroding the foundations of our democratic anonymity. Consider the aggressive expansion of the Transportation Security Administration's biometric deployment within the United States. By the spring of this year, two thousand and twenty-six, the agency successfully expanded its Touchless ID facial recognition system across sixty-five major American airports. This staggering quadruple increase from previous operations illustrates a profound shift toward default surveillance. Under the guise of enhanced traveler convenience and aviation security, passengers are subtly coerced into submitting their biometric signatures. Proponents argue this streamlines airport checkpoints, effectively mitigating long queues. However, this convenience acts as a powerful Trojan horse for unprecedented governmental data collection and monitoring practices. Although officials maintain that submitting to these scans remains entirely voluntary, the reality of the traveler experience contradicts this assurance. Passengers frequently remain completely unaware of their right to opt out, intimidated by authority figures or fearful of missing impending flights. This environment generates an illusion of consent. Responding to this overreach, bipartisan lawmakers introduced the Traveler Privacy Protection Act, aiming to curtail these

Converting might into peace: America's enduring military dilemma

Eight decades ago, US President Harry S Truman faced a decision that would change the nature of warfare forever. Japan was still fighting after the surrender of Nazi Germany. The US possessed a weapon unlike anything the world had seen. Truman and his advisers had to decide how best to use America's overwhelming military power to end the war.

Today, Donald Trump faces a different problem. Iran has suffered substantial military damage, but military success has not translated into the decisive political outcome the US seeks. Japan in 1945 and Iran today are fundamentally different cases. Nor can the atomic bomb of 1945 simply be compared with today's sophisticated nuclear arsenals. Yet, there is a common strategic problem: How does a great power turn military superiority into a political outcome? If Washington were pushed into a corner — by the cost of the conflict, the inability to compel Iran's submission or pressure to demonstrate that American power can still deliver a decisive result — the temptation to consider previously unacceptable options could arise. What would other nuclear powers learn if the nuclear threshold were crossed? The decision-making process surrounding Truman was more complex than the familiar image of a President simply deciding whether to drop the bomb. The views of members of the administration, military leaders and the scientific community were all sought, and they were not identical. The principal US objective was to force Japan to surrender while avoiding the heavy American casualties that an invasion was expected to entail. An atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6. Japan

The Russian Arctic continental shelf is one of the world's most promising territories for hydrocarbon extraction. Preliminary estimates suggest it holds up to 25 per cent of global reserves a potential energy security guarantee for Europe and beyond for decades to come. Current assessments put the forecast hydrocarbon potential of Russia's Arctic shelf at roughly 100 billion tonnes of oil equivalent. Since 2022, India has become one of the most important markets for Russian oil, rapidly rising to become the second-largest buyer after China. Today, it purchases up to 60 per cent of Russia's seaborne crude exports. India is also the world's second-largest exporter of refined petroleum products to Europe, meaning Russia-India cooperation now plays a direct role in the energy security of a wide range of countries.

In September 2023, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, attending the Eastern Economic Forum, signalled India's interest in cooperating with Russia on energy and Arctic matters. Since 2020, India has participated in the Vostok Oil project, developing new oil fields on the Taymyr Peninsula. Crude extracted in northern Krasnoyarsk Krai is expected to be shipped directly to the Chennai port, while Russia's Rosneft is already investing in refining infrastructure in India. Another key advantage of the Russian Arctic is the Northern Sea Route (NSR), which is roughly a third shorter than the route via the Indian Ocean and the Suez Canal

did not immediately surrender. Three days later, Nagasaki was struck. Around the same time, the Soviet Union entered the war against Japan. The sequence matters. Even unprecedented destruction does not automatically translate into political capitulation. Japan's surrender followed a combination of factors. The decision also had consequences beyond Japan. Moscow was watching. At Potsdam, Truman informed Stalin that the US possessed a powerful new weapon. US officials understood that possession and use of the bomb could affect the emerging relationship with the Soviet Union. Some policymakers hoped that America's nuclear monopoly might strengthen Washington's position in dealing with Moscow.

It would be wrong to reduce Hiroshima and Nagasaki to a message to Stalin. The historical debate over "atomic diplomacy" remains contested. But it would be equally wrong to assume that the Soviet Union was absent from American strategic calculations. We cannot know what is being said privately in the White House, nor should we invent positions for advisers whose deliberations are not public. Trump has not publicly advocated the use of nuclear weapons against Iran. But the possibility has nevertheless entered public debate as the conflict has remained unresolved. Any American administration confronting an inconclusive conflict with Iran would have to consider not only what further military action might achieve in Iran, but also what its consequences would be elsewhere. Capitals around the world would ask whether an American action demonstrated restraint, established a new threshold or created

bons that accounts for economic, social, and environmental factors, and minimises impact on a fragile ecosystem. According to available estimates, each job created in the Arctic generates roughly 14 additional jobs in adjacent regions.

For India, participation in joint Arctic energy projects also opens opportunities for scientific research in Arctic waters, work on pollution prevention, polar expeditions, and involvement in infrastructure development. It also means a strengthened geopolitical presence in the region and new markets for Indian-made equipment and technology. For Russia, India's involvement diversifies long-term hydrocarbon exports, strengthens energy diplomacy, and—importantly—increases car-

a precedent. They would examine whether escalation produced political results or merely greater destruction. The most consequential message may be the precedent that other States believe has been established. For almost eight decades, nuclear weapons have occupied a peculiar place in international politics: Their paradoxical purpose has been to ensure that they are never used. If that understanding were to change, the consequences would extend far beyond the country against which a weapon was used. Other nuclear powers would examine the circumstances, the justification offered, the international response and, above all, whether nuclear use achieved its political objective. India has its own nuclear doctrine and strategic assumptions. If the circumstances in which nuclear weapons could be contemplated were to change elsewhere, New Delhi would have to examine what that meant for its own security. That would require a serious debate about deterrence, escalation and thresholds.

A great-power action can have several audiences at once. An adversary may see a warning. An ally may see reassurance. A rival may see an opportunity — or a precedent. The meaning of an action is never entirely controlled by the power that takes it. The world of 2026 is also very different from that of 1945. Information travels instantly, and every major use of force is subject to scrutiny by far more actors, each making its own calculations. Military superiority can destroy an adversary's capacity to fight. It cannot, by itself, determine what comes after the fighting. That is the enduring problem of converting power into political order.

go volumes along the Northern Sea Route, one of Russia's priority development goals. To deepen this, Russia should draw Indian companies into joint ventures, investment funds, R&D, and equipment supply for Arctic operations, while maintaining a favourable investment climate: tax preferences, priority development zones, and institutional guarantees of transparency and stability for Indian investors. Russia-India cooperation in energy and transport carries real geopolitical weight. The two countries are forming a new pole of attraction in global energy, demonstrating that effective, partnership-based cooperation between them is possible and using it as a foundation for a broader Arctic development strategy.

of 24 civilians (including a foreigner) do not constitute the "maintenance or restoration of order". If Article 46 applies to these acts, it applies to everything, and a narrow exception becomes a general license.

One might say the scale of the July uprising demanded an extraordinary response. The regional record suggests otherwise: set beside comparable upheavals, Bangladesh is the outlier. In Sri Lanka, among the protesters who set ablaze the residences of 75 legislators and killed a member of the government, Amarakeerthi Athukorala, and his police bodyguards, 42 individuals were charged, with 16 convicted and 12 sentenced to death. The interim government in Nepal appointed an inquiry commission to investigate both the deaths and arson associated with the Gen Z movement. According to the Nepal Human Rights Commission's May 2026 report, the arson attacks constituted organised criminal activity. The report called for further investigation into fake social media accounts impersonating the Nepal Police to escalate the protest and the use of school students as human shields. While the agreement between the state and Gen Z excluded criminal behaviour, prosecutions have been ongoing before regular tribunals. "Political resistance" during civil unrest is not a recognised defence, nor a matter of impunity, for murder in any comparable jurisdiction. Such defences are opposed for purely technical, not emotional, reasons. Private defence, under the Bangladesh Penal Code 1860, turns on the immediacy of the threat and its proportionality, which are matters of fact for a court to decide. Nonetheless, the Indemnity Act passed in April provides for "political resistance" as a valid defence for any "revolutionary" who might have been involved in activities that could have resulted in civil or criminal actions but who now enjoys impunity before the courts of law.

Statutory impunity: the dark legacy of Bangladesh's indemnity law

Bangladesh witnessed an intense political period in July-August 2024, with casualties reported from both sides. As per the fact-finding report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, or OHCHR, published in February 2025, up to 1,400 people may have been killed between 1 July and 15 August 2024. The report also documented the post-uprising mob violence that targeted police officers and Awami League officials without providing a specific number of casualties. The Bangladesh government's estimate provides a narrower figure. The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs made public 836 fatalities from the uprising. Around this list, the government has organised a compensation framework and trials before the International Crimes Tribunal. But no names or numbers have been provided for the fatalities of the other side. And after the passing of the July Mass Uprising (Protection and Liability Determination) Act (henceforth, the "July Indemnity Act") on 8 April 2026, no one can question those deaths in any court in Bangladesh.

Before the enactment, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order in October 2024 that anyone who participated in the July uprising would be absolved of any crime committed between 15 July and 8 August 2024. After 15 months, the president made this policy statutory by passing an ordinance under Article 93(1) of the Constitution of Bangladesh. Finally, on 8 April 2026, the parliament converted the ordinance into an Act. The Act defines a "revolutionary" as a person who participated in the July uprising, indemnifying them from ongoing and future civil and criminal prosecutions. It further makes a crime committed between July and August 2024 non-cognisable before any court of law. Nonetheless, if there is a murder allegation, the complaint goes to the National Human Rights Commission

(NHRC), which determines whether the killing constituted "political resistance", defined as "the acts committed by July revolutionaries to restore democratic governance, toppling the fascist government". If it is deemed to be such, no proceedings follow; the family might receive compensation; and such a decision is to be non-justiciable before any court. NHRC has also been vested with the power to investigate any murder committed for personal gain, taking advantage of the chaos. NHRC's investigation report is to be construed as the "police report", and can be forwarded to a court of law. On its face, the Act covers every death in July and August. In reality, it runs one way, only protecting the 'revolutionary'. Those killed by revolutionaries, such as police officers, Awami League activists, and most of the dead in the days after 5 August, are left with no forum at all. Take the example of the deaths of police officers. Forty-four officers were killed in Bangladesh between 1 July and 15 August, as confirmed by the Police Headquarters. Many of these deaths were retaliatory in nature. The July Indemnity Act removed the judicial process for these deaths and transferred it to an administrative agency, the NHRC, whose decision is final and conclusive. But the redress mechanism has contradictions. On 9 April 2026, the day after the Act was passed, parliament repealed the 2025 Human Rights Commission Ordinance and restored the previous 2009 NHRC Act, thereby dissolving the forum to which every July killing had been routed within a day. Moreover, section 18 of the restored Act bars the Commission from investigating the disciplined forces directly. In its current standing, the NHRC is forbidden from investigating the deaths of 44 police officers.

Statutory impunity is not new in Bangladesh, and often fails to survive the test of time. Twice before, parliament has placed a

category of killing beyond the reach of the courts, and neither enactment survived judicial scrutiny. However, in each case, the reckoning came only after the government that passed the Act had fallen. The first was the Indemnity Ordinance promulgated by Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad six weeks after the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, protecting the men who had killed the founding father of Bangladesh and his family. The Fifth Amendment of 1979 later gave it the force of an Act of parliament. When the Awami League formed the government in 1996, parliament repealed the Act, and 12 of the assassins were sentenced to death. The Fifth Amendment fell in Bangladesh Italian Marble Works Ltd. v. Government of Bangladesh (2010). The second precedent was the Joint Drive Indemnity Act 2003, indemnifying around 40 custodial deaths during Operation Clean Heart. It was defended under Article 46 of the constitution, although human rights organisations and constitutional law scholars vehemently criticised it. In 2015, the High Court Division declared it void and held that the government cannot indemnify "arbitrary killing". Article 46 permits parliament to indemnify any person for acts done "in connection with the national liberation struggle or the maintenance or restoration of order," subject to the condition that parliament exercises this power by statute. However, during the interim administration, when no parliament was in session, the administration used the ordinance-making power to withdraw proceedings against "revolutionaries". Article 46 is also specific as to circumstance: it applies in connection with the Liberation War of 1971 and, in peacetime, to maintaining or restoring order. The destruction, vandalising, and burning of 450 of the country's 639 police stations; looting of arms; violence against women; burning of a five-star international hotel; and the killing

Tata Sons RBI files caveat

New Delhi: The battle over Tata Sons’ listing may head to court — and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is making sure it will not be caught off guard. In a rare pre-emptive move, the central bank on Tuesday filed a caveat application in the Bombay High Court regarding the mandated listing of the Tata Group holding company, sources close to the development said. The application was filed online and is likely to be registered on Wednesday, they added.

