

Nagaland braces for heavy rain and thunderstorms until September 11

Kohima, Sept 7: The Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) has issued a comprehensive four-day weather warning across all sixteen districts of the state, forecasting heavy rainfall, persistent thunderstorms, and intense lightning from September 8 to 11, with four northern districts officially placed on high alert.

According to the disaster management authority's cumulative precipitation outlook, Mokokchung district is projected to record the highest cumulative rainfall in the state at 113.74 mm during this weather spell, closely followed by Wokha at 113.14 mm, Longleng at 101.82 mm, Tseminyu at 94.27 mm, and Mon at 78.14 mm. Major urban centers and lower districts, including Tuensang, Kohima, Dimapur, and Niluland, are also expected to experience significant rainfall ranging between 63 mm



and 68 mm over the four-day duration.

The weather activity is forecasted to intensify progressively across the state's hilly terrain. On September 8, Tseminyu, Wokha, and Zunheboto districts are slated to experience moderate to heavy rainfall accompanied by severe lightning, while light to moderate showers are predicted across most remaining districts. The NSDMA has placed Longleng, Mokokchung, Mon, and Wokha under high alert specifically for September 11,

warning of localized severe thunderstorm activity and scattered heavy downpours that could trigger flash flooding, urban waterlogging, and slope instability.

In view of the impending weather system, district disaster management authorities and emergency response personnel have been deployed on heightened standby across all sub-divisions. The NSDMA has advised the general public to exercise strict precautionary measures, particularly avoiding open fields, tall trees, and

ungrounded metal structures during electrical storms, while continuously tracking live weather advisories through the official NSDMA Portal and the 'Safer Nagaland' mobile application.

Motorists, freight transport operators, and daily commuters navigating vulnerable hill corridors—especially critical arterial highway stretches connecting Kohima, Wokha, Mokokchung, and Tuensang—have been strongly urged to travel with extreme caution due to heightened risks of mudslides, sudden rockfalls, and compromised road visibility. District administrative officers have been instructed to maintain round-the-clock coordination with public works departments and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) emergency response crews to clear potential highway blockages rapidly during the four-day inclement weather spell.

Pema Khandu Leads 25th State Wildlife Board Meet, Welcomes New Members

Itanagar, Sept 7: Chief Minister Pema Khandu chaired the 25th meeting of the Arunachal Pradesh State Board for Wildlife at the Civil Secretariat, emphasizing the state's steadfast commitment to balancing ecological conservation with sustainable infrastructure development. The meeting marked a key milestone with the formal induction and welcoming of newly appointed non-official board members, including wildlife conservationists, field experts, and community representatives.

Welcoming the new members, Chief Minister Khandu highlighted that their technical expertise, field experience, and grassroots insights would significantly strengthen the state's biodiversity management strategies. He stressed that Arunachal Pradesh, home to vast tropical rainforests, rare alpine flora, and four major big cat species, remains a critical biodiversity hotspot requiring proactive, community-inclu-



sive protection frameworks. A major focus of the meeting was reviewing ongoing conservation initiatives and human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategies across vulnerable districts. The Board deliberated on proposals for critical infrastructure projects passing through protected forest buffers, ensuring all developmental clearances adhere strictly to statutory environ-

mental safeguards. CM Khandu instructed the Department of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to expedite long-pending wildlife clearance proposals without compromising habitat integrity. The Chief Minister also emphasized the need to expand eco-tourism networks by involving local Indigenous communities as active stewards of forest resources.

Arunachal SIR Drive Violence Escalates

Itanagar, Sept 7: Escalating tensions over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Changlang district have led to allegations of violence in Bordumsa, prompting human rights bodies and community representatives to petition national and international institutions—including the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the United Nations—seeking urgent protection for vulnerable Chakma and Hajong residents.

The violence erupted during electoral revision hearings in Bordumsa, where opposition from local indigenous student organizations, notably the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU), disrupted proceedings. Protests against the inclusion of Chakma and Hajong applicants escalated into stone-pelting, clashes, and administrative disruptions at the Electoral Registration Officer's (ERO) premises, forcing officials to postpone the hearings and impose prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

In response to the unrest, rights advocacy bodies—including the Chakma Development Foundation of India (CDFI)—moved the NHRC, citing severe threats to the personal safety and constitutional rights of Chakma and Hajong voters. Petitioners alleged that eligible individuals were forcefully prevented from attending the SIR hearings, leaving hundreds of claims and objections unresolved. The submissions highlight the 1996 Supreme Court ruling in NHRC v. State of Arunachal Pradesh, which directed state authorities to protect the lives and liberties of Chakma and Hajong residents from forcible eviction or organized hostility.

Arunachal to strengthen state sports policy to support athletes

Itanagar, Sept 7: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu announced that the state government is actively strengthening its comprehensive state sports policy to offer robust institutional support, enhanced financial incentives, and modern infrastructure to native athletes competing across prestigious national and international platforms.

Addressing sports administrators, athletic coaches, and national-level medalists at the DK State Convention Centre in Itanagar today, Chief Minister Khandu emphasized that Arunachal Pradesh possesses immense youth talent that requires structured mentoring, scientific training methods, and state-of-the-art facilities. The updated policy framework will introduce expanded cash awards for championship winners, dedicated job reser-



vations across state government departments, lifelong financial pensions for veteran sports personalities, and specialized monthly scholarship funds for promising prospects in rural districts.

Highlighting the strategic thrust on sports infrastructure

development, Khandu stated that specialized high-performance training centers for martial arts, weightlifting, archery, athletics, and boxing are being established across major district headquarters, including Itanagar, Pasighat, Tezu, and Tawang.

CNFN accuses Nagaland government, NSCN (IM) of discarding accords

Kohima, Sept 7: The Council of Naga National Political Groups (CNFN) has strongly criticized both the Nagaland state government and the NSCN (IM), alleging that systematic attempts are being made to side-line and discard the historical twin accords signed with the Central Government to resolve the protracted Naga political issue.

Addressing a press conference in Kohima, senior leadership representatives from the collective political platform asserted that the 2015 Framework Agreement signed with the NSCN (IM) and the 2017 Agreed Position signed with the Naga National Political Groups (NPPGs) represent the official, foundational pillars of peace negotiations with the Union Government. The council alleged that recent political posturing



and parallel discussions by state leadership threaten to derail years of structured dialogue and undermine the collective will and unity of the Naga people.

The CNFN leadership expressed grave concern over what it described as selective enforcement and deliberate misinterpretation of the

that addresses the historical rights, cultural identity, and self-governance aspirations of all Naga inhabited areas.

Reiterating its commitment to a peaceful and honorable resolution, the council urged the Central Government to strictly honor its contractual commitments made under both historical documents. The organization emphasized that any attempt by political stakeholders to rewrite agreed terms or negotiate separate side deals outside the established bilateral framework would severely compromise regional stability, derail economic development, and breach public trust built over decades of high-level peace talks. The development comes amid renewed calls from apex tribal bodies, including the Naga Hoho and the Naga Mothers' Association.

Believe In System: Arunachal CM Khandu Appeals To Student Bodies

Itanagar, Sept 7: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has appealed to local student organizations, community leaders, and action committees to place their complete trust in democratic institutions following intense communal tension and administrative friction surrounding electoral roll revisions in the Bordumsa-Diyun assembly constituency.

Addressing a high-level administrative coordination meeting in the state capital, Chief Minister Khandu urged all aggrieved civil society groups, indigenous tribal youth bodies, and local action committees to refrain from taking the law into their own hands, calling off planned strikes and road blockades. He emphasized that the state government is firmly committed to ensuring an entirely transparent, impartial, and le-



gally sound electoral registration process in strict compliance with statutory guidelines mandated by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The Chief Minister's urgent public intervention comes against the backdrop of escalating disputes between indigenous tribal student bodies and local resident organi-

zations regarding the alleged inclusion of non-eligible electors in the constituency's voter list. Indigenous youth unions had previously raised strong objections, demanding a comprehensive, multi-tiered verification of permanent residential status and citizenship documentation prior to finalizing the electoral rolls for

upcoming local administrative elections.

Assuring all delegating bodies of impartial administrative oversight, Khandu confirmed that senior district electoral officers and special independent observers have been dispatched to the sub-division to systematically review every disputed claim, objection, and submission. He clarified that well-established legal channels exist within election law to challenge improper inclusions or omissions, guaranteeing that no genuine native citizen will be disenfranchised nor will any unauthorized applicant be improperly retained. Highlighting the absolute necessity of maintaining peaceful co-existence across Changlang district, the Chief Minister cautioned against inflammatory propaganda circulated across social media platforms.

Governor urges CM fellows to drive grassroots development in Nagaland

Kohima, Sept 7: The Governor of Nagaland called upon the Chief Minister's Fellows to serve as vital catalysts for transformative change, emphasizing that sustainable development must begin at the grassroots level. Addressing the newly inducted batch of CM Fellows at a dedicated orientation session in Kohima, the Governor stressed the critical role young professionals play in bridging policy frameworks with actual community-level implementation.

Highlighting Nagaland's unique socio-economic landscape, the Governor noted that rural communities often face distinct developmental challenges ranging from connectivity and infrastructure deficits to limited access to modern healthcare and educational resources. He urged the fellows to immerse themselves directly within local



communities, understand native dynamics, and leverage innovative, data-driven solutions to address longstanding administrative bottlenecks.

"The true test of governance lies in its reach to the last mile," the Governor stated, calling on the fellows to act as empathetic conduits between the state administration and local village councils. He encouraged them to focus on empowering rural youth, promoting local entrepreneur-

ship, enhancing agricultural productivity, and facilitating effective implementation of state and central welfare schemes.

The Chief Minister's Fellowship Program aims to draw talented young graduates and professionals into public governance, embedding them across key government departments and district administrations to provide fresh analytical perspectives. By pairing energetic youth

with seasoned administrative machinery, the initiative seeks to improve service delivery, monitor development projects, and foster participatory governance. Emphasizing accountability, integrity, and proactive problem-solving, the Governor advised the fellows to maintain a clear strategic vision while respecting local traditions and social fabrics. He commended the state government for creating a dedicated platform for youth engagement in public administration and expressed optimism that the cohort's field interventions would generate tangible improvements across the state's remote areas.

The ceremony concluded with senior government officials outlining operational guidelines and performance targets for the fellows, marking the beginning of their field deployments across various districts in Nagaland.

Dimapur Police Seek Relatives Of Deceased Unidentified Man Found Near Railway Station

Dimapur, Sept 7: Dimapur Police have issued a public appeal seeking information to identify an unknown male whose deceased body was recovered near the local railway station premises on Monday morning. According to an

official police statement released by the Public Relations Officer, the deceased individual, estimated to be around 40 to 45 years of age, was found unconscious near the platform area. On-duty police personnel immediately transported the

individual to District Hospital Dimapur for urgent medical evaluation, where attending doctors pronounced him brought dead. Preliminary physical examinations revealed no visible external injury marks, leading investigating authorities

to suspect natural causes or sudden illness as the primary cause of death. The deceased was wearing a dark blue t-shirt and grey trousers at the time of recovery. Despite extensive local inquiries conducted across neighboring market areas,



commercial establishments, and transport hubs, police officers have been unable to

establish his identity or trace his surviving family members. The body is currently preserved at the District Hospital Morgue for identification and statutory medico-legal procedures. Dimapur Police have requested relatives, acquaintances,

or anyone possessing relevant information regarding the deceased to contact the West Police Station or the main police control room immediately. Authorities have further requested missing person bureaux across neighboring districts to

cross-check their recent registration records against the physical description provided. The police emphasized that prompt public cooperation could help locate the family members and ensure the final rites are conducted respectfully.

India's bowling attack

Shillong, Sep 07: Gautam Gambhir's tactical vision for the Indian men's cricket team is clashing with reality. The team is currently fixated on batting depth, often pushing all-rounders into the No. 8 spot. This strategy prioritizes insurance against top-order collapses over the actual business of taking ten wickets. It is a gamble that puts specialist wicket-takers, specifically wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav, on the bench. Modern white-ball cricket is supposedly built on deep batting lineups. Players like Axar Patel and Washington Sundar provide undeniable utility with both bat and ball. But cricket matches are not won on theoretical run flows. They are won by taking 10 wickets. The current selection model favors defensive bowling to hold down scoring rates. It often allows opposing batters to settle, rotate the strike, and eventually launch a late-innings counter-attack. Kuldeep Yadav

remains the primary victim of this rotation. His ability to generate turn and flight can break partnerships that defensive spinners cannot touch. By choosing extra batting, India risks losing penetration in the middle overs. Recent matches against England proved this danger. When the bowling attack fails to secure breakthroughs, the opposition builds large totals. Any minor advantage gained by having a deep batting lineup is wiped out by a lack of aggression. There is a psychological trap here. Knowing that batting extends to No. 8 may encourage the top order to take unnecessary risks. "Batting depth is an insurance policy, but insurance does not guarantee protection," the analysis warns. If India wants to dominate, they must stop treating match-winners as luxury items. They need to sacrifice the illusion of safety for the cold, hard reality of taking wickets.

BJP Delays Shillong Bypoll Candidate Selection

Shillong, Sep 07: The Meghalaya BJP is holding off on naming its candidate for the upcoming Shillong parliamentary bypoll. Party leadership confirmed the move hinges on the completion of the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls. The party intends to kick off its campaign immediately once the new voter list is finalized.

Party spokesperson Mariahom Kharkrang stated, "Electoral rolls-o ka-eng-gipa Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-ni kamko matchota ja-mansa by-elec-

tion-ko ong-atnaba gnanng." The Election Commission has yet to set a firm date for the vote. The party expects to provide its candidate list only after the commission confirms the fresh data. Kharkrang dismissed concerns about the delayed announcement causing campaign hurdles. He noted that the party has its internal machinery prepared and organized. Once the name drops, local units across the constituency will begin their work without missing a beat.

Justice Katakey Committee criticizes the lack

Shillong, Sep 07: Justice BP Katakey released his 40th interim report. It reveals a massive breakdown in enforcement against illegal coal mining. Between 2023 and 2026, authorities recorded 64 cases of illegal coal transport and 127 cases of illegal extraction across Meghalaya. Police seized 62 vehicles and 92 pieces of equipment during this period.

The report highlights a frustrating lack of follow-up. Despite these significant seizures, authorities failed to push most cases forward. The committee specifically noted, "iara niam gri koela bikotani aro koela saluraanio, ia bosturangko aro garirangko rim-ahaoba, iarangni kosako ja-ku de: ani bidingo maming kob-orrangko on-piltaia dongjaha."