A caveat ensures the court hears the filing party before passing any order on a petition that the other side—in this case, Tata Sons—may subsequently move.

“They have just filed a caveat that you cannot give relief to the Tatas unless you hear the RBI’s side,” said a lawyer who did not wish to be named. The move signals that the central bank is bracing for the possibility of Tata Sons challenging its decision to reject the company’s application to surrender its reg-

istration as a core investment company (CIC). The RBI is also understood to have informed Tata Sons of the caveat. A caveat remains valid for 90 days. Tata Sons could approach the court after that window, but may then have to explain the delay, the lawyer said. The RBI could also file a fresh caveat once the current one lapses, he added. The RBI did not respond to queries sent by FE until the time of publication.

The caveat comes days after the RBI rejected Tata Sons’ March 28, 2024 application for deregistration. The September 11 decision effectively closed the key route the holding company had pursued to avoid a public listing. In its communication, the RBI said Tata Sons’ request for voluntary surrender of its certificate of registration (CoR), so as to be classified as an unregistered CIC, “cannot be acceded to”. It also directed the company to “take necessary actions to ensure full compliance with all guidelines/

instructions, as applicable to NBFC-Upper Layer (UL) issued by the RBI immediately” Tata Sons could challenge the RBI’s decision before the Bombay High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution, with the dispute capable of eventually reaching the Supreme Court. Possible grounds for such a challenge include arbitrariness, inadequate reasoning, procedural infirmity, violation of the principles of natural justice, or an incorrect interpretation of the regulatory framework. The company could also question whether the RBI can deny it the opportunity to surrender its CIC registration — particularly if it argues that it should be permitted to restructure its affairs in a manner that removes the requirement to list. Tata Sons could contend that while its systemic importance may warrant continued regulatory oversight, it should be allowed to reorganise its structure rather than be compelled to go public, the lawyer said.

HDFC Bank share price target: 2 CEO candidates; what can rerate stock

New Delhi: With the HDFC Bank board submitted a list of two candidates to the RBI for consideration as MD & CEO for a three-year tenure, all eyes are on whether there will be an internal candidate or external candidate. Foreign brokerage Nomura said an external candidate, if accompanied by a clear roadmap, could rerate underperforming HDFC Bank shares. Kaizad Bharucha, Deputy MD & CEO, is largely seen as the internal candidate for the post while an external private banker could be ICI- CI Prudential Life’s Anup Bagchi, HSBC’s Hitender Dave or Citibank India’s K Balasubramanian, as per reports.

Nomura said an internal appointment could provide initial relief by ensuring continuity and limiting disruption. It said Kaizad’s familiarity with the bank and its businesses would also allow for a smoother transition.

However, a credible external candidate could offer a longer runway



and a cleaner slate. In our view, this could be more significant for the stock over the medium term, as a new leader would have greater scope to reassess strategy, challenge existing practices and drive a strategic reset,” Nomura said. The foreign brokerage said as the stock has materially underperformed and a credible external appointment with a strong operating track record could, therefore, emerge as a catalyst for a re-rating, particularly

if accompanied by a clear roadmap on growth, deposits, margins and returns.

“The leadership transition remains the more important near-term stock catalyst. An internal appointment could provide initial relief by removing succession uncertainty and ensuring continuity. However, we believe a qualified external candidate with a strong banking track record could be more supportive of a sustained re-rating,

given the potential for a strategic reset and a longer leadership runway,” it said.

The brokerage maintained ‘Buy’, valuing HDFC Bank at 1.9 times March 2028 book value per share to arrive at a target price of Rs 950, with subsidiaries contributing Rs 105 per share. The Bahrain High Civil Court has rejected all seven cases filed against HDFC Bank by investors in the Credit Suisse AT1 bonds matter. The final two proceedings were rejected on September 9, following five similar cases that were dismissed during July and August.

The cases related to allegations concerning the purchase of Credit Suisse AT1 bonds through HDFC Bank.

According to the bank, the Bahrain court rejected the allegations after finding that the investors had not produced sufficient admissible evidence to substantiate their claims or establish that the losses suffered were attributable to HDFC

Gold, GIFT City and staggered investing playbook for market uncertainty

Mumbai: As global risks around crude oil, geopolitics and bond yields persist, Mirae Asset Sharekhan has advocated a diversified and staggered approach to investing rather than relying solely on equity gains. Its September 2026 strategy note recommends combining equities with gold, GIFT City offerings and fixed-income strategies to navigate volatility. Indian markets face a mixed backdrop. While domestic macros remain supportive, inflation has moved above the Reserve Bank of India’s target and the fragile Iran-US truce leaves crude oil prices vulnerable to renewed swings. Expectations around US monetary policy and elevated global bond yields could also keep financial markets sensitive to changing conditions.

Indian markets ended August in the red after a two-month rally, although broader indices remained positive. Against this backdrop, the brokerage recommends a staggered investment approach and suggests that investors partially reallocate towards large caps from small caps. It also identifies gold as a



strategic portfolio hedge and GIFT offerings as an avenue for diversification.

The recommendation comes even as valuations have eased. The Nifty 50 forward price-to-earnings ratio declined from 18.74 times at the end of July to 18.15 times at the end of August.

The allocation strategy varies sharply according to risk appetite. The aggressive portfolio carries substantial exposure to mid- and small-cap equities, while the moderate portfolio combines equities with balanced advantage, corporate bonds, short-duration funds, gold and GIFT ex-

posure. Gold features in the brokerage’s conservative portfolio as well, where it accounts for 10% alongside 70% in corporate bonds and short-duration funds and 20% in balanced advantage funds. The report therefore positions gold not merely as a return-seeking asset but as part of diversification during uncertain market conditions. For investors seeking regular income, the model “Regular Income Basket” allocates 70% to balanced advantage funds and 30% to multi-asset strategies. Meanwhile, the “Build India Basket” has an 80% allocation to thematic/sectoral funds and

20% to flexi-cap or multi-cap funds.

The strategy reflects a market where opportunities and risks coexist. Small caps led August’s broader-market performance, gaining 3.77%, but the brokerage is also urging investors to avoid concentrating portfolios in a single segment.

The broader message is clear: use staggered investments to manage entry-point risk, retain diversification through gold and GIFT exposure, and match equity and debt allocations to individual risk appetite rather than chasing the best-performing segment

Bajaj Holdings’ arm announces 1600% dividend for FY27

Mumbai: A subsidiary of Bajaj Holdings & Investment Ltd has declared an interim dividend payment of Rs 160 apiece for the ongoing financial year 2026-27 (FY27), translating into a payout of 1600 per cent. The company is Maharashtra Scooters Ltd, which has proposed to rename itself as Bajaj Nivesh Ltd. Maharashtra Scooters’ standalone net profit plunged 99.91 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 0.03 crore in the June quarter (Q1 FY27) from Rs 35.36 crore in the corresponding period last year. Total income plunged 81.51 per cent YoY to Rs 5.41 crore in Q1 FY27.

The company’s board has approved the inclusion of a new object clause enabling the company to undertake the generation and production of renewable energy through

solar, wind and other natural resources in the future. The company clarified that this addition will not affect its status as an unregistered Core Investment Company (CIC). It has also approved a proposal to change the company’s name to better reflect its core strategic objectives. The proposed amendments to the Memorandum of Association (MoA) and the name change are subject to the approval of shareholders and the requisite statutory and regulatory authorities.

Maharashtra Scooters is a subsidiary of Bajaj Holdings, which holds a 51 per cent majority stake in the company. It is engaged in the business of manufacturing dies, jigs, fixtures and die-casting components primarily for the automobile industry.

Pranav Constructions made a strong stock market debut; shares list at 33% premium

Mumbai: Shares of Pranav Constructions made a strong stock market debut on Tuesday, September 15 as the redevelopment and real estate player was listed at Rs 165 apiece on NSE, suggesting a listing pop of 33.06 per cent over the issue price of Rs 124 per shares. Similarly, the stock settled with a premium of 30.65 per cent over its issue price at Rs 162 on BSE Ltd.

According to the listing price, investors of Pranav Constructions made a profit close to Rs 4,900 per lot allotted to them. However, listing of Pranav Constructions has been slightly below the expectations. Ahead of the debut, it was commanding a grey market premium (GMP) of Rs 53-55 apiece, suggesting a 43-45 per cent listing pop for the investors.

To recall, the IPO of Pranav Constructions was sold in the price band of Rs 118-124 apiece between September 07 and September 09. It sold the issue with a lot size of 120 equity shares and its multiples thereafter. It raised a total of Rs 351 crore via IPO, with issue being overall subscription of a solid

121 times, fetching more than 44.83 lakh applications and bids for nearly Rs 33,700 crore.

On an individual basis, the portion reserved for qualified institutional bidders (QIBs) saw a subscription of 258.71 times, while the portion for non-institutional investors (NIIs) was subscribed 208.21 times. The allocation for retail investors was subscribed 43.33 times during the three-day subscription period. Mumbai-based Pranav Constructions is a real estate company primarily engaged in redevelopment projects in the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) Region, with a predominant focus on the Western Suburbs. It specializes in pure-play redevelopment and undertakes redevelopment projects across residential segments like economical, mid and mass, and aspirational homes. Brokerage firms were mostly positive on the issue, suggesting to subscribe to it for long-term. PNB Investment Services and Centrum Capital were the book running lead managers of Pranav Constructions IPO and Kfin Technologies Ltd served as the registrar of the issue.

DFS launches three fintech solutions at GFF 2026 to accelerate financial inclusion

Aizawl: Getting a new bank card, accepting digital payments or depositing cash for a family member could soon become easier and faster as the Department of Financial Services unveiled three fintech initiatives at Global Fintech Fest 2026.

DFS Secretary Sanjay Lohiya launched an open-source Android ATM that can instantly issue personalised RuPay debit, credit and NCMC cards and merchant UPI QR codes. The machines can also facilitate cheque deposits, account opening and loan applications, potentially reducing branch visits and waiting for

physical card delivery. Banks are exploring their use as Digital Banking Units in rural and semi-urban areas, as well as at airports, metro stations, campuses and corporate parks. Nine banks, including SBI, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank, PNB, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, UCO Bank, Slice Small Finance Bank and Airtel Payments Bank, are evaluating the solution with NPCI and ATM makers Hitachi Payment Services, Perto India and Vortex Engineering.

For farmers and small entrepreneurs, Credit Line on UPI is being extended to eligible KCC and PM MUDRA

accounts. The ecosystem represents over 7.7 crore operative KCC accounts with sanctioned limits above ₹10 lakh crore and more than 57 crore PMMY loans exceeding ₹40 lakh crore. The third initiative, AePS Three-Party Cash Deposit, allows eKYC-registered customers to deposit cash directly into another person’s bank account through participating AePS Touchpoint Operators. Aadhaar biometric authentication and beneficiary-name confirmation add security. Fourteen banks currently support the service, with more expected to join.

Shares of TCS, Infosys, HCLTech, Tech Mahindra, and Wipro experience a significant increase

New Delhi: Shares of Indian IT companies staged a sharp recovery in Tuesday’s trade, with the Nifty IT sub-index rising more than 5 per cent in early deals, despite a downturn in the US Nasdaq index overnight.

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS), Infosys Ltd, HCL Technologies Ltd, Tech Mahindra Ltd, LTM Ltd and Mphasis Ltd were among the major gainers in early trade, helping lift the Nifty IT index. Persistent Systems Ltd, Oracle Financial Services Software Ltd (OFSS) and Wipro Ltd also traded higher. Coforge Ltd was the only stock in the Nifty IT pack trading lower.

The recovery came amid a reassessment of the potential impact of the pace of development in frontier artificial intelligence (AI) models on traditional software companies.

Choice Institutional Equities noted, “Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei’s call to ‘pace the frontier’, backed by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, has raised concerns around the pace of AI infrastructure buildout and driven a sell-off in direct AI-linked companies. In contrast, software stocks have shown relative strength, with Infosys and Wipro ADRs up, while Cognizant, ServiceNow and Accenture gained. The divergence suggests investors are reassessing the risk-reward across tech, with a more measured pace of frontier-model

development potentially reducing concerns around rapid obsolescence and disruption for traditional software.”