Police records show 29 vehicles were caught in 2023, one in 2025, and 32 in 2026. Officials also booked six coal mine owners and one landowner. However, legal action remains stalled. Only one case has moved forward under sections 21(4) and 21(4A) of the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act of 1957.

NHM Boss Inspects Health Facilities

Shillong, Sep 07: National Health Mission Managing Director Ramkumar S touched down in Mahendraganj on Saturday. He came to inspect the Community Health Centre and the local Mother and Child Health wing, regional healthcare. Ramkumar held talks with medical staff throughout the day. He probed infrastructure limits, operational needs, and the state of maternal health services. Staff

laid out their specific hurdles, and the director hammered out plans to keep the facilities running tight. Dr. Noor Ain Khan, the Senior Medical and Health Officer in Mahendraganj, steered the visit. The primary goal remains clear: "identifying gaps and implementing measures to improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare for residents of Mahendraganj and surrounding areas."

Parents are calling on the Meghalaya Government to take action to prevent the financial collapse of PIMC

Shillong, Sep 07: Parents of the 2026 MBBS cohort at P.A. Sangma International Medical College and Hospital are raising concerns. They have submitted a formal memorandum to Dr. Joram Beda, the Commissioner and Secretary of Health and Family Welfare for the Meghalaya government. Recently, the group visited the campus and observed the incomplete construction of the super-specialty hospital and hostels. They engaged in discussions with the Chancellor and other senior officials. The situation appears dire.

The institution is heavily indebted, having taken substantial bank loans to develop its infrastructure. Currently, it struggles to meet loan repayments and pay its staff punctually. Parents are apprehensive that these financial issues will adversely affect the quality of education and clinical training their children receive. They are unwilling to witness their



students suffer due to the college's financial instability. The students anticipated a modern, fully operational campus.

The parents reminded the government of the standards that were promised to them. They urged the state to provide immediate

financial assistance. This funding would address urgent obligations and complete critical construction projects. The families specifically requested that no additional fees be imposed on them as a result of this financial crisis. As stated in their memorandum, "Our

primary concern is the quality education, clinical training, and future of our children."

State intervention could potentially stabilize the institution. The parents perceive this as a long-term investment in the medical health of Meghalaya and the wider Northeast region. They are calling on the government to fulfill the financial support that was allegedly pledged to PIMC in the past. The degrees and career opportunities of their children hinge on this support. The crisis is also impacting the admission process. The Meghalaya Pradesh Youth Congress has reported that USTM has informed parents of newly selected state quota students that final admission is contingent upon resolving financial disputes between the institution and the state health department. The political group contends that students should not be held hostage by these behind-the-scenes issues.

Over 3.2 lakh families enrolled under Mizoram's Universal Healthcare Scheme

Shillong, Sep 07: More than 3.2 lakh beneficiary families have been enrolled under phase two of the Mizoram Universal Healthcare Scheme (MUHCS), officials said on Sunday. The government has also disbursed over Rs 271 crore towards treatment bills under the scheme's first two phases since 2025, they said. Of the 3.2 lakh families enrolled, 48,091 are general beneficiaries, 35,325 government employees, 11,928 pensioners and 2,26,899 beneficiaries are those covered under the Centre's AB-PMJAY, which is converged with MUHCS, they said. Under MUHCS 1.0 (2025-26), more than 1 lakh patients were treated, with the government releasing Rs 171.57 crore towards treatment expenses, officials said. Around 4,772 patients were referred outside Mizoram for treatment under the scheme during the same period, they said. Under MUHCS 2.0, at least 31,832 patients had received treatment as of August 24 this year, while Rs 99.60 crore had been disbursed towards treatment bills. The current Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) administration headed by Chief Minister Lalduhoma launched MUHCS 1.0 in March last year to provide cashless treatment at government facilities, as well as empanelled private and church-run hospitals in and outside the state. The second phase of the healthcare scheme was unveiled by Chief Minister Lalduhoma in March this year. The scheme provides up to Rs 5 lakh health cover to general beneficiaries on payment of an annual fee or premium based on their choice of ward – Rs 2,500 for general ward, Rs 5,000 for semi-private



cabin, and Rs 10,000 for private cabin. Government employees, including contractual and muster-roll staff, contribute a monthly fee ranging from Rs 200 to Rs 1,500 based on their pay scales to avail of unlimited cover. Pensioners and their spouses can also avail up to Rs 2 lakh cover per financial year on surrendering their fixed medical allowance of Rs 1,000 per month as subscription under the scheme. Besides, state-run hospitals or health facilities, a total of 20 private hospitals and 5 day care centres in Mizoram, and 53 private hospitals outside the state are currently empanelled under the healthcare scheme, officials said.

Apart from them, there are 11 deemed empanelled hospitals outside the state, they said.

However, some leading private hospitals in Aizawl are yet to join the scheme as the government and hospitals have not reached an agreement over package rates, officials said.

Officials said it has no outstanding dues to empanelled hospitals under the scheme, though some bills are currently under process. These include bills amounting to Rs 1.35 crore from 13 state-run public hospitals within Mizoram, Rs 2.41 crore from three empanelled private hospitals within the state and Rs 2.45 crore from two empanelled private hospitals outside Mizoram. Officials said that MUHCS bills are being settled in phases and efforts are being made to ensure payments are released at the earliest.

Lakhimpur Family Accuses Officials

Guwahati, Sep 07: A North Lakhimpur family is fighting to reclaim 19 bighas, 3 katha, and 3 lessa of land in Bogolijan. They claim the property was snatched through fraud and administrative corruption. Muhiuddin Ahmed bought the land in 1939. His granddaughter, Sanam Das, says the family never sold the plot to anyone. The family points fingers at Abdul Subhan and Abdul Salam. They allege the pair grabbed the land and sold it off in chunks. Das claims revenue officials facilitated these transfers without consent. She says, "My grandfather bought the land in Bogolijan in 1939 and it was registered in his name. Abdul Subhan and Abdul Salam illegally grabbed our land and sold it part by part with the help of corrupt officials."

Dhar defends the ties between NPP and BJP, asserting that faith should remain distinct from politics

Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar

Shillong, Sep 07: In an effort to separate the NPP's developmental agenda from its alliance with the BJP, Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar addressed voters in Mawshynrut on Saturday, stating that political affiliations do not dictate personal beliefs. During a campaign meeting at Mawit for NPP candidate Dr DRL Nonglait, ahead of the Shillong Lok Sabha by-election, Dhar characterized the election as a choice between real progress and mere empty promises. He aimed to mitigate the negative perception associated with the 'BJP tag' that has become contentious in the Khasi Hills. "Just because we are collaborating with the BJP, does that imply we must alter our faith? That is incorrect," Dhar asserted. "We are partnering with the BJP to foster development and enhance the lives of our citizens." To reassure the local voters, Dhar highlighted the religious background of the NPP candidate. "Dr Nonglait is a Presbyterian. I adhere to a different faith. Does that necessitate a



change in my religion? Religion and politics are distinct matters," he emphasized.

Dhar also criticized opposing parties for their use of slogans aimed at safeguarding indigenous identity without delivering

tangible outcomes. He illustrated his point with a domestic analogy, stating that slogans alone do not sustain a community.

"A father may profess love for his wife and children, but if there is no food on

the table, that is not love. Likewise, if an MLA claims to care for the people but fails to take action on their behalf, that is not love," the Deputy Chief Minister remarked.

In response to accusations from the Opposition regarding corruption and authoritarianism, Dhar asserted that the government would maintain its focus on infrastructure development despite such criticisms. He further refuted claims of political favoritism in treasury allocations, stating that the NPP-led government has financed road projects and other initiatives in constituencies represented by UDP and HSPDP legislators. "Numerous constituencies are represented by UDP and HSPDP MLAs, yet we continue to provide them with projects. This demonstrates that the NPP does not engage in discrimination," Dhar stated.

Encouraging the residents of Mawshynrut to support Dr Nonglait, Dhar concluded.

Anundoram Borooah Academy Introduces the Zubeen Garg Award for Outstanding Students

Guwahati, Sep 07: The Anundoram Borooah Academy in Pathsal, Bajali, marked Teacher's Day by handing out the first Zubeen Garg Awards. This new prize honors the late singer and musician. It recognizes students who hit the top marks in their respective exams.

Jyotirmoy Das claimed the prize for his top performance in the High School Leaving Certificate exam. Arhi Rajkhowa took home the award for leading the CBSE rankings. Each student walked away with a gamosa, a memento, a certificate, and Rs 50,000 cash. Garima Saikia Garg, wife of the late singer, handed over the prizes. She urged local youth to keep his creative flame alive. Justice remains a priority. During the event, Garima Saikia



Garg pushed for a fair probe into her husband's death. "If Zubeen does not get justice, I think there will be no meaning to justice in Assam," she told reporters. She also asked for quick, quality work on the Zubeen Khetra

construction project. Ranjit Deka, who serves as Rector, Principal, and Managing Director, led the proceedings. Education Minister Ranaj Pegu later visited the campus to meet staff and students. He argued that schools must

focus on social responsibility alongside raw academic skill. Bajali Deputy Commissioner Madhumita Bhagwati and social worker Julie Deka Baruah also attended. The academy expanded its tributes throughout the day. Former students from the 2011 to 2013 batch created an award for the late English teacher Dhruvajyoti Bhattacharya. Ranjit Deka gave this prize to Ananya Thakuria for her high marks in English during the Higher Secondary final exam.

The morning started with rituals. Amulya Kalita lit a ceremonial lamp. Principals and staff paid floral tributes to Anundoram Borooah, S. Radhakrishnan, Zubeen Garg, and Bhupen Hazarika. A freshers welcome event rounded out the day.

11 pc voters deleted from Sikkim's electoral rolls

Gangtok, Sep 07: A total of 52,551 electors were deleted from Sikkim's electoral roll during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), reducing the number of voters by around 11.16 per cent, a statement said on Sunday.

The final roll has 4,18,467 eligible voters, compared with 4,71,018 in the pre-SIR voters' list, the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office said in a statement. The draft electoral roll released in July had 4,33,294 electors, of whom 3,61,159 or 83.35 per cent were successfully mapped with their own or parents' electoral details from the previous qualifying roll or the last SIR. The remaining 72,135 electors (16.65 per cent) could not be mapped, it said.

Among the mapped electors, 52,384 were identified by the Election Commission's IT system as having "Logical Discrepancies". A

total of 1,24,519 electors, comprising those in the unmapped and Logical Discrepancy categories, were issued notices to appear for hearings and establish their eligibility, the statement said. Following hearings and verification, 16,485 electors were found ineligible, the CEO's office said. Another 324 electors were deleted through Form 7 on grounds including death or shifting from the address.

Thus, a total of 16,809 electors were deleted during the claims and objections process. A total of 1,982 electors were subsequently added back to the final roll following claims and objections, bringing the total number of electors from the draft roll of 4,33,294 to 4,18,467. The Oxford University to return 39 Naga ancestral remains taken during colonial rule in 1981 roll comprises 2,12,534 males, 2,05,931 females and two persons of the third gender.

Four civic body officials and a key officer were suspended after a tragedy in Delhi killed seven people

New Delhi, Sep 07: After a decades-old five-story building in Satya Niketan, southwest Delhi, collapsed over the weekend, killing seven people and injuring numerous more, the Delhi civic authority suspended five officials on Monday.

Hundreds of university students reside in cramped housing in the Satya Niketan neighborhood. Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner (South Zone), Superintending Engineer Ranvir Singh, Executive Engineer (Building) Lalit Kumar Goel, Assistant Engineer (Building) Sunil Chauhan, and Junior Engineer (Building) Ashish Kumar are among the officials suspended.

The suspension orders were issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi Vigilance Department on the directions of the civic body's commissioner under the DMC Services (Control and Appeal) Regulations, 1959. According to Regulation 5(2), the officials have been suspended with immediate effect. Regretfully, seven people have died. We believe that the structure adjacent to the collapsed structure was strengthened during the night and has since weakened. MCD Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar stated,



ed, "We will take it up for demolition in a calibrated manner in the next one to two days." "We issued demolition orders for three to four buildings in the same neighborhood in August. Identification is done on a regular basis. Over the past three months, 407 buildings have been sealed, 1500 buildings have received notices for sealing and demolition, and 960 demolitions have taken place. He continued, "This is a routine procedure to take action against unapproved construction." Rescue operations continue at the site of the accident. The owner of the collapsed Satya Niketan

building, Hariram Bansal, was apprehended on Monday afternoon from Bhiwadi, Rajasthan, according to the Delhi Police.

In order to supervise the second day of search and rescue efforts, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta arrived in Satya Niketan on Monday. According to her, the government is working with the civic body to develop a policy that requires all buildings used for public activities, such as PGs, nursing homes, schools, and other facilities, to undergo regular structural audits and safety certifications; otherwise, no such activity will be allowed.

Sanjay Dutt's Yerwada jail joke sparks a Marathi controversy and entangles a Sena minister

New Delhi, Sep 07: With his remarks on one of the most sensitive topics in Maharashtra—the Marathi language—actor Sanjay Dutt, who was imprisoned for many years for possessing illegal weapons, including an assault rifle, has walked on a landmine. The Munna Bhai MBBS actor also attracted the attention of Marathi leaders when he concluded his statements with a hearty chuckle from a Shiv Sena leader. Dutt was asked to speak in Marathi at a Dahi Handi event by Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik, a member of the Shiv Sena. The actor chuckled as he remarked, "I spent six years in Yerwada Jail, yet I could not learn Marathi." Shortly after the actor's remarks, Marathi leaders who had also criticized Dutt turned their attention to the Sena MLA. Sarnaik was questioned by BJP MLA Narendra Mehta for laughing at someone who casually said they didn't know



Marathi, whereas the general public faces beatings and threats because of the regional language issue.

While regular autorickshaw drivers are being intimidated over the Marathi language, actors who don't know the language joke about it, according to Mehta. "What sort of justice is this?" he asked. The Sena leader's words and deeds, according to the BJP MLA, are very different. "Eknath Shinde never gave him permission to do anything. He's there because

we need a dummy minister," Mehta stated. At a ceremony in Thane's Mira Bhayandar a day prior, Sarnaik had hurled insults at Mehta without mentioning his name. The Sena has been playing politics over the language problem without really doing anything to advance it, according to accusations made by the Congress party when they first entered the picture. What has the Shiv Sena contributed to the language's advancement? Prithviraj Chavan set the foundation for Marathi's

current classification as a Classical Language, according to Congress spokesperson Atul Londhe. People travel to Maharashtra in search of employment.