On Indian IT, the domestic brokerage said, “A more measured AI development cycle could provide enterprises greater visibility on technology choices, reducing near-term obsolescence concerns and encouraging customers that had adopted a wait-and-watch approach to resume AI and digital spending. This should be incrementally positive for Indian IT, particularly across AI implementation, cloud transformation, governance and cybersecurity. Importantly, this may extend the monetisation window for IT vendors and provide more time to offset productivity-led pressure on legacy services. The structural risk of AI-driven productivity being passed onto clients remains in light, making the pace of AI-led revenue creation versus productivity-led deflation the key monitor.”

Choice further stated, “The recovery in Indian IT ADRs comes ahead of the September 16 Fed decision, with markets pricing in ~90 per cent odds of a 25bps hike. Fed guidance, US yields and inflation commentary, alongside the evolving AI-spending debate, will remain key near-term drivers given Indian IT’s high North America exposure.”

Kranthi Bathini, Equity Strategist at WealthMills Securities, echoed a similar view, advising in-



vestors with a near-term view to hold. For the long term, he sees IT stocks as a contrarian bet and suggested a ‘buy-on-dips’ approach. Ravi Singh, Chief Research Officer at Master Capital Services, stated, “Indian IT stocks may see near-term relief as Anthropic and OpenAI leaders call for slower AI development, reducing fears of rapid disruption. However, this could be a sentiment-driven rebound rather than a fundamental turnaround. The development may provide traditional IT companies more time to adapt, while AI-led disruption remains a key long-term industry trend.”

Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said, “The IT sector emerged as the standout performer, as investors rotated toward Indian

software companies with established, traditional business models following the sharp sell-off in global technology stocks. The move comes after senior AI executives raised concerns over the pace of AI development, prompting investors to reassess technology stocks.”

Meanwhile, the global debate over the pace of AI development has intensified, with some AI companies and technology leaders calling for greater caution amid concerns about the potential risks and uncertainty surrounding increasingly advanced AI systems. However, US President Donald Trump has opposed calls to slow AI development, arguing that the US needs to continue advancing the technology to maintain its lead globally.

Banks widen gap with SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank

New Delhi: Small finance banks continue to offer significantly higher fixed deposit (FD) returns than large banks, with Suryoday Small Finance Bank and Unity Small Finance Bank offering headline rates of up to 8.5% for senior citizens on select tenures. ICICI Bank offer considerably lower peak rates, highlighting the widening gap between smaller lenders and large banking names. According to FD rate data as of September 9, 2026, Suryoday Small Finance Bank offers a maximum regular FD rate of

8.25%, while Unity Small Finance Bank offers up to 8% for regular depositors. For senior citizens, both lenders offer rates of up to 8.50% on specified tenures. However, for those prioritising large-bank franchises and a familiar banking relationship, SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank continue to offer lower but more conventional FD returns. The choice ultimately comes down to how much additional return an investor wants in exchange for considering a wider range of lenders and products.

Major Blow to Terrorists in Balochistan, Six Killed in Pishin Operation

Pishin: Security forces in Pakistan’s Balochistan province have claimed to have killed six terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in the Saranan area of Pishin district. According to officials, the slain terrorists were linked to a proscribed Baloch militant network allegedly involved in attacks on civilians and other violent activities in the area.

According to Balochistan Pulse, an online news network covering Balochistan, the operation was conducted following an attack on labourers working on an under-construction road in the Saranan area on August 24. Police said four labourers were killed in the initial attack. In a separate shooting incident, another injured labourer later succumbed to his wounds, taking the total number of fatalities to six.

According to security officials, intelligence inputs had indicated the presence and activities of terrorists in the Saranan area. Acting on the information, security forces launched an operation in the locality. During the operation, an exchange of fire took place between



security personnel and the militants, in which six terrorists were killed.

Officials said the slain terrorists were allegedly involved in targeting civilians and in other incidents

of violence in the region. However, these claims could not be independently verified.

Security agencies have expressed growing concern over terrorist activities in and around Pishin in

recent days. Besides the attack on labourers in Saranan, incidents targeting government installations and security forces have also been reported in the area.

On August 20, the proscribed Ba-

lochistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed to have taken control of parts of Saranan and occupied government buildings. However, the claim has not been independently verified and, for the time being, remains only an assertion by the organisation.

Security forces have been conducting intelligence-based operations in Balochistan as part of their counter-terrorism campaign. Alleged militant networks have also been targeted in recent operations in Chagai, Mastung, Kharan, Washuk and other districts.

The Pishin operation is considered significant as it was carried out following an attack on ordinary labourers. Security officials said terrorist violence is no longer confined to security installations but has also emerged as a serious threat to civilians and ongoing economic activities in the region.

According to security officials, intelligence-based operations will continue in the coming days to prevent terrorist organisations from establishing a foothold at the local level and targeting civilians.

North Korea Reaffirms Strong Support for Russia, Announces Expansion of Bilateral Cooperation



Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has reaffirmed his commitment to further strengthening his country’s ties with Russia. According to a report by state media on Tuesday, Kim, in a message sent to Russian President Vladimir Putin, pledged to broadly expand and deepen joint cooperation between the two countries.

According to South Korea’s state-run news agency Yonhap, the message was sent in response to a congratulatory message Putin had conveyed on September 9 on the occasion of the 78th anniversary of the founding of North Korea. Kim expressed his gratitude to Putin for the message and said he would work to further advance co-operation with Russia.

In his message, Kim said North Korea’s goal is to broadly expand and deepen joint work with Russia based on the tradition of friendship, good-neighbourly relations, mutual cooperation and strong alliance ties between the two countries.

However, Kim did not specify the areas covered by what he referred to as “joint work.” It is believed that this

could include the expanding military and economic co-operation between the two countries.

Kim said the two countries were writing a new chapter in the great history of their alliance despite historical upheavals. He also reiterated North Korea’s unwavering commitment to supporting Russia in its war against Ukraine.

Relations between North Korea and Russia have strengthened rapidly in recent years. During Putin’s visit to Pyongyang in June 2024, the two countries signed a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty. The agreement includes a provision requiring either country to provide military assistance to the other without delay in the event of an armed attack.

According to reports, North Korea has supplied Russia with conventional weapons as well as thousands of troops to support Moscow in its war against Ukraine. This has heightened concerns in Western countries over the growing military partnership between Moscow and Pyongyang.

Four people in hospital after stabbing in south-east London

London: Seven people have been arrested after four men were stabbed in south-east London, the Metropolitan police said.

Officers were called to reports of “an altercation” on Bromley High Street at 2.15pm and found four men with stab wounds, the force added. In a statement, it said: “Officers attended the scene alongside the London ambulance service and London’s air ambulance and found four men with stab wounds. Three of them were taken to hospital

where they are receiving treatment for non-life-threatening injuries. One is in critical condition. “Seven men were arrested and they all remain in custody. Police inquiries continue and there is no believed to be any wider threat to the public.”

A cordon was in place at the scene on Thursday, with police, as well as community support officers, standing around the perimeter. Forensics officers dressed in blue overalls and a crime scene photographer were coming

and going from a branch of KFC, where locals said the incident occurred, and there were evidence markers visible on the floor. Abandoned food could still be seen on the tables as evening drew in, suggestive of the haste in which people left the restaurant amid the incident. “I heard a really loud bang and people running from KFC,” said George Ioannou, who was working in Antonio’s Male Grooming next door to the KFC. “An elderly woman ran into the shop and I

had to lock the door to shelter her until it calmed down. She was crying. About five minutes later, we heard the sirens.” Other shop workers nearby said the incident was quick and that it was over in moments.

The KFC has an alleyway down one side – along which people ran as they passed the male grooming shop – and faces on to Bromley’s High Street. Part of the latter was still closed to the public on Thursday evening. It is a busy thoroughfare, with a

large shopping centre at one end and a train station taking commuters between Kent, south-east London and the capital’s centre at the other. Those and the parade of shops lining the high street draw large numbers of people from the surrounding area. About 15 bus routes were diverted, including the 61, 208 and 119. The London ambulance service said ambulance crews, a paramedic in a fast-response car, an incident response officer, an advanced paramedic and London’s air

ambulance were dispatched to the scene.

Four patients were treated at the scene before being taken to hospital, the service added. The Bromley and Biggin Hill MP Peter Fortune said: “I am aware of the incident on Bromley High Street this afternoon and I know that residents will have safety concerns. The police are in attendance and have made a number of arrests. I will remain in close contact with the police as they continue to investigate this incident.”

Sweden’s extremely close election could see far right enter government

Sweden: Sweden goes to the polls on Sunday in an extremely close election that could see the far right enter government for the first time if the country’s rightwing parties can form a majority.

Opinion polls show the centre-left opposition alliance ahead, with Magdalena Andersson of the Social Democrats the favourite to become prime minister again after four years in opposition, but her bloc’s lead has narrowed considerably in the final days of the campaign.

In 2022, the current prime minister, Ulf Kristersson, the leader of the centre-right Moderates, broke a long-standing taboo to make a deal with the far-right Sweden Democrats (SD), so that his minority coalition could form a government.

That agreement gave the SD outsized influence over government policy, especially on crime and immigration, and Kristersson has now gone further, promising ministerial posts for the SD if he is returned to power.

The election comes days after Germany’s nativist Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) seized first place in state elections, and as Marine Le Pen leads the polls for next year’s presidential vote in France. Legal and civil rights experts have warned that such a result could further undermine Sweden’s long-held reputation as a global champion of human rights, which has significantly deteriorated under the current government.

“What we have seen in

the past four years is huge changes when it comes to policies on crime and immigration,” said John Stauffer, legal director at Civil Rights Defenders. “That is also the concern moving forward into the next mandate period: that this government will continue with a clear aim to further decrease the number of people coming to Sweden, the number of people who can get protection, and also that as many people as possible with migrant backgrounds leave Sweden – ei-

ther by force or voluntarily.”

SD’s manifesto includes pledges to introduce “anti-Swedish sentiment in legislation on incitement against ethnic groups”, revoke permanent resident permits and further cut immigration.

One of its slogans is a promise to “make Sweden Sweden again”.

Despite recent changes – including the deportation of teenagers, lowering the age of criminal responsibility and sending 14-year-olds to

adult prisons – many voters and politicians continued to see Sweden as a “champion of human rights and a champion of the rules-based world order where human rights is an important part”, Stauffer said.

“But it is quite clear that the Sweden Democrats do not have that ambition. They don’t see Sweden as an important player on these issues on human rights. So there will be less focus on this and Sweden contributing to developing the judi-

cial framework around human rights.”

He added: “It’s a fair guess that the negative trend will continue with SD in government, the view from abroad of Sweden will continue to deteriorate, less and less will be seen as a champion of human rights, but as any other country maybe. For some time Sweden has been seen as the exception.”

In an attempt to win back voters, Andersson’s Social Democrats have also moved to the right on crime, im-

migration and integration, meaning that a win for the left was unlikely to mean a reform of current headline policies, said Stauffer.

“With a Social Democrats-led government, many of the things we see as problematic are not going to be rolled back. But maybe negative development will not continue in the same way,” he said.

With polls so tight and record early voting expected, the performance of smaller parties could prove critical.

One in five black, Asian and minority ethnic NHS managers in England plan to quit amid racism, report finds

England: The NHS in England is facing an exodus of minority ethnic managers who have suffered racism, exclusion and discrimination during their working lives, a report has found.

Almost four-fifths of managers from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds have experienced racism, exclusion and obstacles to progressing in their careers, according to a survey carried out by the NHS Alliance.

The problem is so widespread that one in five say they will quit the NHS in the next three years, amid renewed concern the service is doing too little to eradicate ingrained racism.

The NHS Alliance, which surveyed 950 BAME managers, said the findings are “further evidence of the corrosive and demoralising impact of racism in the NHS”. They risk a “haemorrhaging” of managers and senior leaders from BAME backgrounds, it warned.

Sir Ciarán Devane, the NHS Alliance’s chief executive, said “political and cultural polarisation” meant the diversity of the NHS’s leadership is more important than ever.

“Yet we now face a very real risk of senior minority ethnic colleagues walking away, discouraged, disheartened and disillusioned. This also represents a huge loss of talent from the NHS,” Devane added.

Survey participants described a lack of diversity in the senior leadership teams where they worked, being excluded from informal networks and “progression disparities” – not getting a fair chance to advance their careers compared with white colleagues. There is a worrying gap between BAME managers’ desire to rise through the ranks and their belief they will be able to do so.

“I am the only brown face at 99% of my meetings at strategic and policy level,” a black senior manager said. An Asian manager said: “There is a culture of nepotism. Although I believe I have the experiences, knowledge and ability to be promoted, the culture is too strong.”