However, Shinde's Sena and the BJP just use language for political purposes," he continued. Attacks on individuals from outside the state have resulted from the Marathi language problem. According to Marathi organizations, formal and public communications must include the local language.

After engine oil levels drop mid-air, the Air India Express headed for Dubai returns to Cochin



New Delhi, Sep 07: The crew of Air India Express Boeing 737 operating flight IX 415 from Cochin to Abu Dhabi was forced to turn around in the middle of the flight when they saw that Engine 1's oil quantity was fast decreasing. The engine was then shut down when the oil pressure reached the danger zone. At Cochin International Airport, the plane made a safe landing. The seriousness of the situation was unknown to the passengers. Sources claim that the captain and co-pilot noted Engine 1 oil quantity rapidly decreasing approximately 50 minutes after take-off when the aircraft was flying at 36,000 feet. A FORDEC assessment was conducted by the crew. They made the decision to leave the Abu Dhabi area and go back to Cochin because the amount of oil was still declining. The commander then notified ATC that the aircraft was returning to Cochin by making a high-frequency call to Mumbai Radio.

The airplane altered course while adhering to standard safety protocols. Both pilots continued to keep an eye on engine characteristics and were ready for any eventuality throughout the diversion. Engine 1's oil pressure started to fluctuate about 45 minutes after the turnback, and the cockpit gage showed a dip into the danger range when it approached the red zone. After that, the crew turned off Engine 1 using the Non-Normal Checklist (NNC). Landing an overweight Boeing 737 on a single engine is a high-workload, high-risk manoeuvre. The crew completed it smoothly. Passengers did not grasp the gravity of what had unfolded in the cockpit.

Technical diversions have become a near-weekly feature across Indian carriers. The latest episode comes days after the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau released its preliminary findings on

the Air India Phuket-Delhi flight. That report recorded that Airbus technical experts inspected the involved aircraft for three days in the presence of the investigation team. Hydraulic components and hydraulic samples were then collected for further analysis.

In the wake of the Phuket-Delhi incident, Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said the DGCA would raise the annual percentage of psychoactive substance tests for flight crew. The Air India Express engine-oil event now raises a parallel question: whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation will also tighten the framework for DGCA safety audits. Under the International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) program, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) normally evaluates a nation's safety oversight approximately every five years. The next significant IASA audit for India is scheduled for November of this year; the previous one took place in October of 2021. It will be closely monitored whether New Delhi takes advantage of this opportunity to change the regulations regulating DGCA safety audits. We are awaiting an official response from the DGCA and Air India Express.

The government shortens the booking period for LPG refills in rural areas from 45 to 25 days

New Delhi, Sep 07: The Center declared on Monday that both urban and rural areas will continue to use the same booking interval for LPG refills. The booking interval in rural regions has also been shortened from 45 days to 25 days, as stated by State Minister Suresh Gopi. According to Gopi, the Union



Minister of State for Petroleum, Natural Gas, and

Tourism, the refill booking period was 25 days in urban areas and 45 days in rural regions because of the strain on LPG supplies following the Middle East crisis. However, the central government has loosened this restriction in light of the improving LPG supply situation and the notable decrease in the refill back-

log. All household LPG users, whether they live in an urban or rural area, can now schedule refills at intervals of 25 days," he added in a Facebook post. In his tweet, the minister included a copy of the letter that the Petroleum Ministry sent to the OMCs asking them to make the modification right away.

Meghalaya hamlet receives a shared facilities center to turn banana pseudostem into items with additional value

Shillong, Sep 07: In Umsiang village in the Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya, the North East Center for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR), an independent organization under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, opened a Common Facility Center (CFC) with the goal of turning waste banana pseudostem into products with added value and fostering rural entrepreneurship. Under the PM-DevINE program, NECTAR established the CFC with financial assistance from the Minis-

try of Development of the North Eastern Region (DNER).

The plant will turn banana pseudostem, an agricultural by-product that is typically thrown away after harvesting, into handcrafted paper, biodegradable sheets, and natural fiber.

The program aims to improve rural livelihoods, entrepreneurship, and skill development while encouraging the sustainable use of agricultural resources.

Additionally, it is anticipated to give farmers, local business owners, and self-help organizations access

to technology and chances to create revenue-generating ventures based on locally accessible resources. Prof. Umesh Waghmare, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India; Satinder Kumar Bhalla, ITS, Secretary, North Eastern Council; and Dr. Jaideep Baruah, Director, Assam Science, Technology, and Environment Council, in addition to high-ranking officials and representatives of federal and state government agencies, were present at the inauguration ceremony. Addressing the

gathering, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, Director General, NECTAR, highlighted the potential of banana pseudostem as a resource for sustainable production and rural enterprise. He said the model could be replicated across the Northeast to promote environmental sustainability, income generation and regional economic development. The dignitaries visited the facility and saw demonstrations of the technologies used there after the CFC plaque was unveiled. Additionally, they engaged with local farmers, business owners,

and self-help group members. During the tour, the NECTAR team showcased the operating capabilities of the recently created facility by demonstrating banana fiber extraction technology. It is anticipated that the CFC will strengthen local skills and entrepreneurship while offering a platform for turning agricultural waste into items that can be sold.

Additionally, the initiative supports efforts to create alternative livelihood possibilities and encourage sustainable agricultural techniques in Northeastern rural areas.

Through outreach to UAE investors, Odisha hopes to achieve export-led industrial growth: CM Majhi

New Delhi, Sep 07: Bhupaneswar, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi stated on Monday that the state hopes to create export-led industrial growth by drawing in foreign investors and fortifying international business ties, ahead of his three-day economic outreach to the UAE from September 9 to 11. According to Majhi, Odisha is strategically focused on drawing in foreign investment, bolstering export-oriented businesses, and creating new business and investment alliances between the state and the UAE. In order to explore opportunities for investment, technology collaboration, industrial partnerships, exports, and value-chain development in Odisha, the three-day outreach in Abu Dhabi and Dubai is anticipated to bring together UAE-based investors, top fund houses, financial institutions, industry leaders, Indian business professionals, and business organizations. "The state has a solid industrial base and enormous potential to develop into a significant center for value-added and export-oriented manufacturing. We aim to link Odisha with international finance,

technology, markets, and key partners through our outreach in the UAE," Majhi stated. Our goal is to establish long-term alliances that may improve value chains, develop new possibilities for our people, and change Odisha's economic ecology," he continued. State industries minister Sampad Chandra Swain said, "From metallurgy, metals and downstream industries to ports, logistics, food and seafood exports, rare earths, shipbuilding, chemicals and petrochemicals, we are presenting a wide range of investment opportunities."

Swain said the state is particularly looking at investments that promote value addition, exports, technology adoption and the transition towards higher-value industries. He also said the upcoming UAE engagement is focused on sectors where Odisha has both established strengths and significant opportunities for future growth. Metallurgy and metals downstream industries, food and seafood exports, port-based industrial parks, port-based logistics parks, shipbuilding parks, specialized rare earth corridors, slurry pipeline infrastructure,



and chemical and petrochemical parks are among the targeted sectors, according to an official statement. Odisha is pitching its ports and related industrial facilities as important catalysts for the next stage of industrial expansion due to its advantageous location on India's eastern coast. "Port-led development is expected to create significant opportunities for large-scale investment, integrated manufacturing, logistics,

exports and global supply-chain linkages," the statement stated. The outreach will also focus on strengthening the transition from Odisha's traditional industrial sectors towards new-generation, technology-driven and higher-value sectors.

The objective is to build integrated value chains within the state while connecting the state's production capabilities with international markets, a senior

official said. "In Abu Dhabi, the delegation will engage with leading investment institutions, fund houses, sovereign investment platforms and UAE-based organizations. Discussions will focus on investment opportunities, possibilities for attracting Foreign Direct Investment, industrial partnerships and long-term capital participation," the official said. Focused discussions with industry experts, UAE-based organizations, metals and downstream firms, logistics and infrastructure actors, and other possible investors will be part of the Dubai program. According to him, sectoral roundtables and one-on-one conversations will offer a chance to discuss particular investment prospects and comprehend the needs of international companies wishing to grow in India. Additionally, the mission will engage with the Indian business professional community in the United Arab Emirates, including professionals and business leaders who may significantly contribute to the development of international commercial links for Odisha and the improvement of India-UAE economic ties.

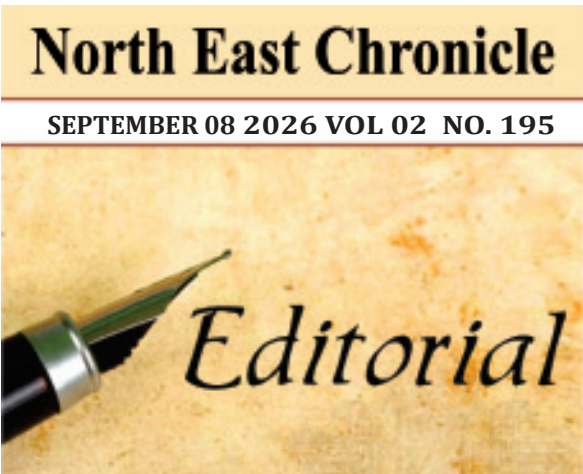
AAP's Chaitar Vasava is granted seven days of bail by the Gujarat High Court

New Delhi, Sep 07: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Chaitar Vasava was granted seven days of provisional release by the Gujarat High Court on Monday so that he may attend the state Assembly's monsoon session, which is set for September 9–11. In June, a Rajpipla sessions court sentenced Vasava, his wife Shakuntala, and seven other people to seven years of harsh imprisonment and a fine of ₹25,000 each for assaulting forest authorities and extortion in 2023.

As a result, Vasava, the Dediapada legislator, was placed in Vadodara Central Jail. When he is released, the bail period begins. He is not allowed to leave Gandhinagar or speak to the public or media, according to the court. According to the government, the invitation was sent out in accordance with Assembly regulations. The prosecution alleged that on October 30, 2023, forest officials removed crops grown on government land near Bogaj village in Dediapada. They were later called to

Vasava's house, where he allegedly threatened them, slapped an official and fired a pistol in the air. His wife is accused of extorting ₹60,000.

Charges included rioting, assault on a public servant, extortion and Arms Act offences. His attorneys have refuted the firearm allegation, claiming that neither a weapon nor a ballistic report were provided. The high court denied ordinary bail and sentence suspension on August 24, stating that an MLA should have directed individuals to legal options and that releasing a convicted lawmaker might imply that persons in positions of authority are above the law. It mentioned his past and said that he had abused his previous freedom. As secondary accused, Shakuntala and four other prisoners were given bail in July. Vasava has not received an official disqualification. He is supposed to show up for the session and go back to prison after the seven days are up. He is currently appealing his conviction.



India’s rising strategic challenges analyzed

China’s changing military posture and structural reorganization have sent subtle yet unmistakable ripples across the Asian continent, reshaping how neighboring nations perceive national security, readiness, and modern warfare. For decades, traditional defense planning revolved primarily around troop movements, artillery deployments, and territorial fortifications along contentious geographic borders. In recent times, Beijing has systematically broadened its definition of national strength, blurring the historical boundary separating civilian life from military preparedness through aggressive legislative reform and nationwide integration.

At the center of this transformation lies the fundamental overhaul of China’s national defense mobilization architecture. By extending state authority deep into the economic, industrial, technological, and social fabric of the country, the Chinese government has positioned its entire society as a latent auxiliary arm of the armed forces. Under these expanded legislative powers, national defense is no longer treated as an exclusive responsibility of active service members. Instead, every commercial enterprise, research facility, telecommunications network, and logistics hub can be repurposed for wartime priorities at a moment’s notice. This institutional pivot presents a unique strategic puzzle for India, a nation that shares a vast and volatile frontier with China. The standoff along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh, alongside persistent tensions in the northeastern sector, highlights the shifting nature of this bilateral dynamic. Where previous border friction relied heavily on infantry presence and tactical positioning, future confrontations are bound to be deeply influenced by which side can mobilize its total national capacity with greater velocity and endurance.

The expanded legal framework shifts the traditional criteria required to activate national mobilization. Historically, full-scale state activation was reserved strictly for direct threats to national sovereignty, territorial integrity, or immediate physical security. The modern strategic doctrine includes concepts tied to development interests, global supply chain continuity, and overseas economic footprint. This subtle expansion means that perceived challenges to commercial access, maritime trade routes, or key technology supply chains can serve as legal grounds to direct civilian assets toward state security goals. For the high-technology and manufacturing sectors, the implications are profound. Emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, uncrewed autonomous systems, quantum computing, satellite communication, and advanced robotics are directly bound to the national defense apparatus. Private technology firms, digital infrastructure providers, and research

entities are legally required to maintain data archives, reserve dual-use equipment, and maintain technical personnel capable of supporting military operations. During times of heightened tension, standard civilian factories producing domestic goods can be instructed to transition toward defense manufacturing without lengthy regulatory delays. Beyond physical manufacturing, the legislation reaches deep into data management, public communications, and citizen participation. Large age demographics are designated for civil support roles, disaster mitigation tasks, or internal stability functions when summoned by authorities. Telecommunication grids, server farms, private media outlets, and digital platforms are structured to operate under direct state oversight during periods of friction. By institutionalizing these measures well ahead of any actual conflict, the state attempts to eliminate the friction that normally accompanies a nation transitioning from peace to total war.

India faces a complex strategic reality along its northern borders. Since the 2020 border clashes, Beijing has relentlessly upgraded its regional infrastructure, laying high-speed roads, constructing dual-use border villages, expanding military airfields, and erecting hardened supply depots across the Tibetan plateau. A unified mobilization apparatus ensures that these border facilities can be continually supplied and reinforced by the full weight of China’s domestic industrial base, transforming economic muscle into sustained military stamina. The strategic challenge for India is further complicated by the reality of a potential two-front security dynamic involving Pakistan along its western border. Managing simultaneous security concerns requires immense resource allocation and tactical flexibility. If China possesses the ability to rapidly convert its immense domestic market, tech sector, and transport infrastructure into a unified military engine, the operational burden placed on Indian defense planners increases exponentially. This situation naturally forces a reevaluation of how democratic nations prepare for modern, multi-domain conflict.