A third manager, of African heritage, said: “There is a clear lack of diversity at senior levels and this absence makes it difficult to feel seen, supported or inspired to



progress.”

The NHS’s leadership is more diverse than before. For example, the proportion of BAME mem-

bers of NHS boards has risen from 7.1% in 2016 to 17.3% in 2025. However, enduring institutional and structural racism means a se-

ries of initiatives it has undertaken to tackle discrimination have produced little meaningful change, a new report by the alliance said.

Too many BAME managers, including some who occupy very senior roles, face “continuing racism, exclusion and inequity in their everyday working lives” as well as “isolation and covert discrimination”, the alliance found.

Victor Adebawale, its chair, said: “The fact is the NHS is institutionally racist.”

In a plea to NHS bosses to do more, Lord Adebawale said: “If you are a competent leader, then you should be leading everyone everywhere all the time. In order to do that, you need to understand who you are employing; who they are. You need to raise the issue of race and racism not as a special thing, but as part of business as usual. This is what we do.”

The NHS Race and Health Observatory said it had seen a growing number of inquiries from BAME NHS staff who had experienced racism in their workplaces.

“These findings are alarming, but not surprising,” said Prof Habib Naqvi, its chief executive, responding to the NHS Alliance’s report.

“They expose a stark reality: too

many black, Asian and minority ethnic NHS staff are still facing racism at work, with serious consequences for their mental and physical wellbeing, careers and willingness to stay in the service.

“Racism has become too normalised in parts of the system and NHS leaders must confront it with urgency, accountability and sustained action.”

An NHS England spokesperson said: “Racism and discrimination have no place in the NHS and it is completely unacceptable for any member of staff to experience them at work.

“While there has been progress in increasing minority ethnic representation in senior roles, we know there is much more to do to ensure equal representation and equal opportunities for all staff to progress and be treated fairly and with respect. “That is why the new NHS staff standards require trusts to take sustained action to tackle racism, with clear board-level accountability and action to ensure equity in recruitment and career progression, with progress measured through the NHS oversight framework.”

Five lip gloss sticks you should try



Lip gloss sticks bring shine to your lips by combining the benefits of lip balm and lip color. Determine whether include them in your vanity kit is worthwhile.

1. Maybelline New York Lifter Gloss, Petal: Maybelline New York Lifter Gloss is a glossy lip formula designed to give lips a hydrated, fuller-looking finish without feeling overly heavy. It contains hyaluronic acid, coconut oil, vitamin E and glucomannan, which help support a moisturised and smooth lip feel. The high-shine texture works well for everyday makeup as well as layered lip looks. It is particularly suitable for normal to dry lips that need extra hydration and a glossy finish. The formula is also dermatologist-tested and suitable for sensitive skin.

2. Staze Y.U.M.M.Y Lip Gloss Balm | 3-in-1 Gloss + Tint + Balm | High-Shine Glossy Finish: Staze Y.U.M.M.Y Lip Gloss Balm combines sheer colour, glossy shine and lip care in one easy-to-use formula. Its ingredients include hyaluronic acid, shea butter, sunflower seed oil, olive oil, almond oil and tucuma seed butter, helping provide a nourished and moisturised feel. It also offers SPF 15 protection for everyday lip care. The juicy finish makes it suitable for daily makeup and quick touch-ups. It is best suited to dry, normal and mildly chapped lips looking for colour and hydration in one product.

3. Revolution Pout Lip Gloss Stick | Juicy Tint with Glossy Balm Finish | Moisturizing, Lightweight & Non-Sticky: Revolution Pout Lip Gloss Stick combines the pigmentation of a lipstick with the high-shine finish of a gloss. Its formula contains hyaluronic acid, vitamin E, squalane, shea butter, jojoba oil, sunflower seed oil and grape seed oil, helping keep lips feeling nourished and moisturised. Available in several wearable shades, it can be applied alone for a glossy colour payoff. The creamy formula is particularly suited to normal, dry and dehydrated lips that prefer a comfortable, moisturising lip product with noticeable shine.

4. MARS Click Stix Gloss Lip Balm (2.0 gm) (06-ROSE DUSK) | High Pigmented: The MARS Click Stix Gloss Lip Balm offers an exceptionally convenient click-up format that effortlessly dispenses just the right amount of product for a juicy, radiant glossy finish combined with beautifully buildable colour that lets you customize your look from a subtle tint to a more vibrant wash. Its thoughtfully engineered formula is packed with nourishing skin-loving ingredients such as rich cocoa seed butter, phytosteryl oleate, hydrogenated polyisobutene, and candelilla wax, which work together synergistically to help provide a remarkably smooth, supple, and well-conditioned feel that lasts for hours. Furthermore, its ultra-creamy, melting texture is specifically designed to deliver a high-impact, shimmering shine without any of the heavy, overly sticky finish that often plagues conventional glosses, making it an absolute breeze for everyday use whether you are rushing to work or heading out for a casual weekend brunch. This versatile cosmetic hybrid is particularly well-suited for individuals with normal to dry lips who desperately need a combination of lightweight daily nourishment, a touch of subtle, flattering colour, and a brilliant glossy finish packed neatly into an easy-to-carry format that fits effortlessly into any pocket or handbag.

5. Milagro Beauty Gloss Lip Balm | Hydrating Glossy Lip Glaze Stick: The Milagro Beauty Gloss Lip Balm brilliantly combines a luminous, high-shine glossy finish with intensive, nourishing lip-care ingredients in a convenient, travel-friendly stick format that makes application effortless whether you are at home or on the move. Its expertly crafted formula features a powerhouse blend of jojoba oil, shea butter, and peptides, which work harmoniously together to help leave your lips feeling wonderfully soft, deeply conditioned, and continuously moisturised throughout the day. Furthermore, its lightweight yet lush glossy texture makes it an exceptionally easy and versatile choice for everyday makeup routines when you want to achieve a fresh, juicy-looking lip without the heaviness or maintenance of a traditional opaque lipstick. This delightful hybrid product is particularly well-suited for normal, dry, and dehydrated lips that deeply prefer a comfortable, cushiony balm-like texture elevated with a beautiful touch of added shine and a polished, healthy-looking finish that effortlessly ties your entire look together.

How to stack festive jewelry without creating a crowded festive image, from necklaces to bangles



Festive attire typically involves striking a balance between appearing sophisticated and maintaining an elegant overall appearance.

Layered jewelry can quickly and dramatically enhance the depth, texture, and character of an otherwise simple outfit by adding metallic sheen, tactile variety, and a touch of personal flair; however, combining too many heavy, chunky, or competing bold pieces without any strategic restraint can easily result in a cluttered, chaotic, and overwhelming look that distracts from your overall personal style rather than elevating it.

To successfully navigate this delicate stylistic balancing act, it is essential to cultivate a thoughtful approach that mixes statement items with delicate, minimalist chains, allowing each individual accessory to breathe and occupy its own distinct visual space without clashing with the others. By carefully curating your pieces based on varying lengths, contrasting metal finishes, and intentional focal points, you can transform what might otherwise be a messy jumble of trinkets into a sophisticated, harmonious, and effortlessly chic ensemble that show-

cases your fashion-forward instincts while maintaining a polished, elegant, and perfectly coordinated appearance.

The essential and most effective stylistic approach to mastering jewellery layering is to deliberately center your entire ensemble around a single, striking focal point—such as an ornate statement necklace, a bold gemstone ring, or a dramatic pendant—allowing all the other surrounding pieces to gracefully serve as subtle, harmonious complementary accents rather than competing for attention. By establishing this clear visual anchor, you prevent your accessories from looking cluttered or chaotic, creating instead a balanced, intentional hierarchy where the eye is naturally drawn to your hero piece before effortlessly wandering across the softer, supporting layers that enhance the overall look.

This thoughtful method not only brings a sense of curated sophistication and professional polish to your personal style, but it also ensures that each individual item holds its own unique space and significance, ultimately transforming a random collection of trinkets into a cohesive, breath-taking work of wearable art that feels both effortless and deeply considered. Start with one hero piece

According to Varada Ravindran, the easiest way to create a balanced jewellery look is to choose one piece that takes centre stage. It could be a statement necklace, bold ear-

rings, or a chunky cuff. Once you have chosen your hero piece, keep the remaining jewellery relatively delicate. This creates a clear visual hierarchy instead of making the neck, ears, and wrists compete for attention.

Play with lengths and textures

When layering necklaces, avoid placing every chain at the same level. Keeping around 2 to 3 centimeters of space between different layers allows each piece to remain visible. “A slim chain can be paired with a slightly heavier or textured piece to create depth without making the neckline look crowded,” said Varada Ravindran. You can also bring contrast through materials. Smooth metals can be paired with pearls, gemstones, or diamonds to give the stack a richer festive feel while keeping the overall styling considered.

Let your outfit guide the jewellery

Varada Ravindran expertly highlighted that your clothing’s neckline should play a crucial and foundational role in deciding how you layer your jewellery, noting that a deep V-neck can work exceptionally well with delicate graduated chains or a graceful Y-shaped stack that mimics and flatters the plunging angle, while wider or open necklines can comfortably accommodate slightly chunkier, bolder layers that fill the open space with striking visual interest. Furthermore, she wisely advises that if your outfit already features heavy embroidery, intricate prints, or dazzling embel-

ishments, it is always far better to exercise restraint and carefully edit your jewellery selections rather than recklessly adding multiple bold, competing pieces that could overwhelm the overall look and detract from the craftsmanship of the garment. By thoughtfully harmonizing your accessory choices with the structural cuts of your attire and balancing ornate fabrics with understated metals, you can achieve a polished, cohesive, and sophisticated styling aesthetic that looks effortlessly curated rather than cluttered, ensuring that both your clothing and your accessories shine in perfect, elegant harmony. The same principle applies to your wrists and fingers. Instead of filling every space, pair a sleek bangle with a slim ring stack, or let one statement ring stand out against otherwise minimal jewellery.

Leave one area quiet
A simple way to prevent festive jewellery from becoming overwhelming is to keep one jewellery zone intentionally understated. If you are wearing layered necklaces and bold earrings, keep the wrists lighter. If your earrings are the main attraction, let the necklace remain simple.

Ultimately, effective jewellery layering is less about wearing more and more and more about choosing pieces that work together. With one hero piece, varied lengths, contrasting textures, and enough breathing space, layered jewellery can elevate a festive outfit while keeping the overall look polished and effortless.

Your summer breakouts are becoming worse due to these seven daily practices

Summer frequently receives criticism when unexpected irritation arises. Although heat, humidity, and perspiration can make the skin feel greasier, the climate may not be the sole culprit. Various habits that we incorporate into our summer routines can go unnoticed, yet they can significantly disrupt the skin, leading to clogged pores, irritation, and acne.

How to avoid breakouts in summer?

Dermatologist Dr Ajay Rana, Founder & Director, ILAMED, and President of the Indian Society of Aesthetic Medicine (ISAM), shares that a few of these habits are easy to change:

1. Touching your face too often: Of course, with your hands - everybody does it when the weather is hot, whether it is to wipe the sweat from the forehead or cheeks. But hands can carry oil, dirt, and bacteria. Rubbing or touching your face too much can irritate existing pimples and worsen inflammation. Never scrape or rub sweat off your skin; instead, carry a handkerchief or soft tissues and gently dab it away.

2. Not showering your sweat off immediately: Sweating itself doesn’t cause acne. But sweat, mixed with oil, sunscreen, makeup, and environmental dirt, can combine to clog pores and irritate the skin. This is particularly after outdoor activity or exercise. If you sweat a lot, wash your face afterward and use a cleanser appropriate for your skin type. Do not scrub too hard to be “extra clean,” as vigorous washing can irritate the skin.

3. Using too many product: A sudden change in your skincare routine during summertime can also affect your skin. In an effort to control excessive oiliness, people might add scrubs, clay masks, and acne treatments to their routine, along with toners and multiple serums. This can sometimes be too much for the skin and may irritate the skin barrier. A simpler routine is generally better: a mild cleanser, moisturizer, and sunscreen daily. If you begin an acne treatment, give your skin time to adjust before adding new products, especially if you plan to introduce several new products at once.

4. Mistaking an oily feeling for skin that does not need moisturizer: If your skin is oily, you might think you should skip the moisturizer. But your skin can



still get dehydrated, and if you cleanse too much to control oil, it may feel uncomfortable and irritated. If your skin tends to break out, choose a light, hydrating, non-comedogenic moisturizer. An ideal moisturizer should feel comfortable on the skin, not heavy or sticky.

5. Not washing pillowcases and towels regularly: Your pillowcase and face towel are in constant, intimate contact with your skin for hours on end every single day, meaning that these everyday household fabrics inevitably collect a continuous accumulation of sweat, natural facial oils, leftover skincare products, dead skin cells, and microscopic environmental dirt over time. While simply changing your pillowcase alone is obviously not a magical cure-all that will completely eradicate acne or clear up complex skin conditions overnight, maintaining basic, consistent personal hygiene habits can go a remarkably long way in helping to minimize unnecessary bacterial buildup and prevent clogged pores. Especially during hot, humid weather when the skin naturally produces more sweat and sebum, adopting the simple yet effective habit of washing your face towels regularly after a single or dual use and swapping out your pillowcases every few days is a practical, low-effort step that supports healthier skin and creates a cleaner environment for your face to rest upon. 6. Sleeping without cleansing your skin

Those glorious long summer days

can leave you home tired, but a night of unwashed skin can leave makeup, sunscreen, sweat, and trapped dirt on your face, which can clog your pores. At night, give your skin a thorough cleansing. Don’t scrub hard to remove acne; use mild products to make cleansing easier, especially for those with oily skin.

7. Not considering what happens after a workout: Sweating for hours during a summer workout and going home without a shower can irritate the skin because sweat and damp clothing stay in contact for so long. Wearing wet, sweaty clothes and not washing them soon afterward can cause skin irritation, especially on the face, chest, and back. Is it bad not to shower after sweating?

Changing out of sweaty clothes and showering after a workout can help keep skin dry and comfortable. In the end, there’s rarely one singular suspect behind summer breakouts. Heat and humidity create the conditions, but how your skin reacts often comes down to everyday habits. Pay attention to small habits around your skincare, hygiene, and routine rather than blaming the weather. Does acne get worse when you touch it?

If breakouts are frequent, hurt to the touch, or leave scars, it is better to consult a dermatologist than to keep experimenting with new products. Often, the easiest fix is knowing when your skin needs a professional’s hand.

How to pick the best lip gloss stick

A lip gloss stick can be worth trying if you want a glossy lip appearance but find conventional liquid lip glosses messy or challenging to carry. These products combine the ease of use of a lipstick with the shine of a gloss, making application quick and hassle-free. Depending on the recipe, they can give the lips a soothing wash of color, a glass-like sheen, or a faint tint.

Unlike conventional lipsticks that usually focus on pigmentation and a defined finish, lip gloss sticks are often formulated to give the lips a smoother, hydrated-looking appearance. Their easy application also makes them a practical option for everyday makeup, especially when you want to refresh your lip colour during the day.

What are lip gloss sticks?

Lip gloss sticks are lip makeup products that come in a lipstick-style tube or stick format but offer a glossy finish. Some have a balm-like texture with sheer colour, while others provide more noticeable pigmentation and shine.

Their creamy texture allows them to glide across the lips without requiring a lip brush or applicator. Many formulations also contain emollient ingredients that help the lips feel soft and comfortable.

Benefits of lip gloss sticks

1. Give lips a glossy finish: The biggest appeal of a lip gloss stick is its shine. It can make the lips look smoother and fuller without the need for a separate gloss layer. Depending on the formulation, the finish can range from subtle and natural to high-shine.

2. Easy to apply: A lip gloss stick is convenient for people who prefer quick makeup application. Simply swipe it directly over your lips and blend if required.

You do not need a separate brush or applicator, making it useful for touch-ups at work, while travelling or when you are on the go.

3. Often feels more comfortable than traditional gloss: Some liquid glosses can feel sticky, particularly when applied generously. Lip gloss sticks generally have a more solid, creamy texture, although the feel varies between formulas. If you dislike overly tacky lip products, a gloss stick may offer a more comfortable alternative.

4. Can provide hydration and softness: Many gloss sticks have balm-like formulas containing moisturising ingredients such as oils, butters or other emollients. These can help the lips feel softer and prevent the uncomfortable dry sensation that some highly matte lip products can cause. However, it is important to remember that a lip gloss stick is primarily a makeup product. If your lips are very dry or chapped, a dedicated lip balm may be more suitable for providing intensive moisturisation.

5. Offers a more natural makeup look: Sheer and glossy lip products work particularly well when you want a fresh, understated makeup look. A tinted gloss stick can add just enough colour to make the lips look polished without appearing heavily made up.

It can also complement minimal makeup, such as lightweight base makeup, blush and mascara.

6. Convenient for touch-ups: The lipstick-style packaging makes gloss sticks easy to carry in a handbag or makeup pouch. You can apply them directly from the tube whenever your lip colour starts to fade. This makes them especially useful for long office days, trav-

el or occasions when you do not want to carry multiple lip products.

7. Can combine colour and shine: Some lip gloss sticks are designed to offer both pigmentation and shine. This means you may not need to layer a lipstick underneath and gloss on top. One product can provide colour while giving the lips a glossy finish.

How to choose the right lip gloss stick

When choosing a lip gloss stick, start by considering the finish you prefer. If you want an everyday product, sheer pinks, nudes, peaches and mauves can be versatile



choices. For a more defined look, choose a formula with higher pigmentation. When choosing the ideal lip product, it is also exceptionally important to carefully check and consider the texture, because if you personally dislike heavy or sticky formulations that catch in the wind or feel cumbersome, you should actively look for lightweight, whipped, or creamy formulas that glide on effortlessly and offer a comfortable, bare-lip sensation throughout the day. Conversely, if you struggle with chronically dry, chapped, or flaky lips, you should instead seek out products specifically formulated with rich, nourishing, and deeply moisturizing ingredients such as shea but-

ter, jojoba oil, cocoa butter, or various other emollients that work harmoniously to lock in vital hydration, smooth out rough texture, and repair the delicate skin barrier. By taking the time to match your personal textural preferences and specific environmental or physiological lip care needs with the right formulation, you can ensure that your chosen product not only looks stunning and adds the perfect hint of colour or sheen, but also feels genuinely therapeutic and luxurious to wear from morning until night. The packaging is another practical consideration. A

retractable or twist-up stick is generally easier to use and carry than a product that requires a separate applicator. Are lip gloss sticks worth trying?

For anyone who wants the shine of a gloss with the convenience of a lipstick, lip gloss sticks can be a practical addition to a makeup kit. They are easy to apply, convenient for touch-ups and can provide colour and shine in one step. While they may not replace a highly pigmented matte lipstick for every occasion, they are particularly useful for everyday makeup and fresh, glossy looks. If comfort, convenience and a polished finish are your priorities, a lip gloss stick is certainly worth considering.

ENTERTAINMENT

Shah Rukh Khan battled on-set injuries to keep king on schedule



Mumbai : Amid reports that Shah Rukh Khan’s next film, King, might get delayed, the Bollywood superstar has now confirmed that it is not the case. On Tuesday, SRK conducted an ‘Ask Me Anything’ session on X (formerly Twitter) when he revealed that King is not getting postponed and will hit theatres as scheduled, i.e. on December 24, 2026.

Asking SRK about an update on King, one of the users asked, “Sir KING ka kuch update do...3 saal pehle last movie dekhi thi aapki the-aters mein...aur kitna tarsao ge ek trailer ke liye hi?” To this, the actor wrote, “Ab picture hi dekho na! Tar- sa nahi raha join acchhi wali bana raha hoon....ke Dil ko tasalli mile.... Sab ayega...24th Dec se pehle.” Re-

sponding to another user on X, Shah Rukh Khan revealed that he had mul- tiple injuries during King shoot due to which the schedule was halted for some time. “Had a few injuries while shooting so had to start stop many times but now all broken is fixed... and nearly all done...so all good,” he wrote.

“Everything in #King ...worked very hard to entertain as many as possible. The action the songs the actors and of course my hair!!!” SRK said about his upcoming film while responding to another user.An action thriller directed by Siddharth Anand, King has already generated signifi- cant buzz, not only because it marks SRK’s return to the big screen after Dunki, but also because it brings to- gether a massive ensemble cast and features his daughter Suhana Khan in a key role. The film also stars Deepika Padukone and Abhishek Bachchan in the lead. Not much de- tails about the film’s plot are known as of now.

Shane Nigam to star in cricket-based sports drama for his next Tamil film

Chennai : Shane Nigam is steadily expanding his presence across South Indian cinema, and the actor has now added another Tamil project to his upcoming slate. Tenta- tively titled Shane 28, the yet- to-be-titled film was officially announced on Monday. The project is backed by Maas Studios and will be directed by debutant filmmaker Jegan Periyasamy, who previously worked as an associate with filmmaker Atlee.

Set against the backdrop of cricket, the upcoming film marks another foray into sports-centric cinema for Shane. While details about the storyline remain under wraps, the cricket setting adds a fresh dimension to the ac- tor’s growing body of work in Tamil cinema. Shane 28



will be Shane Nigam’s third Tamil film following his de- but with Vaali Mohan Das’ Madraskaaran. The actor sub- sequently featured in Balti, a Malayalam-Tamil bilingual sports action film directed by Unni Sivalingam. The film revolved around the world of kabaddi and saw Shane share screen space with Selvaragha-

van, who played the antago- nist.

With Shane 28, the actor appears to be continuing his association with sports-driv- en narratives while taking on a project rooted in cricket. The film also gives debutant director Jegan Periyasamy an opportunity to make his mark as a filmmaker after his stint

as part of Atlee’s filmmaking team. On the technical front, Shane 28 has R Ramarand on board as the editor, while Rasamathi is handling the cinematography. The makers have kept details about the cast and other members of the crew under wraps for now. More announcements are ex- pected in the coming days, including information about Shane’s co-stars and the film’s other key departments.

The Tamil project comes at a time when Shane is also wid- ening his reach into Telugu cinema. He is set to make his Telugu debut with an action thriller helmed by debutant Udagandla Balasagar. Tenta- tively referred to as Shane 27, the project marks another new-language venture for the actor.

Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran intensity peaks in new Daayra poster

Mumbai : As Daayra is gearing up for release in the- atres on September 18, 2026, the buzz around the investi- gative crime thriller is pal- pable. Directed by Meghna Gulzar and produced by Jun- glee Pictures and Pen Stu- dios, Daayra stars Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead roles.

While Kareena plays a stoic, unreadable investigator (DCP Ajooni Kohli) who strictly operates within the boundaries of the law, Prith- viraj (DCP Raman Kumar) is an encounter specialist seething with caged rage who looks to bypass the traditional legal framework to get results. And the audi- ences would get to witness a face-off between the two on the silver screen. Accord- ing to the makers, Daayra explores the duality of jus- tice, examining the friction between legal boundaries



vs instant street justice, as well as public and law en- forcement reactions. The latest poster of Kareena and Prithviraj only intensifies the film’s narrative. Both the characters look poised and intense as they stand near a

crime scene, surrounded by police tape. “When every an- swer raises another question, where does Justice draw the line?” reads the caption, raising further expectations and adding another layer of curiosity to the anticipated

thriller. Meghna Gulzar collabo- rated with co-writers Sima Agarwal and Yash Keswani for a directorial punctuat- ed by an intriguing plot, psychological depth, and an edge-of-the-seat realis- tic screenplay. And the new poster truly mirrors their writing style, leaving the audience wanting to know more. Kareena and Prith- viraj’s character shades in Daayra’s new poster hint at the film being a narrative driven by razor-sharp writ- ing.Ajooni and Raman car- ry out the investigation of a brutal crime involving the disappearance of a girl in their own way. In the trailer, Kareena says, “I work with- in the boundaries of law,” to which Raman replies, “And I don’t.” Their conversation as contrasting cops indicates a hard-hitting drama loading for the audiences.

Bharti-Haarsh welcome Bappa with sons Gola and Kaju

Mumbai : Ganesh Chatur- thi holds a deeply special place in the hearts of many, and Bharti Singh and Harssh Lim- bachiyaa also celebrate the festi- val with great zeal. This year, the celebration is all the more special as it’s the first Ganesh Chaturthi of their younger son, Kaju. With their sons, Gola and Kaju, bringing an added sense of joy and togetherness to the festivities, the couple celebrated Bappa’s arrival sur- rounded by family, friends and their extended team.

Speaking about what makes this Ganesh Chaturthi particu- larly special, Bharti Singh said, “Ganesh Chaturthi has always been my absolute favourite festival because Bappa brings a kind of warmth, love, and divine positivity that just fills your heart. This year is pro- foundly emotional and special



for us because it marks many firsts for us. It is our younger son Kaju’s very first Ganesh Chaturthi. Having both our little Bal Ganeshas, Gola and Kaju, around us, watching their eyes light up with ev- ery aarti and modak, makes the festivities feel infinitely sweeter." Talking about their show’s success, Bharti added, “Our Indian Game Show with Bharti and Harssh is our first baby, which we have built, nurtured, and brought to our

audiences across the coun- try with Sony Entertainment Television. Seeing Bappa’s immense blessings shower on us is overwhelming. Our audience’s unconditional love every single day leaves me equally speechless. Celebrat- ing on set, surrounded by our incredible whole team, re- minded me that family isn’t just at home; it’s right here on our stage, creating beautiful memories and seeking Bap- pa’s light together."