India is a constitutional democracy operating under a distinct economic and political framework. It cannot simply copy an authoritarian model that commanders private enterprise, restricts individual liberties, or centralizes industrial output under military control. Forcing civilian industries into a rigid state apparatus overnight is neither feasible nor desirable in an open society. India must focus on building resilience through its own unique strengths. Enhancing domestic defense production through public and private collaboration, securing crucial technological supply chains, and accelerating infrastructure development along sensitive border areas remain urgent priorities.

Resolving India-China dispute demands cold war perspective

The bones of the dead lie heaped in piles, steaming blood is everywhere plastered, the earth is scorched dry, and no matter where you look, your heart aches,” wrote the harmonium-playing warlord General Ma Zhongying, also famously known as General ‘Big Horse’. “The celestial garden of refuge has become nothing more than the home of tearful gods and wailing spirits.” Twenty-three years old in 1933, the General had spent the previous four years trampling across the cities and oases of Xinjiang, urging Kazakh, Uighurs, and Hui Muslims to rise against the ethnic-Han and recreate the kingdom of the medieval conqueror Taimur. Thousands died of war and famine; American diplomats reported that cannibalism had become commonplace.

Ever since last month’s meeting between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, speculation has mounted that the two countries are close to an interim agreement on marking the border in sectors where their claims converge. To some Indian commentators, it appears that China is using Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s too-eager reach for a diplomatic triumph to enshrine the gains it made in the war of 1962. The China-India border conflict, though, has never been about the few dozen kilometres of desolate earth and ice that separates their claim-lines. Faced with the irreparable fracturing of its relationship

ship with the Soviet Union, and the need to forward-deploy units in Xinjiang, the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) was also preparing for an American-backed invasion from Taiwan in the summer of 1962. Less than six months before the 1962 war broke out, tens of thousands of Kazakh and Uighur families fled Xinjiang for Kazakhstan, brushing aside border guards and Communist Party officials. Yet, Beijing chose not to moderate its border claims. “Arrogant, devious, hypocritical and thoroughly unreliable,” Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru fumed, as he ordered Indian troops to assert their border claims by physical occupation. Looking west, China had come to similar conclusions. Early in the autumn of 1951, the Indian government gave asylum to hundreds of Kazakh secessionists—the successors of the Big Horse’s militia after they were chased out of Xinjiang by the PLA. The Xinjiang secessionist Yulbars Khan arrived in India soon after, and secretly met with Nehru. In 1950, agents working for Beijing had begun reporting accurately, it is now known that the CIA station in New Delhi was offering weapons and cash to initiate insurgency in Tibet. The use of force along the Line of Control (LoC) was meant to send a message not just to New Delhi, but also to Taiwan, the US and the Soviet Union: China was prepared to take the risks that came with refusing to be coerced.

From the moment of its birth in 1949, the People’s Republic found itself mired in war against insurgents who had carved out an Islamic state in Xinjiang—the great plateau bordering British India, Tibet, and the Soviet Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, with routes east to Mongolia and old imperial Xi’an. Led by the low-born Kazakh bandit and rebel Usman Islamay “Osman Batur” the counter-insurgency war erupted in March 1949. At least 12,500 Kazakh rebels were slaughtered, together with thousands of PLA officers, communist cadres and civilians. Late in the summer of 1947, the CIA officer Douglas Mackiernan had been assigned to serve undercover as vice-consul in Ürümqi. The officer allied with Usman to locate samples of uranium-bearing rock in Xinjiang, critical to Soviet plans to build a nuclear-weapons arsenal. The CIA also gave Usman weapons and funds to fight the PLA. Mackiernan was killed by Tibetan border guards in 1950, as he tried to escape to India ahead of the PLA, while Osman was executed in Ürümqi’s public square a year later. The rebellions continued, though, running into 1954. Events hardened China’s suspicions of India. Intelligence Bureau chief BN Mullik turned a blind eye as the CIA ran secret flights supplying insurgents in Tibet — leading historian John Garver to conclude that, whatever the truth, “Beijing believed that Nehru

knew of and cooperated with CIA efforts.”

To the former Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party Mao Zedong, the threat seemed clear. The British had long discussed a buffer state in Tawang under the Panchen Lama—a British plan dating back to 1907. India had even considered helping Tibet resist the 1950 PLA invasion, only for its Generals to say the resources did not exist. Now, it seemed, Nehru was picking up the Raj’s unfinished business. Ever since the late 19th century, the British Raj and Imperial Russia had ensconced themselves in Kashgar, watching for signs of expansionist intent. The diplomat George Macartney lived there from 1890 to 1918, while Imperial Russian consulates enjoyed tax-free trade and extraterritorial judicial powers. The British, in turn, ran missions in Lhasa and trade offices at Gyantse, Yatung and Gartok. The missions became independent centres of power as central authority crumbled across China, building client networks among local élites. Germany, Japan and Turkey all joined the race for influence after 1918. Freelance adventurers found opportunity too. The writer Peter Fleming travelled from Beijing to Kashmir in 1935, using the trip to observe the political crisis in Xinjiang, while the geologist Sven Hedin travelled through wartime Xinjiang in 1933-34, scouting for a road route that could link Hotan to Rutog. That road would be built by the PLA in 1953—leading China to assert its claims to Aksai Chin, and setting the stage for the war of 1962. After the 1949 revolution, the communist leadership moved to sever ties between élites in its borderlands and foreign powers. The doors of George Macartney’s consulate in Kashgar’s famed Chini Bagh—which had hosted travellers from across the world—were shut down in 1949. The last British consul-general in Ürümqi was accused of espionage and expelled in 1950.

“Flogging eunuchs was part of my daily routine,” Emperor Pu Yi remembered as an old man, when he served as a gardener in the Forbidden City. “My cruelty and love of power were already too firmly set.” Crowned at the age of three, Pu Yi was forced to abdicate six years later, in 1912. The multi-ethnic empire unravelled. Tibet expelled the Amban, or imperial Governor; the southern provinces declared independence; and rebellions flared across Xinjiang, as local warlords seized power. The Kashgar-based Russian émigré Paul Nazaroff recalled seeing “bundles of men’s amputated arms or feet nailed to the city gates, with notices stating whose members they were and why they were cut off.” To no one’s surprise, rebellion swept Xinjiang and adjoining Gansu from 1929, after the Han bureaucrat Jin Shuren, the region’s de facto ruler, turned economic predation into an art form. Led by Yolbars Khan and the busi-

nessman Khoja Niyas Haji, popular anger crystallised into armed resistance that soon degenerated into ethnic cleansing. Ethnic-Han prisoners were forced to convert to Islam, while local Hindu moneylenders who financed the Silk Route caravans were massacred. General Ma and other ethnic Hui warlords responded to the chaos by stamping out the East Turkestan Republic led by Khoja Niyas, and sacked Kashgar in a campaign they hoped would lead to the installation of the Kuomintang nationalist government as the rulers of Xinjiang. Fearing the warfare in Xinjiang would inflame Islamic secessionism in its own Central Asian republics, the Soviet Union invaded Xinjiang to halt the advance of General Ma. The Red Army installed the warlord Sheng Shicai as its vassal. Following several years of faithfully implementing pro-Soviet policies, Sheng abandoned Moscow after the Nazi victories of 1942. The Soviets responded by throwing their weight behind Kazakh rebels, who went on to found the Second East Turkestan Republic. Then, as now, the real issue was how power should be configured in Asia. The kind of strategic relationship India seeks with the US; the architecture of ties to partners like Japan or Australia; how China’s concerns about efforts to contain its rise ought to be addressed. To begin that conversation, the two countries will need to move past the anxieties and bitterness that shaped their past.

Economic reality check: PM Modi’s 2013 SRCC address revisited

Gen Z or OG (original gangster), not many things have changed in 13 years in the century-old Shri Ram College of Commerce in New Delhi. A lot, however, seemed to have changed for Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he returned to the campus last Saturday. For one, he was not the same Gujarat chief minister whose genial smile, disarming mannerism, and positive, futuristic outlook had left the audience at, and much beyond, the college spellbound in 2013. PM Modi sounded bitter and frustrated on Saturday. He did wear a smile as he played to the gallery, praising SRCC and its alumni. The tone, however, changed drastically once he started giving his ‘report card’ since his last visit.

He was angry with the so-called ‘dimagi naxals’ who wanted to see him fall. At one point, he seemed to suggest that he, an individual, and Bharat, the country, are no different. Talking about the challenges India faced during Covid-19 and the West Asia crisis, among others, he said, “My ‘admirers’ (read baiters) were happy that ‘ab Modi fansaa (Modi is trapped now), Modi is about to fall now, he can be crushed now.’” “But there is so much power in my countrymen’s blessings that the wishes of those wishing harm to Bharat remained unfulfilled,” PM Modi said. Essentially, wishing harm to him and to Bharat are one and the same thing. PM Modi presented an elaborate report card on what he achieved since February 2013, when he had last visited the SRCC campus, in what was his launch pad for his successful bid for the BJP’s prime ministerial

candidature. His speechwriter didn’t seem to have listened to his entire speech in 2013, beyond the half-full-and-half-empty glass analogy. His 2026 SRCC speech, on Saturday, would have probably sounded more convincing without references to the vision he had laid out for the country from the same college 13 years back. As it is, PM Modi himself might be disappointed with the huge gap between what he wanted to achieve in 2013 and what he has been able to do by 2026.

A significant message from PM Modi’s SRCC speech was to Manipur, when he said that “peace has increased from Jammu & Kashmir to the Northeast”. He didn’t name Manipur but his remarks seemed to validate Inner Manipur MP Angomcha Bimol Akojiam’s view about Manipur being the case of “out of mind, out of sight”, not the other way around. How could one talk about ‘better peace’ in the Northeast when Manipur is virtually geographically partitioned along ethnic lines? So much so that a couple of Kuki-Zo MLAs coming to Meitei-dominated Imphal to attend the Assembly session after three years made national headlines. We will come back to Manipur a bit later. Let’s look at what then-Gujarat CM Modi had said at the SRCC 13 years back. As I was writing this piece on Sunday, I had to keep checking news updates about the collapse of a five-storey building at Satya Niketan, just about four km from my residence. Dozens of young students were trapped there. Seven young lives were already lost. “CM vows action” was the news-

flash. She declared that all the unsafe buildings in the vicinity would be “demolished”. Didn’t we hear such outrage many times before? Barely three months earlier, 21 people had died in a blaze in an unauthorised hotel in Malviya Nagar, about six km from my residence. There were similar vows for action then, too. Just a couple of years back, too, young students had died in an illegal coaching centre basement flooding in the Old Rajinder Nagar. There were 17 deaths in the 2019 Karol Bagh hotel fire. All these have been happening within a few kilometres’ radius of the Prime Minister’s residence. Of course, he couldn’t be blamed for the criminal neglect of the BJP-led local administrations in the national capital. I got back to PM Modi’s speech at the SRCC in 2013: “Usually, our administration works as a firefighter. When there are problems, the administration follows it up, tries to find ways.... The job of the administration is to visualise....” So true! Especially so for the triple-engine government in the national capital. In his 2013 speech, then-CM Modi shared his talk with an ambassador who wanted to know about the two biggest challenges facing India. The first, Modi told him, was how to use the demographic opportunity in a country where 65 per cent of the population was below 35 years. And, second, how to utilise the huge natural resources in eastern India? As it is, the first challenge remains unmet. According to the NITI Aayog, only 8.25 per cent graduates are employed in roles aligned to their qualification.

Teachers: the true artists of modern education

No one remembers the exact day they learned to read. But almost everyone remembers the teacher who taught them. That asymmetry, between the forgettable moment and the unforgettable person, tells us something essential about teaching. A teacher leaves behind something that cannot be easily measured: the confidence to try, the discipline to persist, the curiosity to ask, or sometimes simply the belief that one is capable of more. Thus, teaching cannot be classified as anything less than an art. The National Awards to Teachers, conferred each year by the Hon’ble President of India, honour a chosen few whose contribution has risen above the rest. Nonetheless, in every corner of the country, in classrooms, skill labs, polytechnics, sports grounds, and music rooms, students find their own way to say thank you. A handwritten note. A moment of recognition in a morning assembly. A quiet acknowledgement that stays with a teacher long after the day is over. These are not lesser celebrations but, in many ways, the truest ones.

The data, however, tells us a parallel concerning story. OECD’s 2026 Teacher Knowledge Survey distinguishes between knowing a subject and the ability to teach it. Its findings posit that subject knowledge does not always translate into effective pedagogy. The point is simple but important: knowing something deeply and knowing how to help another person learn it are not the same skill. Teaching is an art, requiring an understanding of human connections, pedagogy and some theatrics for the classroom.

The UNESCO Global Report on Teachers, 2024, places a hard number on what neglecting this profession costs. The world needs 44 million additional primary and secondary teachers by 2030, and over half are needed simply to replace those already leaving. Meanwhile, the McKinsey Global Institute estimates that between 75 million and 375 million workers globally will need to switch occupational categories by 2030 due to automation. In such a scenario, the value of competent teachers is more than ever. India has acknowledged this challenge and is responding with intent. The four-year Integrated Teacher Education Program, launched in consonance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, integrates subject mastery and pedagogy into a single undergraduate degree, attracting the best minds into teaching by design. To ensure congruent standards amongst the in-service teachers, the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) tie career advancement to demonstrated teaching quality rather than mere seniority. To benefit from cross-sectoral learning, the National Mission for Mentoring (NMM) provides structured support to teachers to learn from mentors from various fields. I, too, have registered as a mentor for this mission. The Hon’ble Prime Minister meets every year with National Award winners not merely to congratulate but to listen, to know their stories from the ground, and to offer the perspective that only leadership experience can provide. Teaching is a creative act, and cross-learning across fields helps renew this creativity.

Thomas Cook India Plans Sterling Demerger to Unlock Value

Mumbai: Thomas Cook (India) Ltd is moving to demerge its wholly owned subsidiary Sterling Holiday Resorts Ltd into a separately listed company, aiming to unlock value and address the valuation discount created by combining businesses with different capital and investment requirements.

Sterling, which operates 78 resorts with 3,810 rooms across 65 destinations, recorded ₹534 crore revenue and ₹175 crore EBITDA in FY26, with an EBITDA margin of 33 per cent. The hospitality business remained profitable for 25 consecutive quarters and reported stronger performance in the first quarter of FY27, including a 20 per cent rise in RevPAR and an EBITDA margin of 37 per cent.