Musk threatens lawsuit; director responds

Agency : Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker Alex Gibney has responded public- ly to a legal threat from Elon Musk’s attorneys over his new film, Musk. Speaking at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sunday, Gibney said his team made repeat- ed efforts to involve Musk during the making of the near- ly four-hour documentary, but never received a substantive response.The film, which ex- amines Musk’s career and in- fluence across Tesla, SpaceX, X and the Department of Gov- ernment Efficiency, premiered at the Venice Film Festival be- fore travelling to TIFF. During a keynote conversation at TIFF, Gibney addressed questions about whether Musk had been given an opportunity to par- ticipate in the documentary.“I reached out immediately. But he clearly wasn’t interested in talking. We made so many formal outreaches to him, and with the exception of his re- marks on Twitter, we received nothing back," Gibney said. His other films include The Last Gladiators, Mea Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God, which examined sexual abuse within the Catholic Church; The Armstrong Lie, centred on Lance Armstrong’s doping scandal; and Citizen K, about Russian oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky.With Musk, Gibney has once again chosen a subject carrying enor- mous corporate, technological and political influence. This time, however, scrutiny of the film has begun even before its wider release, with Musk’s legal team challenging aspects of its portrayal and Gibney publicly standing by both the documentary and the process through which it was made.

Vikram’s next titled power house; teaser released

Chennai : Vikram’s much-awaited collabora- tion with Anand Shankar has finally revealed its title. Tentatively referred to as Chiyaan 63 until now, the upcoming Tamil film has been titled Power House. The makers unveiled the ti- tle along with a striking pro- mo on Monday, coinciding with Ganesh Chathurthi, of- fering audiences a glimpse into the intriguing world of the film.

The promo introduces Vikram in a rather uncon- ventional avatar. Sporting an old-school appearance, the actor is initially present- ed as a caretaker who takes responsibility for arrang-

ing weddings and offers a “100% guarantee” on the services he undertakes. But as the glimpse progresses, it becomes clear that there is considerably more to his character than meets the eye. The title promo opens with a back shot of Vikram as he walks through his old-style home carrying a plantain thar. The seem- ingly ordinary setting soon establishes his character as someone who takes his re- sponsibilities very seriously. Mekha Rajan, Subash Sel- vam and Samyuktha Hegde are shown reporting to him after carrying out tasks as- signed to them, adding to the quirky atmosphere sur-

rounding his household.

The promo then introduc- es Riya Shibu as Vikram’s niece. Her character is seen daydreaming, providing a lighter contrast to the in- creasingly mysterious pro- ceedings around her. The domestic setting continues with scenes featuring Ur- vashi and VTV Ganesh, who are seen engaging in banter while preparing food in the kitchen.

However, the tone takes a sharp turn when Vikram heads into the store room to retrieve some supplies. Inside, two severely injured men are revealed, imme- diately suggesting that his seemingly respectable care-



taker persona is merely one side of his character. The glimpse then cuts to Vikram calmly mopping up blood, giving audiences their first look at his ruthless alter ego. The sequence inevitably re-

calls the duality associat- ed with some of Vikram’s most memorable characters, while also leaving enough unanswered questions about the nature of his role in Power House. Power House

marks Vikram and Anand Shankar’s second collab- oration after Iru Mugan. Released in 2016, the sci- ence-fiction action thriller featured Vikram in dual roles and received mixed responses from critics and audiences. Despite the di- vided critical reception, the film performed well com- mercially, with reports put- ting its worldwide gross at around Rs 100 crore.

The new film brings to- gether an interesting tech- nical team as well. Santhosh Narayanan is composing the music, while cinema- tographer RD Rajasekar is associated with the project. Gopi Prasanna, who has

worked across several cre- ative departments including production design, is also part of the team. Costume designer and stylist Poorn- ma Ramaswamy completes the key technical credits announced so far.Produced by Sendhil Thyagarajan and Arjun Thyagarajan under the Sathya Jyothi Films ban- ner, Power House features Riya Shibu and Shammy Thilakan alongside Vikram. The casting also adds an interesting connection to Vikram’s recent filmogra- phy. Riya Shibu produced Veera Dheera Sooran: Part 2, which starred Vikram in the lead and was released in March last year.

Sonu Nigam leaves fans stunned with dual-voice rendition of ‘aaj ki raat’

Mumbai : Sonu Nigam knows exactly how to keep a concert audience hooked. While fans usually turn up to hear their favourite songs, the singer recently gave them an added surprise during his US tour. A video from his latest performance is now doing the rounds on- line, and fans clearly weren’t expecting what came next. At the concert, Sonu Nigam switched between male and female voices

Sonu is currently touring the US with The Revolution – Sonu Nigam Live. On Sep- tember 13, the singer per- formed to a sold-out crowd at the Nassau Veterans Me- morial Coliseum in New York. During the show, Sonu picked Aaj Ki Raat from



Shah Rukh Khan’s 2006 film Don: The Chase Begins Again. The song already has plenty of vocal variety, with Sonu Nigam, Alisha Chi- nai and Mahalakshmi Iyer lending their voices to the original. But this time, Sonu decided to handle all of it himself.

A clipfrom the concert shows him moving between

the male and female por- tions of the track, recreating the female voices himself. The audience can be heard cheering as he switches effortlessly between the different parts of the song. Aaj Ki Raat was written by Javed Akhtar and composed by Shankar–Ehsaan–Loy, the musical trio compris- ing Shankar Mahadevan,

Ehsaan Noorani and Loy Mendonsa. The film starred Shah Rukh Khan, Priyanka Chopra, Arjun Rampal, Isha Koppikar and Boman Irani.

As expected, the video soon found its way to so- cial media, where fans had plenty to say about Sonu’s unusual performance. One fan simply called him an “Absolutely legend”, while another wrote, “Aaahh! Such a treat to ears, legend for a reason.” One comment took the praise a step further and joked, “Even his female voice is better than Neha Kakkar.”Another listener heard a familiar voice in Sonu’s rendition, writing, “I think he kinda sounds like Sunidhi Chauhan when he sings in female voice.”

Vijay Sethupathi’s Bigg Boss Tamil remarks spark political debates around CM Vijay

Chennai : Actor Vijay Sethupathi is currently hosting Bigg Boss Tamil 10. In a recent weekend episode, he lashed out at contestant Shatiga over her lead- ership in the Bigg Boss house. The Super Deluxe actor remarked that making promises without thinking, running away when problems arise, and blam- ing the opposition cannot be called true leadership.

A video of Vijay Sethupathi correct- ing the Bigg Boss contestant’s speech went viral on social media. Many users began drawing parallels to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay and recent polit- ical developments in the state. How- ever, the host’s intention was purely to correct Shatiga’s behavior. The clip has sparked a debate on social media over whether Sethupathi’s comments were intentionally directed at Chief Minister Vijay. In reality, the Slum Dog actor and Chief Minister Vijay share a strong rapport. During the release of their film Master, Vijay Sethupathi kissed Vijay



on the cheek to show his love and re- spect for him. Fans who are aware of their close bond continue to defend Sethupathi, dismissing the controversy as a completely baseless story.

In a statement, Vijay TV wrote that

the interactions featured in the real- ity show are to be understood as part of the evolving narrative. There is no endorsement of any comment made on any person or ideology or circum- stance.

Vijay from Tamil Nadu signs deals of Rs 12,300 crore in the UK; 9,000 jobs are anticipated

Chennai, Sep 15: According to the state government, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay signed at least four investment agreements in the UK today. These agreements involve investments totaling over Rs 12,300 crore and have the potential to generate almost 9,000 employment. The largest deal is for an investment of Rs 11,000 crore with Samvardhana Motherson International Limited. Approximately 7,000 jobs in design, engineering, manufacturing, assembly, and logistics facilities might be created by the project. Additionally, Vijay inked a Rs 1,000-crore deal to build a Global Capability Center in Chennai via a British business via Ernst & Young. It is anticipated that the proposed center, which will be built along the future GCC corridor, will generate about 2,000 high-value employment. Another agreement was signed with Sweden-based Sigma Technology Group to expand its Global Capability Centres in Chennai and Tiruchirappalli, creating around 600 high-value jobs. A fourth agreement with Wilson Power Solutions involves an investment of Rs 300 crore, with the potential to generate around 400 jobs in Tiruvallur district. These agreements come against the backdrop of the investment vision outlined by the Tamil Nadu government when Vijay left for the UK. The government had said European companies had proposed investments worth Rs 8,491 crore in Tamil Nadu, with the potential to create 5,690 jobs, and that the UK visit would focus both on attracting fresh investments and strengthening existing



investments in the state. The focus areas identified by the government included advanced manufacturing, automobiles, electric vehicles, electronics and Global Capability Centres. The visit also came after the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, or CETA, came into force on July 15. The Tamil Nadu government said the agreement had opened up new opportunities for sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, auto components, engineering and electronics. The stated larger objective was to position Tamil Nadu as Asia's leading investment destination. The government has also claimed that investment MoUs worth more than Rs 1 lakh crore had been signed within the first 100 days of the TVK government. Motor sports was another component of the UK visit. Vijay visited the Silverstone racing circuit and flagged off a race in which actor and racer Ajith Kumar participated. The visit has also been linked to the government's plans to develop a world-class motor sports city in Tamil Nadu and create opportunities in rac-

ing-related manufacturing and allied industries. Opposition Questions Transparency But the investment push has also triggered criticism from the opposition over the lack of transparency surrounding Vijay's itinerary and his meetings. For the first time, the ruling TVK has sought to explain why it has not been forthcoming with details of Vijay's investment meetings. TVK spokesperson P Sathya Kumar said Tamil Nadu was operating in an environment of competitive federalism, with states across the country competing with each other to attract investments. He said details of investment agreements would be released as and when the Memoranda of Understanding are signed. The investment campaign is still going strong. It is anticipated that further investment deals will be completed on Tuesday, and Vijay will only depart the UK on September 16. The focus will be on whether the Rs 12,300 crore in investment promises from the UK visit result in real projects, employment, and long-term economic activity in Tamil Nadu.

Mairaj Ahmad Khan's Amazing Athletic Journey: From Cricket Bat To Shotgun

Nagoya: Mairaj Ahmad Khan once had aspirations of being a famous cricket player. The 50-year-old is still pursuing athletic success over thirty years later, but he is now holding a shotgun firmly. Mairaj's path has brought him to places he could never have predicted when he initially entered the world of sports, from Khurja in the Bulandshahr region of Uttar Pradesh to shooting ranges all around the world. He will compete in his fourth continental Games and be the second-oldest Indian competitor in the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, after equestrian Shruti Vora. Yet, shooting was never supposed to be his destiny. "I was playing cricket when it all started in 1994," Mairaj recalls. A left-handed top-order batter who usually came in at No. 3, he represented Uttar Pradesh in the CK Nayudu and Vinoo Mankad Trophy competitions before joining Jamia Millia Islamia in 1996. He played inter-university cricket and also featured in the Vizzy Trophy. Among his university teammates was a young Virender Sehwag. "I have played with Sehwag and done a lot of nets with him. He played just one match with us because he went on to play for India that year," Mairaj recalled. But while cricket was his passion, shooting was slowly beginning to pull him in. Guns were not unfamiliar to Mairaj. His family, he says, were zamindars and had always kept firearms. As a youngster, he had also tried air rifle and .22 rifle shooting and even competed in a district-level three-position event in Bulandshahr, where he won Rs 30 in prize money. "I bought a cricket bat with that money," he said laughing. It was after he moved to Delhi that fate nudged him towards a different sporting path. Mairaj would often spend weekends with a cousin who was a Group Captain in the Indian Air Force and a senior officer with the Air Force Sports Control Board. One day, he noticed his cousin cleaning his gun. "I asked him where he was going. He said there was a competition at the Delhi range... the Nationals at Karni Singh Shooting Range. So I went there out of curiosity," he said. What he saw fascinated him. The range was buzzing with some of India's leading shooters, including Asian Games shotgun gold medallist Raja Randhir Singh, Olympian Gurbir Singh -- father



of former trap world champion Manavjit Singh Sandhu -- and Zorawar Singh Sandhu's father, who was also a prominent figure in the sport. "I felt very fascinated by the sport," he says. The idea of competing himself took firmer shape a year later. In 1995, Mairaj's family was running a restaurant at Pragati Maidan, now Bharat Mandapam, along with two kiosks and a kebab outlet called 'Hamari Gali'. One day, some relatives walked into the restaurant after returning from a shooting Pre-Nationals competition. "They told me they had competed and qualified. I made up my mind that from the next year I would also compete. So, they entered my name." For the next few years, Mairaj dabbled in both trap and skeet. Then came the moment that changed everything. In 1999, at a competition in Chennai, Mairaj found himself in a skeet shoot-off against Ronjan Sodhi, who would later go on to win Asian Games gold in double trap and receive the prestigious Khel Ratna award. "I missed the first double shots. I thought he (Ronjan) would win. But he also could not shoot both his targets. In the next round, I went on to win." That victory settled the matter. "After that, skeet became my life. I never picked up the trap gun again and switched full-time to skeet in 1999." The decision transformed his life. "Today, whatever I am is because of skeet. My name, my fame," said Mairaj who became the first ever Indian athlete to qualify for the Olympics in the shotgun skeet discipline in 2016 Rio edition. The sport took him to two Olympics and brought him World Cup medals, including a gold and a silver. But the journey has come with its

share of setbacks -- and, like any long sporting career, its share of heartbreak. Mairaj missed out on the Asian Games in Jakarta in 2018 and Hangzhou in 2022, losing his place by narrow margins. "I was very disappointed. I lost the berth by a close margin." Now, after those misses, he is back on the continental stage. His first Asian Games appearance came in Doha in 2006. At Incheon in 2014, he came agonisingly close to a medal, finishing fifth in the final. At 50, however, he refuses to burden himself with expectations. "I am just going as a new shooter," he said with a laugh. There is no grand declaration, only quiet faith. "Inshallah. I always have faith in him." Perhaps nothing captures Mairaj's remarkable longevity better than the 35-year age gap between him and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, the teenage cricket sensation and youngest member of India's Asian Games contingent. "When I started shooting, he (Sooryavanshi) would have been born around that time," Mairaj said. The comparison is almost poetic. Sooryavanshi is following the same path Mairaj once dreamed of -- a young cricketer trying to make his mark. Does the veteran have any recommendations for the teenager? "You know, fifty is the new twenty. 'I have experience, but he is young,' Mairaj remarked, laughing. "Unke andar josh hai aur mere andar hosh hai (He has the passion)" is the next statement, which may best capture his whole trip. I possess wisdom. And the seasoned shooter is still pursuing the next target after thirty years, two Olympics, four Asian Games, and a sports adventure that started with a cricket bat purchased for thirty rupees.

"I'll Make Sure Nobody Harasses A Woman Biker Again"

New Delhi, Sep 15: Sia, who nearly lost her life after a vehicle struck her bike in Gurugram, Haryana, has provided a thorough description of the event and harshly condemned the accused's attitude of impunity. "I will not give up on the fight," Sia said in an exclusive interview with Vedika Sud of NDTV, asking the authorities how any law-abiding resident in locations like Gurugram and Delhi would feel safe while the "department" itself does nothing. "I'll lead by example," she declared. "Wherever you are hiding like a criminal, know that the entire biking community is with me," she said in a direct message to the accused. "I will make sure that those who wish to harass female bikers think twice and never ever do that, no matter how many interviews you give," Sia declared.

The agency seems to be saying that anyone who violates the law won't face any consequences. When all of these factors are taken into account, it becomes increasingly apparent that justice is illusive for the average citizen of our nation, according to Sia. She said everything was captured on camera and questioned the obtuseness on the part of the authorities who are yet to catch the accused, identified as Kalyan Bainsla. "He thinks he will just hit a woman and speed away and nothing would happen to him," Sia said. "It was a clear hit-and-run and attempt-to-murder case." "The police - specifically the traffic police - are quick to penalise bikers for things like exhaust issues, yet when a biker gets hit or meets with an accident, the response is different. What about those who die on the spot? Isn't their life valuable to you.

Leeds defeats Newcastle to take third place in the Premier League

Leeds: Leeds crushed Newcastle 4-1 on Monday to move up to third place in the Premier League standings and deliver a crushing first loss to Magpies manager Matthias Jaissle. Jayden Bogle, Dominic Calvert-Lewin, and Noah Okafor finished the thrashing at Elland Road after Lewis Miley's own goal opened the floodgates. Despite the turmoil of losing manager Eddie Howe and important players Anthony Gordon, Bruno Guimaraes, and Sandro Tonali in the off-season, Newcastle had gotten off to a good start under Jaissle. Despite being controlled by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund, Newcastle sought for up-and-coming talent to replace the departing players who were outclassed by a more seasoned Leeds. "It was clear from the start and I said that many times that we will have up and downs, challenges along the way," said Jaissle. "We faced that challenge and it's tough, it's really tough." A bad night for the visitors began inside the first 20 minutes when Nico Gonzalez had to be replaced as a concussion substitute. That left 18-year-old Sean Steur and Lewis Miley, 20, together at the heart of the Newcastle midfield and the later unfortunately had the final touch after Ao Tanaka's strike took two deflections before looping into the net. The visitors failed

to regain their composure as just two minutes later Leeds doubled their advantage. Calvert-Lewin rose highest to meet James Justin's cross but his header flicked off Bogle as it found the bottom corner and the right-back was given the goal. Leeds' number nine did not have to wait long to make sure he did score for the fifth consecutive league game at Elland Road. Calvert-Lewin bulldozed his way past Sven Botman before sliding the ball under Lukas Hrnicek in the Newcastle goal. Anton Stach should have added a fourth early in the second period when he pounced on a slack Hrnicek pass out from the pack but dinked the ball just wide. Okafor did make it 4-0 before the hour mark when he volleyed in from the edge of the box after Newcastle failed to clear a long throw. "Perfect start right now with eight points, terrific performance," said Leeds boss Daniel Farke. "Energy, quality and good structure in and without possession." Although Bazoumana Toure reduced Newcastle's arrears with a consolation goal in stoppage time, the damage had already been done. With the victory, Farke's team is now just behind Manchester City and Arsenal, the reigning champions. Despite having five points, Newcastle's poor goal differential causes them to drop to 12th place.

Wang Yi says Xi and PM Modi reached a “most important consensus” and should be partners



New Delhi, Sep 15: President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi struck “most important consensus” on the need for China and India to be partners during their discussion on the fringes of the BRICS summit, according to the top Chinese diplomat on Monday. Foreign Minister Wang Yi summarized Xi's two-day visit to New Delhi on September 12-13 to attend the 18th BRICS Summit and his meeting with Prime Minister Modi, saying the two leaders had an open and in-depth exchange of views on strategic, long-term, and directional issues affecting China-India ties. The most significant agreement they achieved was that China and India should cooperate, Wang said Chinese state media on Sunday. According to Wang, a member of the Communist Party of China Central Committee's Political Bureau, President Xi stated that China and India can leverage each other's strengths, assist one another, help each other succeed, and pursue joint development. The presidents of the two nations agreed to work together to

maintain peace and calm along their borders, and the two countries will support each other as the BRICS' rotating chair, Wang added. The Modi-Xi summit received great worldwide attention, he claimed. Under the strategic leadership of the two countries' leaders, China-India ties have progressively recovered from a low point, advancing from a "restart" to a "renewed elevation," according to a readout on the Chinese Foreign Ministry website. Areas of cooperation between the two countries keep expanding, trade volume has hit record highs, and people-to-people exchanges are growing more dynamic. The improvement and development of China-India relations are not only welcomed by the over 2.8 billion people of both nations, but also represent an essential pillar of strengthening cooperation across the Global South, Wang said. He said that both sides pledged to further nurture political mutual trust, manage differences and contradictions appropriately, and jointly uphold peace and tranquility along the border areas. Wang said

that the development trajectories of China and India represent shared opportunity for one another, and that the impact of China-India cooperation extends far beyond bilateral ties -- carrying profound significance for the Global South and the wider world. He noted that the normalisation and improvement of China-India relations has been hard-earned, and this progress deserves to be cherished. Expressing hope that India will join China in translating the leaders' shared consensus into action, he reaffirmed that both nations should remain partners rather than rivals, and advance bilateral relations steadily forward without stagnation or backsliding. He also emphasised that the border issue should be viewed in proper perspective within the broader context of the bilateral relationship; that dialogue and cooperation should remain the prevailing trend; and that both nations should accelerate their respective development and national renewal, working side by side to contribute their due share toward regional and global peace and shared prosperity. In his meeting with Modi, Xi called on China and India to draw on political wisdom of mutual respect and understanding to overcome disruptions, urging both sides to pursue parallel progress in bilateral ties and border issues with the two tracks reinforcing each other, so as to maintain peace and tranquility in border areas. Wang said PM Modi offered a positive response, affirming that India has always approached India-China relations from a strategic and long-term standpoint. PM Modi stated that India stands ready to be a partner, not an adversary, to China, and regards each other's development as an opportunity rather than a challenge, according to the Chinese foreign minister. India's approach to its relationship with China is independent of third-party influence,

and it will not allow any forces to conduct anti-China activities on its territory, Wang said, quoting PM Modi. India remains committed to maintaining high-level exchanges with China, deepening strategic communication, and broadening people-to-people ties on the foundation of mutual respect and trust -- all to drive further progress in bilateral relations, he added. The two leaders agreed to prioritise development as the bedrock of shared interest, deepen friendly ties and mutually beneficial collaboration, and expand cooperation in areas including cultural and people-to-people exchanges and direct air connectivity, to foster greater mutual understanding between the Chinese and Indian public and build stronger public support for bilateral relations, Wang said. They also agreed to support each other's BRICS chairmanship, strengthen coordination within multilateral frameworks including the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and the G20, advance cooperation across the Global South, promote a more multipolar world order, and together serve as a stabilising, progressive force in an era of global uncertainty, he said. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun elaborated on Wang's remarks, telling a media briefing here on Monday that "as the two leaders have charted the course for the future development of bilateral ties, China will work with India to implement the important common understandings reached between the two leaders." Guo stated that China will expand its cooperation list, deepen people-to-people exchanges, collaborate more closely on multilateral occasions, make ongoing efforts to improve and grow our ties, and provide firm support for each other's development and revitalization so that we can contribute to regional and global peace and prosperity.

A new political dispute in Punjab is sparked by Bhagwant Mann's “Fake Turban” jibe

Chandigarh, Sep 15: Nayab Singh Saini, the chief minister of Haryana, and Bhagwant Mann, the chief minister of Punjab, are at odds over Mann's comments that Saini's turban is a “fake turban” on his numerous trips to Punjab. In a harsh response to Mann's remarks, Saini claimed that wearing a turban is a sign of faith, devotion, and respect for the Sikh Gurus and accused the Punjab Chief Minister of demeaning

both the Gurus and the Punjabi people. After welcoming a number of politicians into the BJP, Saini addressed the media at his Chandigarh home, Sant Kabir Kutir, saying, “For us, the turban is a symbol of respect for our Gurus.” It comes down to respect and faith. Contending that the turban is a tradition passed down by the Sikh Gurus, he claimed that his government is working according to their teachings. “If Bhagwant

Mann is calling this turban fake, then he should go to the place where our Gurus adorned this dastar and apologise,” Saini said. The Haryana Chief Minister further demanded that Mann apologise to the people of Punjab, alleging that the remark amounted to an insult to both the Sikh Gurus and Punjabis. The controversy began after Mann took a dig at Saini over his repeated visits to Punjab. Questioning whether Saini was

also the Chief Minister of Haryana, Mann alleged that Saini keeps a turban in his car and wears it after entering Punjab from Panchkula, apparently believing that it would win over people in the state. “But Punjab's people are not going to be pleased with such a fake turban,” Mann said. The AAP leader also hit back at Saini's earlier criticism of him as someone who only tells jokes.