The demerger is intended to separate Sterling's capital-intensive resort business from Thomas Cook India's asset-light travel



and foreign exchange operations. Sterling requires investment in properties, leases and renovations, while the travel and forex businesses primarily depend on working capital, technology and distribution networks.

Thomas Cook India's FY26 financial profile also highlights the difference between its businesses. The forex segment generated ₹326 crore revenue and ₹149 crore EBIT, translating into a 45.8 per cent margin, while travel and related services posted ₹6,703 crore revenue and

₹222 crore EBIT. Sterling generated ₹129 crore EBIT at a 24.2 per cent margin.

The proposed restructuring is expected to give investors clearer exposure to the individual businesses. Hospitality companies are typically valued using metrics such as RevPAR, occupancy and enterprise value per room, while travel and forex businesses are assessed on different operating and cash-flow parameters. Separating Sterling could therefore enable more focused investor coverage and price discovery. The scheme also involves

transferring three dormant subsidiaries into the structure. The valuation analysis estimates the combined segment enterprise value at ₹5,578 crore to ₹7,170 crore. After accounting for ₹670 crore of capitalised unallocated costs and adding ₹771 crore of unencumbered net cash, the implied equity value is estimated at ₹5,679 crore to ₹7,271 crore, or an illustrative ₹121 to ₹155 per share based on 47 crore shares.

A key consideration is Thomas Cook India's reported cash position, as around ₹1,600 crore of its gross cash is linked to customer prepaid forex card balances and cannot be treated as freely deployable funds. The demerger is therefore aimed not only at simplifying the corporate structure but also at giving each business greater management focus, clearer capital allocation and access to investors with sector-specific interests.

HUL Targets Volume-Led Growth Through New India Strategy

Mumbai: Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) has unveiled its "Winning in New India" (WINI) strategy, targeting volume-led growth by tapping rising consumer incomes, urbanisation and low penetration of several fast-moving consumer goods categories.

India's per-capita FMCG spending remains relatively low at about \$63, leaving significant room for consumption growth.

HUL expects 40 per cent of future growth to come from premiumisation, another 40 per cent from developing under-penetrated markets and routines, and

the remaining 20 per cent from adjacent categories such as active cosmetics, specialised nutrition and wellness.

More than 80 per cent of projected growth is expected to come from categories where HUL already has a strong presence, supported by brands such as Surf Excel, Dove, Horlicks and Minimalist. The company plans to expand categories including body wash, sun care, liquid detergents and serums while encouraging consumers to move towards higher-value products.

HUL also plans to raise capital expenditure to 3 per

cent of turnover over the next five years, compared with 2 per cent during the previous five-year period. The investment will focus on manufacturing capacity, supply-chain flexibility and digital infrastructure.

Management is targeting an approximately 500-basis-point improvement in EBITDA margin, supported by premiumisation, operating leverage, AI-led advertising efficiency and productivity measures.

The strategy comes amid near-term pressure on profitability. HUL's total income rose 10 per cent year-on-year to ₹17,341 crore in Q1 FY27, while

net profit fell 3 per cent to ₹2,673 crore due to higher input costs and competitive pressures. Growing quick-commerce sales could also require increased promotional and marketing spending.

The pace of rural demand recovery remains another key factor for the strategy. Sustained growth in agricultural incomes and consumption of mass-market products such as soaps and detergents will be important for HUL to achieve its broader volume-growth ambitions as the company seeks to benefit from India's expanding consumer market.

Three Major Projects Set to Transform Thane's Connectivity



Thane: The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is accelerating three major road infrastructure projects in Thane to address persistent traffic congestion and strengthen connectivity with Mumbai, Bhiwandi, Vasai and key industrial and commercial centres across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

The 6.5-km Gaimukh-Payegaon Creek Bridge is being developed to provide a direct connection between Gaimukh on Ghodbunder Road and Chinchoti-Payegaon across Thane Creek. The bridge is expected to offer an alternative to the congested Fountain Hotel Junction and Chinchoti stretch and provide a more efficient route for passenger and freight movement.

Around 25 per cent of the project has been completed, while more than 95 per cent of piling work in the Thane Creek section has been finished. Pier and pier-cap construction is currently progressing. Once operational, the bridge will connect with several major trans-

port networks, including the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor, Virar-Alibaug Multimodal Corridor, Diva-Vasai railway line, NH-48 and Anjur-Chinchoti Road.

The 13.45-km Thane Coastal Road is another major component of the connectivity plan. The six-lane corridor will run from Balkum to Gaimukh, with an elevated section along Thane Creek. It is being designed to function as a high-capacity bypass for traffic currently dependent on Ghodbunder Road, one of Thane's busiest and most congested routes.

The coastal road is expected to work in tandem with the Gaimukh-Payegaon bridge, creating a continuous northern route around Thane. The improved network could facilitate faster movement of goods between Thane, Bhiwandi, Vasai and other parts of the MMR, while providing an alternative route for vehicles travelling across the region.

The third project, the 8.24-km Anand Nagar-Saket Elevated Road, will be a six-lane corridor along

the Eastern Express Highway. It is intended to bypass some of the city's most heavily congested junctions, including Teen Hath Naka, Nitin Junction, Cadbury Junction and Majiwada Junction.

By diverting long-distance traffic away from busy city intersections, the elevated road is expected to improve the movement of vehicles through Thane and reduce interaction between intercity and local traffic. It could particularly benefit vehicles travelling towards northern Maharashtra and Gujarat, as well as freight traffic using Thane as a major transit point.

Together, the three projects are expected to create a more integrated road network around Thane, reduce pressure on existing arterial roads and improve travel reliability. The infrastructure push also has wider economic significance, as better road connectivity could support logistics, industrial activity, commercial development and access to emerging growth areas across the northern Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Western Railway Extends Six Mumbai Special Trains Through November

New Delhi: Western Railway has extended six special train services operating between Mumbai Central and Ahmedabad and Indore through the last week of November 2026 to meet increased passenger demand during the festive travel period.

The extended services will continue as Train-on-Demand (TOD) Special Trains on Special Fare. Passengers can book tickets through Passenger Res-

ervation System counters and the IRCTC online platform.

Train 09087 from Mumbai Central to Ahmedabad will operate every Wednesday until November 25, while its return service 09088 will run every Thursday from Ahmedabad to Mumbai Central until November 26.

On the Mumbai Central-Indore route, train 09079 will operate on Sundays and Tuesdays until Novem-

ber 29, with return service 09080 running on Mondays and Wednesdays until November 30. Another pair, trains 09085 and 09086, will operate on Mondays and Fridays from Mumbai Central and Tuesdays and Saturdays from Indore, respectively, with services extended through November 27 and November 28.

The services will connect major centres across Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, with

scheduled stops including Mumbai Central, Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara Junction, Dahod, Ratlam Junction, Ujjain Junction and Indore Junction.

The extension is expected to provide additional travel capacity on busy inter-state routes during the festive season and offer passengers more options for journeys between Mumbai and major commercial and urban centres in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

FSSAI Tells Bombay High Court Old Monk Cannot Be Sold as Standard Rum

Mumbai: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has told the Bombay High Court that Old Monk cannot be marketed as standard "rum" in its current formulation, arguing that the product should instead carry a classification reflecting the addition of rum flavouring.

According to FSSAI, the beverage is largely made from neutral alcohol, including extra neutral alcohol (ENA), combined with artificial and nature-identical rum flavouring substances. The regulator said the added flavours alter the product's natural characteristics and mean it should be labelled as "Flavoured Rum", "Premix Rum" or "Rum-flavoured Spirit".

FSSAI has also challenged the product's "7 years old blended" and "very old vatted" claims.



Laboratory testing found that less than 5 per cent of the blend consisted of matured rum spirit, while more than 95 per cent was unmaturred neutral spirit. The regulator said age claims must correspond to the youngest spirit used in a blend under applicable regulations.

The court also raised concerns about the legitimacy of mandatory information

on the existing packaging, observing that some disclosures were printed in text too small to be easily read.

Manufacturer Mohan Meakin has offered to revise the labels by removing the "7 years old blended" claim and prominently declaring the presence of added flavour. Revised packaging has been submitted to the court, while FSSAI has sought additional time

to assess whether the proposed changes meet regulatory requirements.

The dispute could have wider implications for the Indian-made foreign liquor market if regulators apply similar scrutiny to other products using neutral spirits and added flavouring. Clearer disclosure requirements could also affect how manufacturers describe the composition, maturation and character of blended alcoholic beverages on retail packaging.

The Bombay High Court has scheduled the matter for September 11, 2026, and directed the Maharashtra State Excise Department to expedite its examination of the revised labels. The action comes amid wider regulatory scrutiny of several Indian-made foreign liquor brands over alleged flavouring and labelling violations.

Insurance outreach in Nagaland aims to bring financial protection closer to vulnerable communities

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

Chaired by Kesonyu Yhome, IAS, Finance Commissioner, Government of Nagaland, the meeting brought together IRDAI officials, Tata AIG General Insurance Company Ltd, government departments and insurance companies to discuss ways to improve insurance penetration and narrow



the state's protection gap. Tata AIG is the lead insurer for Nagaland under the SIP.

Yhome pointed to Nagaland's exposure to natural calamities, high seismic activity and landslides, which can create significant financial shocks for households, enterprises and public assets. He called for insur-

ance assessments covering motor, home, MSMEs, assets and other risks, besides exploring Nagaland's inclusion under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

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

and the lead insurer's role in expanding protection.

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

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

Nvidia Chip Price Hike May Raise India's AI Data Centre Costs



New Delhi: The cost of developing artificial intelligence data-centre capacity in India could rise by 8 to 12 per cent if reported price increases for Nvidia's latest AI server systems are passed on to infrastructure operators.

Nvidia has reportedly informed major hyperscalers and original design manufacturers that systems using its Grace Blackwell and next-generation Vera Rubin

platforms could see price increases of more than 15 per cent for shipments beginning in early 2027. Servers typically account for about 50 to 55 per cent of the total investment required to establish an AI data centre, with the remainder going towards power, cooling, land and networking infrastructure.

The increase could have a greater impact on domestic and emerging GPU cloud

providers, which generally have smaller balance sheets and less bargaining power than global technology companies such as Google, Microsoft and Oracle. Higher hardware costs could put pressure on margins and make speculative purchases of GPUs ahead of confirmed demand less attractive.

The development is also expected to accelerate a shift in the AI infrastructure market from simply accumulating GPUs towards improving utilisation rates, software orchestration and workload optimisation. Operators are likely to focus more closely on extracting greater computing capacity from existing hardware as the cost of adding new systems increases.

Higher Nvidia prices could also encourage greater consideration of alternative AI

accelerators from companies such as AMD and Intel, alongside cloud-specific chips including Google's TPUs and Amazon's Trainium and Inferentia. However, Nvidia's established CUDA software ecosystem remains a major competitive advantage, particularly for large-scale AI model training.

Inference workloads could see faster diversification because they are generally easier to migrate across different accelerator platforms than large-scale model training. As AI infrastructure investment expands in India, the combination of higher GPU prices, utilisation efficiency and growing competition among chip suppliers is likely to play an increasingly important role in determining project economics.

RVNL Wins Rs 903-Crore Order for Buxar Thermal Project

New Delhi: Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) has secured a ₹903-crore order, including GST, from SJVN Thermal Private Ltd for railway infrastructure development linked to the 1,320 MW Buxar Thermal Power Project in Bihar.

The contract covers construction of a permanent railway siding and an aerial track connection from the power plant boundary towards Chauasa and Pawani Kamarpur in Buxar district. The work forms Phase III of the project's auxiliary infrastructure development and is scheduled for completion within 36 months.

The railway facilities are expected to support the movement of materials and other operational requirements of the thermal power project. RVNL said the order was received in the normal course of business, is domestic in nature and does not involve any related-party transaction.

The latest award adds to RVNL's growing order pipeline. The company recently emerged as the lowest bidder for a ₹404.88-crore East Coast Railway project involving third-line earthwork, bridges, track linking and electrification between Khurda Road and Gangadharpur.

RVNL is a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, with the Government of India holding about 72.8 per cent of its equity. The new order further strengthens the company's presence in railway construction and infrastructure development while expanding its project execution pipeline.

JD Vance says Iran fight isn't 'war'

Washington: Vice President JD Vance on Thursday rejected the use of the word “war” to describe the US fighting with Iran as he steered clear of predicting that the six-month-old conflict would be over by November’s midterm elections, in which Republicans are trying to hang on to their narrow majorities in Congress.

“I wouldn’t call it a war,” Vance said after being asked during a White House press briefing about whether the fighting could be wrapped up before voters cast their ballots in the November 3 congressional elections. “Right now, there is no active shooting.” Vance’s assertion came even as Iran fired at US Gulf ally Kuwait on Thursday as it continued to retaliate for rounds of US strikes on Iran earlier in the week.

The vice president said the US had a “responsibility” to carry out this week’s strikes because Iran continues the targeting of commercial vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

Vance’s attempt to minimize the intensity of the fighting illuminates the difficult task at hand for Trump and his administration as he tries to persuade American voters to keep Republicans in control of Congress, even as the unpopular conflict — one the White House said at its outset would last a matter of weeks — has driven up gas prices and left consumers grappling with higher inflation. Vance said he didn’t want to set “artificial timelines.”

“But when you ask, ‘When will this end?’ You’re asking me a question like, ‘When will the Iranians stop shooting at ships?’” Vance said. “I think the reality is, I don’t know the answer to that question. You would have to ask the Iranians.”

The administration in July faced scrutiny after it reclassified four fallen soldiers as well



as dozens of wounded troops in its Defence Casualty Analysis System, which Pentagon officials have repeatedly pointed to as the definitive source on the numbers of dead and wounded

from the conflict.

Those killed or wounded in fighting after a brief ceasefire between the US and Iran fell apart were classified in a new category called “Overseas Operations” after initially being tallied in the totals from the war.

WH insists more oil is getting out of Gulf, but prices remain high

Brent crude prices hovered above USD 95 per barrel on Thursday. The international benchmark was around USD 72 per barrel the day before the conflict began.

Still, Trump and his aides have sought to push that the US Navy is in control of the Strait of Hormuz, which accounted for about 20 per cent of the flow of the world’s oil prior to the start of the war. They insist a near pre-war level of Gulf oil is now making its way out of the critical waterway. Vance at Thursday’s press briefing said the US escort-

ed about 15 million barrels of oil on Wednesday. This is after Energy Secretary Chris Wright told CNBC on Wednesday that 17 million barrels were carried through the strait on Monday with assistance from the US Navy. About 20 million barrels of Gulf oil flowed through the strait prior to the start of the war.

But ship traffic through the strait remains well below pre-war levels, according to independent firms that track marine traffic.

There were 102 transits last week and 126 the week before, according to shipping data company Lloyd’s List Intelligence, compared with 130 or more per day before the war.

Over the past 28 days, 5 million barrels a day have exited the strait on average, according to TankerTrackers.com. Other recent estimates have varied from 2 million barrels per day to 6 million barrels per day.

At least 90 killed as govt-Houthi fighting escalates in Western Yemen



Aden (Yemen): At least 40 Yemeni government soldiers and 50 Houthi fighters have been killed in fierce fighting across the country’s western frontlines since Thursday, medical officials told Xinhua news agency on Friday.

A medical official on the Red Sea coastal front in Hodeidah province said 14 government soldiers have been killed in fighting there since the Houthis launched a large-scale offensive early Friday. Separately, another medical official on the front in the neighbouring Taiz province said 26 government soldiers have been killed in clashes that began Thursday and continued into Friday.

Meanwhile, medical sources in Houthi-controlled areas said hospitals in Hodeidah have received the bodies of at least 50

Houthi fighters killed on the Hodeidah and Taiz fronts, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The escalation intensified on Friday as both sides sent more troops, armoured vehicles and equipment to the two fronts, according to military sources.

The latest escalation marks some of the heaviest ground fighting in western Yemen in recent years, raising concerns of a broader return to large-scale hostilities after years of relative calm across many of the country’s frontlines.

On Monday, Yemeni government forces said they had intercepted four explosive-laden boats operated by the Houthi group as they attempted to approach government-held islands near international shipping lanes in the Red Sea.

The state-run Saba news

Black-clad Dover vigilantes will return if police do not act, say campaigners

UK: The group of masked, black-clad vigilantes who blockaded roads in Dover could repeat the disruption unless police step up efforts to stop them, politicians and campaigners have said.

Responsibility for the demonstration has been claimed by Patriot Platform, an anti-immigration group with links to the far right, which styles itself as having a “fierce love for our homeland”.

The campaign group Hope Not Hate, which has been monitoring Patriot Platform, said that despite its founder, Daniel Thomas, nicknamed Danny Tommo, posting on social media about his plans to cause disruption, the authorities had “failed to act”.

Thomas, a far-right social media influencer who was Tommy Robinson’s bodyguard, was able to mobilise a large group for the demonstration on Saturday. Hope Not Hate’s founder, Nick Lowles, said that this was “clearly the consequence of the inaction from the police”.

He added: “We fear that without decisive action things will only get worse from here.”

Thomas posted that Saturday’s gathering had been the group’s “warning”, suggesting it could be the first step in a wider plan. On Instagram, he wrote that he was switching off for a few weeks as he was “mentally exhausted”, but that he would subsequently resume “updated meetings and vetting”.

“A message was sent! Now imagine how powerful the next message will be,” he wrote.

Mike Tapp, the Labour



MP for Dover and Deal, shared his concerns about the need for greater police support “when Dover is targeted again” in a piece for the Mirror. He suggested that he would like additional officers, including mutual aid from forces such as the Met, available to be mobilised quickly.

He wrote: “The Port of Dover is not just another road junction. It is critical national infrastructure. “Wilfully obstructing a highway can be a criminal offence. New legislation also means police can designate protest areas where concealing your identity with a balaclava or other face covering becomes an offence.”

Tapp posted on X that Kent police appeared to have had “little advance warning”, and questioned whether intelligence had been missed. “I will be asking why,” he wrote.

“A clearly coordinated protest is not ‘spontaneous’ as described by police. We can and must do better.”

Jonathan Reynolds, the business secretary, said that although peaceful protest was an “essential part of British life”, this differed from “dressing up in costumes like this and disrupting people’s lives”.

He told the Sky News Sunday Morning programme: “I would condemn it, but I’d condemn the disruption it caused for local people as well. Clearly, that’s not something we would want or expect to see on the [streets] of Britain.”

When pressed on the apparent unpreparedness of the police, he said that “on the whole, the police handled it very well”.

Kent police engaged with the protest on Saturday, which the Port of Dover described as a “public order incident”. Protesters had

dispersed by lunchtime, and no arrests were made during the incident.

Social media videos showed a large number of demonstrators linking arms in a blockade across the A20, chanting “stop the boats” and “England till I die”. The police did not give an official estimate of the number of people involved.

The Patriot Platform was formed in June from smaller localised anti-migrant groups, and describes itself as an “army of patriots” that believes “Britain belongs to the British”. Before the demonstration on Saturday, it had held several recruitment days across England.

The group has been built up through Thomas’s social media following, with his content containing false or unevidenced claims, such as that Birmingham city council has banned English flags, as well as unsourced statistics claiming that rape has

ballooned in the UK relative to other European countries. Hope Not Hate has previously revealed the violent history of key members of the group, including records of violence against women. Thomas also has multiple criminal convictions.

In late 2025 and early 2026, he collaborated with Raise the Colours – the flag campaign group that put up hundreds of union and St George flags across England in 2025 – to run a series of trips to Calais in which he filmed asylum seekers and hounded the charity workers assisting them, resulting in a ban from France.

He has since targeted migrants arriving by small boat along the English south coast, and was banned from Dover, Ramsgate and Folkestone in August.

Reform UK’s Robert Jenrick said that although he understood that people were “extremely frustrated” by the small boats crisis, he has “always hated people obstructing other people doing their daily life”.

He told the Sky News Sunday Morning programme: “I don’t like people going around in balaclavas, which is obviously very intimidating. In fact, our party’s policy is to ban face coverings like that.”

“The police should take whatever action they can to stop this happening again.”

Kent police declined to comment. A government spokesperson said: “The right to peaceful protest is fundamental to our democracy, but we condemn the behaviour in Dover and the travel disruption it has caused.”

14 Vehicles of Construction Company Destroyed in Blasts

Islamabad: Armed men blew up and destroyed 14 vehicles belonging to a construction company in Balochistan, Pakistan. No organisation has so far claimed responsibility for the incident.

The vehicles included eight dump trucks, two loaders, one excavator, one trailer, one bitumen distributor and one water bowser. The incident took place at the same location where armed men had earlier attacked Pakistani Army personnel and a deputy commissioner’s team. According to a report by The Balochistan Post, no organisation has so far claimed responsibility for the attack on the construction company’s vehicles. However, the Baloch Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for the attack on Pakistani Army personnel at Ziarat Cross, saying that 18 soldiers were killed in



the assault. The Balochistan Liberation Army’s official channel, HUKAL, also released a one-minute-and-11-second video of the Ziarat Cross attack on Thursday.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the All Parties Kech said in a statement that all roads in Turbat have remained closed for the past four days due to the presence of some unidentified YouTubers and visits by various organisations. The statement alleged that the YouTubers behaved badly with journalists during their visit to the

Turbat Press Club. It further alleged that during their visit to the Teaching Hospital, the YouTubers’ security personnel insulted doctors and assaulted paramedical staff.

It is worth mentioning that a security high alert has been imposed in Turbat city of Balochistan to protect YouTubers brought in from different cities of Pakistan, particularly Islamabad and Lahore. The security arrangements have caused difficulties for local residents in carrying out their daily activities.

America: Resolution sponsored by Togo receives support from 164 member states; US votes against, six countries abstain

Equal Earth projection shows Africa at its actual relative size, about 14 times larger than Greenland

New York, 05 September (H.S.): The United Nations General Assembly on Friday endorsed a new world map that represents Africa more accurately in proportion to its actual size, marking a major development in a campaign led by African countries and advocacy groups.

The resolution, sponsored by

Togo and backed by members of the African Union, was adopted with 164 member states voting in favour. The United States voted against the resolution, while Serbia, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova and Ukraine abstained. The resolution encourages governments and institutions around the world to consider replacing the traditional Mercator projection, which has been widely used since the 16th century, with the Equal Earth projection. The newer map is designed to represent continents more accurately in terms of their relative size.

Under the Mercator projection, Greenland and Africa appear to be roughly similar in size. In the Equal Earth projection, which presents continents in their true proportions, Africa is shown to be about 14 times larger than Greenland. The UN resolution does not ban the Mercator projection or make the Equal Earth projection mandatory. Instead, it encourages governments, educational institutions and other organisations to consider using maps that provide a more accurate representation of the relative size of continents. “Maps shape our un-

derstanding of the world,” Togo’s Foreign Minister Robert Dussey said ahead of the vote, according to the UN. He noted that maps influence education, imagination and collective perceptions.

Africa No Filter, one of the leading groups behind the campaign, welcomed the adoption of the resolution and called for accurate maps to be used in schools, textbooks, newsrooms, businesses and digital platforms. Several countries also welcomed the decision and urged wider adoption of the Equal Earth projection. French Foreign

Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said that changing the map would not change the world, but correcting a representation that distorts it was “already an act of truth”.

The Mercator projection was developed by Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator primarily to assist European navigators at sea. While the projection is useful for navigation, critics and geographers have pointed out that it enlarges areas closer to the poles, including Greenland and North America, while making Africa and South America appear relatively smaller.

Seven handbags that every woman ought to own

A handbag serves more than merely as a storage space for your phone, wallet, and the emergency lip balm that has inexplicably remained in your possession for three years. It has the potential to transform the appearance of an outfit and, crucially, enhance its functionality. The right handbag can take you from a morning commute to a coffee date, from a work meeting to dinner, and from a weekend of errands to an evening event without making you wonder where you are supposed to put your sunglasses. But you do not need a wardrobe-sized handbag collection to cover every occasion. A well-rounded rotation of a few versatile silhouettes can do most of the work. The trick is knowing which styles serve different purposes.

From the roomy tote that survives your workday to the tiny clutch that carries exactly three things and somehow still feels essential, here are seven handbag styles every woman should consider owning.

1. Tote bag: your everyday overachiever

If there is one handbag style that deserves a permanent place in your wardrobe, it is the tote. Roomy, practical and easy to carry, a tote is the bag you reach for when you know you are going to leave home with considerably more things than you planned. Laptop? Yes. Water bottle? Probably. Sunglasses, makeup pouch, notebook and approximately seventeen receipts? Somehow, yes.

For work and everyday use, look for a tote with a structured shape, comfortable handles and enough internal space to keep your essentials organised. A neutral shade such as black, tan, brown or beige can also make it easier to pair with different outfits.

A tote works particularly well with office separates, jeans-and-shirt combinations, dresses and relaxed weekend outfits.

Best for: Work, shopping, commuting, travel and everyday use.

2. Crossbody bag: hands-free and hassle-free

The crossbody is the handbag equivalent of having your life together. It leaves both hands free, sits comfortably across the body and is particularly useful when you are out shopping, travelling, commuting or simply do not want to keep clutching a bag under your arm.

Choose a medium-sized design for maximum versatility. It should comfortably fit your phone, wallet, keys, sunglasses and a few small essentials without becoming so large that it starts competing with your outfit. For casual dressing, a crossbody works effortlessly with denim, dresses, skirts and co-ords. For a more polished look, choose a structured version and pair it with tailored clothing. Best for: Everyday outings, travel, shopping, casual dates and weekends.- 3. Clutch: the little bag for big occasions

The clutch has one job: make an outfit feel ready for an occasion. It is not designed to carry your entire life. In fact, the charm of a clutch is that it forces you to edit. Phone, cards, keys, lipstick, and that is about it. A classic black clutch is the obvious starting point, but metallics, jewel tones and embellished styles can be more interesting when you are dressing for weddings, parties or festive occasions.



For Indian wardrobes especially, a clutch can work beautifully with saris, lehengas, anarkalis and occasion dresses. Choose one with enough room for your essentials rather than buying a beautiful bag that can accommodate exactly one lipstick. Best for: Weddings, parties, dinners, festive occasions and evening events.- 4. Hobo bag: relaxed without looking careless

The hobo bag is for days when you want something softer and less structured than a traditional handbag.

Usually characterised by its curved or slouchy silhouette and single shoulder strap, a hobo adds a relaxed element to an outfit without looking like you simply grabbed whichever bag was closest to the door. It works particularly well with casual and smart-casual wardrobes. Think wide-leg trousers, oversized shirts, maxi dresses, jeans and relaxed tailoring. A medium-sized hobo in leather or a leather-look finish can also become a surprisingly versatile everyday option if you prefer

shoulder bags to crossbody styles. Best for: Casual days, brunches, shopping and smart-casual dressing.- 5. Laptop bag: because your work bag should do more than look good

A laptop bag may not be the most exciting handbag in your wardrobe, but it is one of the most useful. If you commute to work with a laptop, tablet, notebook, charger and other essentials, a dedicated laptop bag can save you from squeezing everything into a regular handbag that was never designed for the job.

Look for adequate padding, secure compartments, sturdy handles and enough room for your charger and everyday essentials. A detachable shoulder strap can make commuting easier, while a clean, structured design can keep the bag looking professional.

Black, brown, navy and tan are safe choices if you want one that works with most office outfits. And no, your laptop should not have to fight your water bottle for survival inside your handbag.

Best for: Office commutes, business meetings, work trips and professional settings.

6. Satchel bag: polished enough for work, versatile enough for weekends

A satchel sits somewhere between a structured handbag and an everyday carryall, which is precisely why it is so useful. Its defined shape gives an outfit a polished finish, while the handles and often-included shoulder strap make it practical enough for regular use. A medium-sized satchel is particularly good for workdays when you need more space than a crossbody but do not want the size of a tote. It can also transition easily into after-work plans. Pair a structured satchel with trousers and a shirt for the office, or use it to add a polished touch to jeans and a simple top. Best for: Office wear, meetings, lunches, smart-casual outfits and everyday use.- 7. Shoulder bag: the wardrobe classic that keeps coming back

The shoulder bag earns its place because it is one of those silhouettes that can work across decades, trends and dress codes. Unlike a crossbody, it sits directly on the shoulder, giving it a slightly more polished and fashion-forward appearance. Depending on the shape, it can look casual with jeans or elevated with a dress or tailored outfit. For maximum versatility, choose a medium-sized shoulder bag with enough room for your daily essentials. A simple silhouette is likely to stay relevant for longer than an extremely trend-led design. If your wardrobe leans towards minimal dressing, a clean shoulder bag can also become the accessory that pulls the entire outfit together. Best for: Everyday dressing, lunches, dates, shopping and evenings out.