Rumesh Pathirage's record javelins break mid-flight right before the Asian Games



New Delhi : Star javelin thrower Rumesh Pathirage's three prized javelins have been damaged in transit, just days before the Asian Games. The Sri Lankan, who has landed three separate 90m+ throws this season, revealed that all the javelins used for those national record-breaking throws were damaged

while being transported by Turkish Airlines. The Commonwealth Games and Diamond League winner was returning to Sri Lanka from Hungary after his victory at the World Athletics Ultimate Championships when his javelins were damaged in transit. Rumesh took to Instagram to reveal the incident, post-

ing photographs of the broken equipment. The javelins were found damaged after he landed in Sri Lanka, prompting a complaint to be lodged with the airline. "All three javelins I used for over 90 throws have been damaged. It might have been a mistake by the airline, but that's how it is. It's not a big issue. I'll

move on," the Sri Lankan javelin star said. The damage comes at an unfortunate time for Rumesh, who has been one of the standout athletes in world javelin this season. The 23 year old has won the Commonwealth Games, the Diamond League Final and the World Athletics Ultimate C He has also thrown beyond 90 metres three times this season, with all three of those throws coming with the javelins that were damaged during the journey back to Sri Lanka. hampionships in 2026. Javelins used by elite athletes are highly specialised pieces of equipment, with throwers often developing a preference for particular models and set-ups. Damage to competition javelins can therefore disrupt both training and preparations for a major event. Rumesh's javelins are manufactured by Javel Inn Ltd., the Hungarian company behind Nemeth Javelins. The company was founded in 1987 by Miklos Nemeth, who won Olympic gold in the javelin throw at the 1976 Montreal Games.

Mohammad Rizwan affirms that he is fully cooperating with the Pakistan Cricket Board's ongoing leaks investigation



New Delhi : Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan said that he is fully co-operating with the investigation conducted by the nation's National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) over dressing room leaks during the England tour. Rizwan said he would publicly talk about the matter once the probe is done. Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq have reportedly been questioned by NCCIA in Lahore over an alleged leak of information from the team's dressing room during the Test series against England. The duo were questioned for close to four hours, according to PTL, after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) approached the cyber-

crime agency with a complaint. As part of the investigation, Pakistan's team security manager reportedly submitted Rizwan and Imam's mobile phones to the NCCIA for examination. Speaking to Samaa TV, Rizwan said that he was waiting for the investigation to be completed before taking the next step. "I am fully co-operating with the investigation," Rizwan said. "I am waiting for the investigation to be completed." The investigation comes at a turbulent time for Pakistan cricket, which has been dealing with a series of disciplinary issues. Following the Lord's Test, seven players, including Rizwan and Imam, were recalled from England along with Sarfaraz Ahmed and Umar Gul. The move was part of a wider disciplinary shake-up within the Pakistan setup, with the PCB taking action amid concerns over conduct during the England series. Pakistan ended up losing the series 0-3 and suffered a major jolt to their World Test Championship hopes.

Rizwan had a disappointing Test series in England, managing only 61 runs from his four innings across the opening two matches. Imam, meanwhile, scored 42 in the first Test but was unable to contribute with the bat in the second match after being sidelined by a calf injury. However, some reports stated that Imam may have faked the injury at Lord's. Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan says he is fully co-operating with an NCCIA investigation into alleged dressing-room information leaks during the Test tour of England and will comment publicly after it concludes. Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq were reportedly questioned for four hours, with their phones submitted for examination following a PCB complaint. The probe comes amid disciplinary turmoil, player recalls and allegations surrounding Imam's injury, after Pakistan's 3-0 series defeat severely damaged their World Test Championship prospects.

Hockey India calls emergency meeting over infighting



Mumbai : Hockey India has called an emergency Executive Board meeting on September 18 as the federation looks to resolve the differences among its top officials following a series of controversies in recent weeks. The meeting, to be held at the Hockey India office in New Delhi, has been called by secretary Bhola Nath Singh on the direction of president Dilip Tirkey. The rift between the two officials came into the open following the controversy over the change in the colour of the Indian teams' jerseys from blue to saffron ahead of the recently concluded FIH World Cup. Tirkey

had said that the change was made without his knowledge and without the approval of the Hockey India Executive Board. He subsequently issued a show-cause notice to Hockey India Director General Cdr R K Srivastava and stripped him of his powers with immediate effect. The notice listed eight charges against Srivastava, with the jersey controversy among the key issues. Srivastava has been given four weeks to respond. Bhola Nath's email to the Executive Board members, a copy of which is with PTL, said the 119th Executive Board meeting will be held at 3pm on September 18.

Seven Australian Ex-Captains Make Humanitarian Plea For Imran Khan

New Delhi : Jailed Imran Khan has found support from seven former Australia captains, who have written to Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong to raise concerns over the former Pakistan captain's treatment in detention. Allan Border, Greg Chappell, Ian Chappell, Belinda Clark, Kim Hughes, Mark Taylor and Steve Waugh are the signatories to the letter, which raises concerns over Khan's health, medical care and access to his family and legal

counsel. The former Australian captains made it clear that they were not taking a position on the legal or political cases against Khan. Instead, they said they were speaking as former cricket captains who felt compelled to raise what they described as a matter of "basic humanity".

The letter to Wong is the latest in a series of appeals from prominent figures in cricket over Khan's treatment while in detention in Pakistan. Khan, 73, has



been incarcerated at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi since 2023 after being convicted in corruption cases. His prolonged detention and reported health concerns have led

to calls from his family and former cricketers for him to receive proper medical attention. The latest letter noted that Khan's sons and sisters have repeatedly raised

Hungry for glory at the Asian Games and Olympics, wrestler Antim Panghal skips jalebis until 2028

New Delhi : For the last three years, Antim Panghal has stayed away from jalebi, her favourite sweet. The 22-year-old wrestler has made a promise to herself that she will finally have one after the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The wait is part of a larger sacrifice for a wrestler whose immediate focus is the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, but whose biggest ambition is to win an Olympic medal in Los Angeles. "I have not had it for three years now. I will eat it in 2028 (after LA28). I really want to eat it. But I will not eat it now. Whenever I go home, my mother prepares Kadhi and Churma for me," Antim told Times Now in an interview. Before she can think about Los Angeles, Antim has an important target in Japan. She will compete in the 53kg category at the Asian Games, hoping to improve on the bronze medal she won in Hangzhou in 2023. "I will give my 100 per cent. Last time, I was a junior. But this time, I have to compete as a senior," she said. Her Asian Games campaign will also be an important part of a much bigger Olympic plan. The World Championships in October will be one of Antim's biggest tests before the Olympic qualification cycle begins in February 2027. "I have to qualify for the Olympics next year. I have to give my best in the World



Championships," she said. Antim secured her place in India's Asian Games squad after beating Meenakshi Goyat in the 53kg selection bout in New Delhi. Meenakshi had earlier stunned Vinesh Phogat in the semi-final before Antim stopped her from completing the upset run. The field in Japan will be tough, with Antim expecting the biggest challenges to come from the traditional Asian wrestling powerhouses. "We will do our best. But most of the challenges will come from Japan, China and North Korea," she said. Antim also spent time training at Nippon University in Japan last year, an experience that could help her settle into the conditions when she returns for the Asian Games. Antim took up wrestling in 2017 after being encouraged by her elder sister, a kabaddi player, in Bhagana village in Haryana's Hisar district. She was competing in local dangals as a child and quickly

emerged as one of India's brightest young wrestling talents. In 2022 and 2023, she became the first Indian woman wrestler to win back-to-back U20 World Championships titles. She has since won senior World Championships bronze medals in 2023 and 2025, while adding the Asian Games bronze in Hangzhou. Her rise has been backed by a family that made plenty of sacrifices of its own. Her father, Ram Niwas Panghal, once rented a house in Hisar so Antim could travel around 20 kilometres each way to training. "She wakes up at 4 am. She practices twice a day, and she has never once complained," he had told India Today in an earlier interview. Now, Antim is preparing for another Asian Games with an even bigger target beyond it. She has been spending extra time on the mat at the national camp in New Delhi, working on her attacks and counters. Japanese coach Kosei Akaishi, a two-time Olympic medallist, has also been helping her improve her attacking game. Chief women's wrestling coach Virender Dahiya believes Antim has the potential to win gold in Japan and eventually become an Olympic champion. For Antim, the roadmap is clear: challenge for Asian Games gold, qualify for the Olympics and then chase a medal in Los Angeles.

Asian Games gold medallist Anush Agarwalla criticizes the unfair selection process

New Delhi : Indian dressage rider Anush Agarwalla has hit out at the selection process that kept him out of the 2026 Asian Games, saying his exclusion feels more like a "betrayal" than a sporting defeat. Agarwalla, a member of India's gold-winning dressage team at the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games and an individual bronze medallist there, took to Instagram after his hopes of competing at the Aichi-Nagoya Games were formally ended. The dream of Asian Games 2026 is officially over," Agarwalla wrote, adding that he was "deeply hurt" because he felt he was never given the opportunity to compete. The 25-year-old had initially been named as a reserve for India's Asian Games



dressage team. His exclusion subsequently became the subject of a selection dispute, with Agarwalla challenging the process and questioning how the selection criteria had been interpreted. The Delhi High Court, however, declined to intervene, ruling that the selection had been carried out in accordance with the

prescribed criteria. Agarwalla said he could accept losing in competition but struggled to accept what he described as an unfair selection process. "I can accept defeat on the field. That is sport. You fight, you win, you lose, and you come back stronger. But this feels less like defeat and more like betrayal," he said. He also claimed that

he had approached the Equestrian Federation of India, the Indian Olympic Association and the Sports Ministry over the matter, but felt there had been no meaningful attempt to review the decision. "Accepting an outcome doesn't mean I have to believe the process was right," Agarwalla said, while adding that he was proud to have fought his case until the end. The rider also used his post to call for greater transparency in athlete selection, saying competitors should not have to go through a similar experience. "If India wants to become a true sporting nation, athletes deserve a system that is fair, transparent and respects the years of work behind every opportunity," he wrote.

Ben Shelton takes zero time off after US Open final loss

New Delhi: Ben Shelton is wasting little time getting back on court after his run to the US Open final, with the American set to represent his country in the Davis Cup this week. Shelton was named in the US Davis Cup team on Monday for their second-round qualifying tie against the Czech Republic in Prague. He will then join Team World for the Laver Cup in London the following weekend. The 22-year-old lost to Alexander Zverev in his first Grand Slam final on Sunday. Despite the defeat, Shelton moved up to a career-high No. 4 in the ATP rankings on Monday.



rison and Austin Krajicek were also named in the US team. Taylor Fritz and Tommy Paul withdrew from the squad. Tien reached the fourth round of the US Open, while Damm pushed eventual semifinalist Frances Tiafoe to five sets in the first round. The 20-year-old Tien and 22-year-old Damm will make their first Davis Cup appearances. The US will face the Czech Re-

public on Friday and Saturday in a best-of-five tie on an indoor hard court at Prague's O2 Arena. Jakub Mensik, Jiri Lehecka, Tomas Machac and Vit Koprieva have been named in the Czech squad. The winner will advance to the Davis Cup Finals in Bologna, Italy, in November. Shelton will then head to London for the Laver Cup, where he will represent Team World.

Zverev, who defeated Shelton in the US Open final, will represent Team Europe. Several other leading players will also feature in Davis Cup ties this week, including Alex de Minaur for Australia, Stefanos Tsitsipas for Greece and Casper Ruud for Norway. India will face South Korea, while other ties include Chile vs Spain, Britain vs Ecuador, Austria vs Belgium and Canada vs France. In total, 52 nations will compete across the different levels of the Davis Cup this weekend. Ben Shelton, who recently reached the US Open final and rose to ATP No. 4, will represent the US in the Davis Cup second-round qualifier against the Czech Republic in Prague. Joining him are newcomers Learner Tien and Martin Damm.

Four to five Indian athletes await Japan visas for camp



New Delhi : Today, September 14, mA few members of the 74-strong Indian athletics team are yet to get their visa clearance though most of them have reached Japan for a short acclimatisation camp near Tokyo ahead of the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya. It is learnt that around 4-5 athletes are yet to get their visas, though the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) officials are hopeful that the matter will be sorted soon. AFI is likely to approach the government to help the athletes get their visas. Athletics events at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games begin on September 23. An official source said that VFS, a leading visa and passport administration outsourcing company, has insisted that applications should be done at the places where the passports are issued.

"We are hoping that it will be sorted soon," the source said. Under the circumstances, there is a possibility that the athletes, whose visas have been delayed, may have to spend less time at the acclimatisation camp or join the other team

members in Nagoya directly. Meanwhile, the remaining athletes have reached the University of Tsukuba, near Tokyo, where they will train till September 20 before reaching Nagoya two days before the start of the athletics events. Most of India's 74-member athletics team has reached the University of Tsukuba near Tokyo for an acclimatisation camp before the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, but four or five athletes still await visas.

The AFI may seek government help after VFS reportedly required applications to be filed where passports were issued. Delayed athletes could miss part of the camp or travel directly to Nagoya. The team trains until September 20, with athletics beginning September 23. A few members of the 74-strong Indian athletics team are facing last-minute visa hurdles ahead of the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. While the majority of the contingent has already reached Japan, around 4 to 5 athletes are yet to receive their visa clearances.