Which Hair Mask Is Better for Smooth Hair: Egg or Fenugreek



Fenugreek and eggs are used at home to treat hair, since there are a number of benefits. But if you want glossy, smooth hair, which

one should you use? Fenugreek hair mask: Many phytochemicals are found in fenugreek seeds. For a very long time, fenugreek has been used in hair treatment. The seeds become slippery and jelly-like after being soaked in water for the entire nite. The seeds are ground with them to create a mask. And because of this characteristic, a fenugreek-based mixture can function as a natural hair conditioner. Your hair becomes comparatively soft, smooth, and simple to comb after using a fenugreek hair mask and washing your head. The cuticle, or exterior layer of hair, reflects light more uniformly the smoother it is. The hair appears shinier as a result. Egg hair mask: Amino acids and protein are abundant in eggs. For this reason, a variety of hair care treatments contain protein. They contain vitamins A, D, and E, as well as biotin, which strengthens and brightens hair. However, putting raw eggs directly to the hair does not provide the same nutrients that the body receives from eating eggs. There is no proof that applying a raw egg mask will restore damaged hair structure. Fenugreek is a preferable option if the primary objective is to make the hair appear smooth, silky, and shiny because soaked fenugreek's slippery qualities give the hair a smooth, glossy coating.

Are You Making These Exfoliation Errors

The high humidity during the monsoon season, along with sweat and sticky skin, can lead to an oily and congested feeling on the face. This often encourages individuals to exfoliate more frequently in an attempt to eliminate dirt, manage oil levels, and avert breakouts. Nevertheless, over-exfoliating or using improper techniques can irritate the skin and compromise its protective barrier.

The skin barrier forms the outermost layer of the skin. It helps retain moisture while protecting the body from irritants and environmental damage. Exfoliating incorrectly can cause redness, irritation and even acne flare-ups. Here are some common exfoliation mistakes to avoid during the rainy season.

1. Scrubbing Every Day: Oily or sweaty skin does not necessarily need daily exfoliation. Using a scrub too frequently can remove more than dead skin cells, leaving the face dry, sensitive and inflamed. There is no single exfoliation schedule suitable for everyone. The right frequency depends on your skin type, the product and its strength. As a general rule, stronger exfoliation should be done less frequently. Beginners can start once a week and observe how their skin responds before making it a daily habit.
2. Using Harsh, Grainy Scrubs: Scrubs containing large or rough particles can be abrasive, particularly when pressed firmly into the skin. Vigorous rubbing may irritate and aggravate acne or other existing skin conditions. If you use a physical exfoliant, massage it gently in small circular motions for about 30 seconds and rinse with lukewarm water. Avoid using hot water, rough brushes or excessive pressure. Those with dry, sensitive or acne-prone skin may find a mild chemical exfoliant or a soft washcloth less irritating than a gritty facial scrub. However, the choice

must be based on individual skin tolerance.

3. Mixing Too Many Active Ingredients: Layering an exfoliating acid with retinol, prescription retinoids, or benzoyl peroxide can be too harsh for some people. Combining several active products in the same routine may increase peeling, dryness and irritation. Read ingredient labels before adding another exfoliator to your routine. If you already use prescription acne treatment or retinoids, consult a dermatologist before introducing exfoliating acids.
4. Using Both Physical And Chemical Exfoliation Together: A facial scrub followed by an alpha-hydroxy acid (AHA) or beta-hydroxy acid (BHA) toner may feel like a deep-cleaning routine, but it can amount to double exfoliation. Using multiple exfoliating methods at once may increase the risk of redness and sensitivity. Introduce only one exfoliant at a time so you can monitor how your skin reacts.
5. Exfoliating Active Acne, Cuts Or Sunburn: Trying to scrub away pimples can worsen inflammation and irritate already vulnerable skin. Exfoliation should also be avoided over open cuts, wounds or sunburned areas. People with rosacea should be especially cautious. The AAD advises those with the condition to avoid rubbing, massaging and exfoliating irritated skin.
6. Skipping Moisturiser Afterwards: One of the most common yet overlooked missteps in a skincare routine is skipping the moisturiser immediately after exfoliating, a habit mistakenly justified by humid weather conditions. Even when the air feels heavy and damp, the physical or chemical process of exfoliation strips away the outermost layer of dead cells, temporarily compromising the skin barrier and leaving it vulnerable to moisture loss and irritation. To counteract this,



it is essential to follow up with a gentle, hydrating moisturiser that actively replenishes lost water and reinforces your skin's natural protective shield. If rich, heavy creams feel suffocating or uncomfortable in sticky, damp weather, you do not need to abandon moisturising altogether; instead, simply pivot to a lightweight, non-comedogenic lotion or gel-based formula that delivers the necessary hydration without clogging pores or feeling greasy, ensuring your skin remains balanced, supple, and resilient.

7. Skipping Sunscreen On Cloudy Days: Cloud cover does not eliminate exposure to ultraviolet radiation. Some exfoliating ingredients, particularly AHAs such as glycolic and lactic acid, can also make the skin more sensitive to sunlight. Dermatologists advise using AHA products to apply sunscreen, wear protective clothing and limit sun exposure while using them and for a week afterwards. Choose an exfoliant suited to your skin type and begin slowly. Do not use it more often simply because your face feels greasy. Apply it gently, moisturise afterwards and use broad-spectrum sunscreen during the day. Most importantly, exfoliation is optional rather than an essential daily skincare step. If your skin is sensitive, inflamed or already comfortable with a basic routine, you may not need to exfoliate at all.

It's time to buy these concealers if you think it will be difficult to hide dark circles

Concealers have recently become my closest ally. My lack of sleep, busy work commitments, prolonged screen exposure, UV radiation, aging, and thinning skin have all contributed to the appearance of puffy and baggy under-eyes. Although I am actively working to enhance my lifestyle, I am currently concealing them with the help of concealer. A concealer should not feel heavy or settle into every fine line under the eyes. Instead, it should offer enough coverage to brighten and even out the appearance of dark circles while still looking natural and comfortable. Depending on your preference, you may want a lightweight formula for everyday makeup, a hydrating concealer for dry under-eyes or a full-coverage option for those days when your dark circles need a little extra help. With the right formula, shade and application technique, concealer can instantly make your eyes look brighter, fresher and more awake. From creamy formulas that blend seamlessly into the skin to high-coverage picks that help camouflage stubborn pigmentation, there are plenty of options worth adding to your makeup kit. After trying several of them, I have selected 6 of the top concealers that have worked wonders on my dark circles. How to pick the right concealer

Choosing the right concealer is not just about finding your skin shade. The finish, coverage, undertone and formula all matter. Here's what to consider before adding one to your makeup bag:

- Identify what you want to conceal

For dark circles, look for a concealer with good coverage and a brightening effect. For blemishes and pigmentation, choose a formula that matches your skin tone closely.

- Choose the right shade

For covering spots, pick a shade that closely matches your foundation or natural skin tone. For under-eye brightening, choose a concealer one shade lighter than your complexion. Consider your undertone

Your undertone can be warm, cool or neutral. A concealer with a compatible undertone will blend more naturally and prevent your makeup from looking grey or orange.

Dry skin generally benefits from creamy, hydrating formulas, while oily skin may prefer lightweight, long-wearing or matte formulas. If you have combination skin, a buildable formula offers more flexibility.

- 6 concealers worth trying

1. Maybelline New York Instant Age Rewind Concealer: Maybelline New York Instant Age Rewind Concealer is a multi-tasking makeup essential designed to conceal dark circles, blemishes and signs of fatigue while giving the under-eye area a smoother, more refreshed look. Its lightweight



formula blends easily without feeling heavy or cakey, making it suitable for everyday makeup. The built-in applicator makes application quick and convenient. Use it alone for a natural finish or pair it with foundation for a more polished base. It is a handy pick for effortless, bright-looking under-eyes.- 2. Swiss Beauty Liquid Light Weight Concealer With Full Coverage: Swiss Beauty Liquid Lightweight Concealer is an easy-to-use makeup essential for creating an even-looking complexion without a heavy, layered feel. Its liquid texture blends smoothly into the skin and can be used to conceal dark circles, blemishes, pigmentation and minor imperfections. The buildable coverage makes it suitable for both everyday and occasion makeup. Dab it under the eyes, around the nose or over spots and blend with a sponge, brush or fingertips. Its lightweight finish makes it a versatile addition to your everyday makeup routine.
- 3. Lakme Powerplay Priming Concealer Built in Primer: Lakme Powerplay Priming Concealer combines the coverage of a concealer with the smoothing effect of a primer, making it a convenient choice for creating a polished makeup base. Its creamy texture helps conceal dark circles, blemishes and uneven-looking areas while blending seamlessly into the skin. The formula can be layered where additional coverage is needed without making your base look overly heavy. Apply it under the eyes or on targeted areas before blending. It works well for everyday makeup as well as more defined, occasion-ready looks.
- 4. House Of Makeup Peach Colour Corrector For Face Makeup: House Of Makeup Peach Colour Corrector is a handy complexion-perfecting essential designed to neutralise the appearance of dark circles, pigmentation and other areas of uneven tone.

The peach shade works particularly well for counteracting bluish or purple undertones, helping create a more even canvas before concealer and foundation. Its targeted application makes it easy to use only where correction is needed. Apply a small amount to pigmented areas, blend gently and follow with your concealer. It is especially useful when you want a smoother, brighter-looking makeup base.- 5. L.A Girl- HD Pro Conceal - Cool Pink Corrector: L.A. Girl HD Pro Conceal is a popular makeup staple for concealing imperfections and creating a more even-looking complexion. Its creamy texture blends easily and offers buildable coverage, making it suitable for dark circles, blemishes, redness and pigmentation. The concealer can also be used for highlighting and subtle contouring, depending on the shade. Its convenient applicator allows precise application to targeted areas. Blend with a makeup sponge, brush or fingertips for a seamless finish. Whether you prefer natural everyday makeup or a more defined base, this concealer is versatile.
- 6. 16HR Camo Concealer, Full Coverage, Highly Pigmented Concealer Liquid With Matte Finish: 16HR Camo Concealer is designed for high-coverage makeup that stays put for extended wear. Its creamy, full-coverage formula helps conceal dark circles, blemishes, discolouration and other visible imperfections while creating a smooth-looking complexion. The formula is suitable for targeted coverage and can also be used to define and highlight facial features. Apply a small amount and blend quickly before adding more where required. It is a useful choice for long days, special occasions and makeup looks where you want your concealer to provide noticeable coverage.

ENTERTAINMENT

Mammootty marks 75th birthday with title and first look launch of mela

Mammootty Kampany revisits the title of K.G. George’s 1980 classic

Thiruvananthapuram : Mammootty has given his fans a special birthday surprise with the title and first look of his upcoming film with Nithish Sahadev. Unveiled at midnight on September 7, coinciding with the superstar’s 75th birthday, the film has been titled Mela. The project marks the ninth production venture from Mammootty Kampany and promises to bring together the veteran actor’s star power with the young filmmaker’s knack for rooted, crowd-pleasing entertainers.

The first look presents Mammootty in a striking mass av-

atar. Dressed in a black shirt and black mundu and wielding a machete, the actor cuts an imposing figure in the poster. The film is being billed as a massive mass action-comedy entertainer, suggesting a blend of high-energy action and the humour that has been central to Nithish Sahadev’s work. Interestingly, Mela is not a new title in Mammootty’s filmography. The actor previously appeared in K.G. George’s 1980 film of the same name, where he played a supporting role as a motorcycle stunt performer associated with a circus. Reghu played the principal character in that

film. The new project, however, has no connection to the earlier Mela. It is being styled as Mammoottyude Mela, or Mammootty’s Mela, to distinguish the two.

Directed by Nithish Sahadev, the upcoming film marks the filmmaker’s return to Malayalam cinema after his successful Tamil outing Thalaivar Thambi Thalaimaiyil, popularly known as TTT. Nithish made his directorial debut with Falimiy, starring Basil Joseph, which emerged as a solid performer at the box office and earned appreciation for its blend of humour, family dynamics and



emotional warmth. Falimiy reportedly grossed around ₹15 crore worldwide on a relatively modest budget. Its

success established Nithish as a filmmaker capable of making commercially viable entertainers without relying on

extravagant production scales. His second film, Thalaivar Thambi Thalaimaiyil, starring Jiiva, took that reputation further. Made on a reported budget of around ₹10 crore, the Tamil film went on to gross approximately ₹40 crore worldwide. Despite being a Tamil-language film, it was widely noted for its grounded storytelling and natural humour, with its sensibility often being described as distinctly “Malayalam-esque”. The film also proved to be an important comeback vehicle for Jiiva.

Mela brings Nithish back to Malayalam cinema with one of its biggest stars, and the

combination is already generating considerable curiosity. The screenplay has been penned by Nithish and Anuraj O.B., who also collaborated on Thalaivar Thambi Thalaimaiyil. Their reunion should make for an interesting combination, particularly given the grounded comic sensibility they brought to their previous film. The technical crew includes Vishnu Vijay as the composer and Jimshi Khalid as the cinematographer. Vijay, known for his work on films including Bethlehem Kudumba Unit, and Khalid, whose credits include Thallumaala, add further interest to the project’s sound

and visual language. Mammootty Kampany is producing the film, while Dulquer Salmaan’s Wayfarer Films will handle its distribution. Filming for Mela commenced in late July and is currently progressing. With Mammootty stepping into another potentially crowd-friendly role and Nithish Sahadev coming off two commercially successful outings, the film arrives with an intriguing combination of star power, humour and mass appeal. For Mammootty, meanwhile, Mela becomes another exciting addition to an already packed slate as he enters his 75th year.

Anupam Kher’s Jaane pehchaane anjaane sells out Houston show

Mumbai : Actor Anupam Kher’s new Hindi play “Jaane Pehchaane Anjaane” opened its North American tour September 5 to a sold-out show and standing ovation at the Stafford Centre here, kicking off a multi-city Texas run that continued through Austin on Sunday and hits Dallas on Monday.

Written and directed by Gajendra Ahire, the musical comedy-drama explores loneliness, companionship, and emotional distance in modern relationships. It marks co-star Swaroop Sampat’s return to the stage after nearly two decades, alongside an ensemble cast including Meghna Malik, Maya Sharma, Vikas Rawat, Shrad-



dha Mandale, and Herman D’Souza.

Describing the Houston launch as an “outstanding” start, Kher said live stage performances offer an immediate test of a story’s impact. “There is no retake and nowhere to hide on stage. You know immediately whether the story has reached people,” Kher said after the show. “What made me hap-

piest was that the audience laughed at the right places, grew quiet at the right places, and stayed with us through the emotional parts.”

Sampat said returning to theatre alongside Kher felt like “coming home,” noting that the story’s themes connect across generations. “The story is very human. It is about people, their loneliness, and the things they

don’t always say to each other. Performing it here and seeing the audience respond so openly was very satisfying. There were moments of complete silence in the auditorium, followed by thunderous applause,” she said. National promoter Rajender Singh said the opening night turnout set a strong tone for the entire tour.

The tour next moves to Dallas, Vancouver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, and Toronto, before covering the US East Coast and Midwest through October. Kher’s upcoming film slate includes “Khosla Ka Ghosla 2”, Nitesh Tiwari’s “Ramayana”, and the Telugu feature “Fauzi”.

Diljit Dosanjh asks fan to respect 'Ik Onkar' symbol at Italy show

Agency : Diljit Dosanjh is winning praise online after a moment from his Milan concert went viral. During the show in Italy on Saturday, a fan joined the singer on stage wearing a specially made T-shirt featuring Diljit’s name alongside the sacred Sikh symbol and phrase ‘Ik Onkar’. Diljit noticed it and politely asked the fan not to place his name next to it, explaining the significance it holds.

Instead of reprimanding the fan, Diljit acknowledged the gesture behind the T-shirt and told the audience that he may simply not have known. A video capturing their interaction has since circulated widely on social media. The moment



unfolded when the fan came on stage during Diljit’s concert in Milan. Looking at his T-shirt, the singer pointed towards the ‘Ik Onkar’ symbol and gently explained why his own name should not appear alongside it. “My name with this, no. This is very precious. I respect your feelings,” Diljit told him.

The singer then brought

the fan towards the centre of the stage. Addressing the crowd, Diljit asked them to forgive him, explaining that the man may not have been aware of the religious significance behind what he had printed on his shirt. The interaction drew attention precisely because Diljit corrected the fan without dismissing the affection behind his gesture.

Salman Khan consoles Isha over Badshah

Mumbai : Isha Rikki opened up about her separation from Badshah during the Bigg Boss 20 premiere on Sunday, September 6. The Punjabi actress, who recently announced her divorce from the rapper, claimed that she decided to take the step because her ‘trust was broken’. She broke down while talking about what happened between her and Badshah and mentioned that the experienced changed her.

“I tried really hard because I wanted to get married and settle down. But some experiences change you. I think when your trust is broken in certain relationships, you reach a stage where you start wondering where you went wrong. But whatever I faced, I don’t want to talk about it. I didn’t even realise when I became a side character in my own story. But I don’t have any regrets,” Isha said. “I am coming to Bigg Boss so that I can step out of that shadow and create my own identity. People should get to know the real Isha, and I want to win the show,” she added. Later, during her conversation with the host, Salman Khan, the Bollywood superstar also asked her to move on. “Sabke breakup hote hain yaar, dekho aapke saamne kaun khada hai. Nobody should get credit of hurting you. The other person has moved on long time ago,” he said. For the unversed, Isha’s Bigg Boss 20 entry comes just days after she confirmed her separation from Badshah. On September 1, the couple, who were reportedly married for five months, issued a joint statement to confirm that they have parted ways.

Anil Kapoor expresses pride as Nayak hits 25-year milestone

Mumbai : Bollywood superstar Anil Kapoor celebrated 25 years of his blockbuster hit Nayak: The Real Hero on Monday.

Anil opened up about what drew him to the iconic character of Shivaji Rao, saying it was not merely the journey of a common man becoming Chief Minister but what he chose to do after getting the power to make a difference. Anil took to his social media to mark 25 years of the film and shared a mix of powerful scenes from the movie.

He wrote, “25 years of Nayak. What drew me to Shivaji Rao was never just the journey from a common man to the Chief Minister. It was what he chose to do once he got there, to use the power he had to make a difference to the people,” he wrote. He added, “To

portray a role with that kind of purpose was a privilege and perhaps that is why Nayak continues to find its way back to people even after 25 years. The love for your country, and the desire to do better for its people will never be irrelevant, and I will always be proud to have been a part of such a story,” he wrote.

Talking about the movie, released in 2001, Nayak was directed by S. Shankar and featured Anil Kapoor as television journalist Shivaji Rao, who finds himself taking charge as the Chief Minister for 24 hours after challenging the state’s political leadership. The film also starred Rani Mukerji, the late Amrish Puri, Paresh Rawal, Johnny Lever and Saurabh Shukla. It was a Hindi remake of Shankar’s Tamil film Mudhalvan. The movie’s songs

like Rukhi Sukhi Roti, Nayak and others went on to become superhits. The film’s central idea that revolved around an ordinary man being given an extraordinary opportunity to change the system, struck a chord with the audiences.

Shivaji, initially a television reporter, questions Chief Minister Balraj Chauhan, played by Amrish Puri, over corruption and administrative failures in an interview. An irked Chauhan challenges him to run the state for a day. Shivaji accepts it and attempts to bring about sweeping changes, much to the shock of politicians and happiness of the citizens. Reportedly, Anil was not the first choice for Shivaji Rao. Director Shankar had initially approached Aamir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan before the role eventually came to Anil.

Many Many Happy Returns: Ahammed Khabeer’s next teaser released

Kochi : The teaser of Many Many Happy Returns, the upcoming Malayalam film starring Kalidas Jayaram, has been unveiled by the makers, offering a glimpse into a tender romance and a young man’s idealistic notions about love. Directed by Ahammed Khabeer, the filmmaker behind Kerala Crime Files and Madhuram, the film brings together a promising cast for what appears to be an emotionally driven romantic drama.

A father-son conversation about love sets the tone for the teaser, with Lal and Kalidas Jayaram sharing the screen. Their exchange introduces Kalidas’ character as someone who has spent considerable time imagining what love should look



like. He appears to have built an elaborate fantasy around romance, complete with dreams of the perfect relationship and the person with whom he hopes to share his life. That idealised vision of love soon takes a more tangible form when Lakshmi Jyothish enters the picture. The teaser features a montage capturing

the growing attraction and courtship between their characters, suggesting that the film will explore the excitement, uncertainty and emotional complexities that accompany falling in love. While the teaser keeps much of the story under wraps, its intimate moments indicate that the relationship between the two characters

will remain at the heart of the narrative.

With Kalidas Jayaram leading the film, Many Many Happy Returns marks another interesting addition to the actor’s growing body of work in Malayalam cinema. The teaser places his character firmly at its centre, moving between his romantic aspirations and the reality of finding someone who might fit into the life he has imagined. The supporting cast features Boban Alum-moodan, Sanju Sanichen, Sosamma Jacob and Renjit Shekar, among others. Their presence adds to the ensemble nature of the film, although the teaser primarily focuses on Kalidas and Lakshmi Jyothish and the relationship that develops between their characters.

Preity Zinta’s mysterious t-shirt choice leaves Mumbai fans guessing



Mumbai : Preity Zinta turned a routine Mumbai outing into a talking point after she was spotted wearing a black T-shirt bearing the words “Team Tukaram Mundhe.” The actress kept her appearance casual, but the name printed across her tee quickly caught attention, particularly at a time when Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe has been in the news over his food-safety drive. The

sighting also comes while Preity is promoting her upcoming film Vibe.

For her outing, Preity paired the black statement T-shirt with blue jeans and white sports shoes. She completed the look with a sleek watch and left her hair open. Her makeup was similarly minimal, with defined eyeliner, a natural base, rosy cheeks and subtle lip colour. But despite the understated styling, it was the message on her T-shirt that stood out.

The words “Team Tukaram Mundhe” referred to the Maharashtra FDA Commissioner, whose recent inspections and enforcement actions against food establishments have brought him considerable attention in Mumbai. Preity did not accompany the outfit with a public statement explaining her choice. However, her appearance in the T-shirt has drawn curiosity around Mundhe and his ongoing work.

Tukaram Mundhe currently serves as the Commissioner of Maharashtra’s Food and Drug Administration. The department is responsible for regulating food, medicines and cosmetics in the state and ensuring that establishments comply with applicable safety requirements. Mundhe has recently been at the centre of Mumbai’s

food-safety conversation following inspections of restaurants and other food businesses.

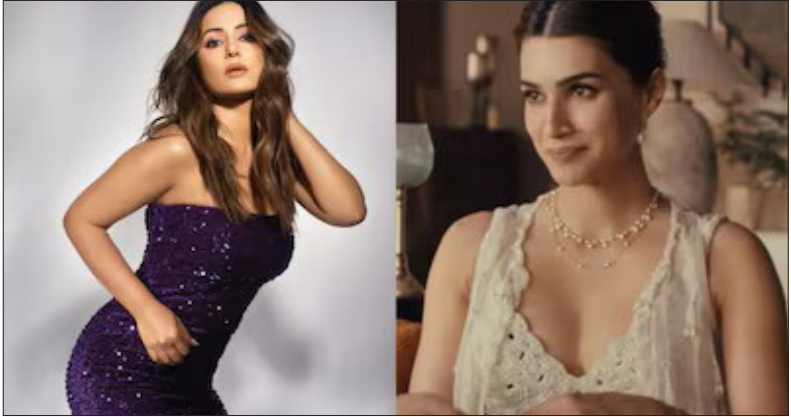
The enforcement drive has looked into multiple areas of food safety and sanitation. Issues flagged during inspections have included hygiene lapses, pest infestations, improper storage of food and inadequate sanitation. Preity is not the first Bollywood personality to bring up Mundhe amid the FDA’s recent actions. Twinkle Khanna previously referred to the food-safety drive in her Mrs Funnybones column, approaching the subject with her characteristic humour. Salman Khan has also mentioned Mundhe. The actor referenced the FDA Commissioner while jokingly warning a friend’s café in Mumbai about maintaining proper standards.

Hina Khan reacts to Kriti Sanon's Raksha Bandhan ad controversy

Mumbai : Hina Khan has said that actors can choose to walk away from a brand project if they feel its creative approach could lead to a backlash. The actor was reacting to the backlash faced by Kriti Sanon over her Raksha Bandhan advertisement for jewellery brand GIVA on her talk show The4POV.

The advertisement was pulled down from social media after Kriti faced criticism from some netizens over her outfit. Hina, while speaking to husband Rocky Jaiswal and actors Rubina Dilaik and Abhinav Shukla, said actors should consider the possible consequences before agreeing to a project. Hina explained that brands can sometimes be firm about how they want their advertisements to look, but actors still have the choice to refuse. She said, “Sometimes, some brands are very adamant on a certain sort of their creative. They want to do it their way. As an actor, you always have the option of opting out, considering that it may backfire. Maybe it was not well thought, or maybe they thought it may not become what it became.”

However, Hina made it clear that



she did not think Kriti deserved the level of criticism that followed the advertisement. She also pointed out that online reactions can sometimes continue long after the original issue has passed. “The level at which... what happened and what is happening, no one deserves so much. Ek cheez hogayi, aapne itna socha nahi and it happened. But then people don’t let it go. It becomes big and very big,” she said.

Hina added that she was not blaming either Kriti or the jewellery brand for the controversy, saying both were entitled to their opinions. At the same

time, she returned to her point that actors have the option of turning down a project if they are uncomfortable with its creative direction. “We as actors always have the option of opting out. When you do any project, you are told that all is going to happen.”

Kriti had starred in the GIVA advertisement wearing an off-white outfit with a bralette-style blouse, cape and draped skirt. Some netizens felt that the look was inappropriate for a Raksha Bandhan campaign and did not fit with Indian traditions. The brand later withdrew the advertisement.

As “Nearly Perfect” Barcelona defeats Valencia, Lamine Yamal scores twice



Valencia: Barcelona defeated Valencia 5-0 on Sunday thanks to two goals from Lamine Yamal, maintaining their perfect start in La Liga. After Real Madrid, led by Jose Mourinho, fell 1-0 at Real Betis on Friday, the defending champions took a two-point lead in La Liga. After defeating Osasuna 5-2, unbeaten Alaves moved up to second position. On a steamy afternoon on the east coast of Spain, Hansi Flick’s swaggering Barcelona also had Yamal, Fermin Lopez, Raphinha, and Pedri on target. Yamal did not take part in the team training session on Saturday after a knock but showed no signs of it during a dazzling display against Carlos Corberan’s side.Barcelona, the only team in the top flight to win their first four games, took control from the start to the upset of Valencia’s fans at a persistently bad-tempered Mestalla stadium. Los Che are bottom and yet to win this season.“We played a fantastic game, it was nearly perfect, we controlled, we were dominant and this is what I want from the team,” said Flick.“We stay calm and then if it’s possible to score we

he scored his sixth goal of the year from close range. Valencia goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski saved from Rodri before Pedri netted Barcelona’s fourth after an exchange of passes with Dani Olmo. New arrival Gabriel Jesus came on for his Barca debut as a substitute in the final 10 minutes and sent a low effort just wide.Yamal stayed onside to collect another Olmo pass and put away Barca’s fifth and conclude a profitable afternoon for both the World Cup winner and the Catalan giants.“We have a very young team, with the right transfers we made, but it’s the beginning of the season, it’s not the end,” added Flick, telling his team not to get too excited yet about their strong start.“We have to go a long, long way.”Corberan said his team were up against it from the start after Yamal’s rapid strike.“Conceding a goal so early, on their first or second attack, made everything much more difficult,” said the Valencia coach. “It’s a difficult situation that we will navigate together.”Later on Sunday, Alaves defeated Osasuna 5-2 thanks to a hat-trick from Lucas Boye, two of which came from long range.Quique Sanchez Flores’s club also had goals from Pablo Ibanez and former Real Madrid striker Mariano Diaz, while Osasuna suffered their first loss thanks to two goals from Ante Budimir.Boye remarked, “I hope we don’t let up and we continue in this dynamic, which will take us far.”We’re a modest club, and we’ll play game by game.”

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Yamal opened the scoring with a clever lofted finish in the sixth minute after Lopez dinked a superb ball over the top for the teenage star.The 19-year-old slammed home at the near post for what he thought was Barca’s second goal but the goal was disallowed for a tight offside after a VAR review.Lopez netted the second with a crisp finish in the 22nd minute after former Newcastle winger Anthony Gordon teed him up.Barcelona suffered a blow when Eric Garcia had to go off hurt midway through the first half after a collision with teammate Rodri’s shoulder, on the midfielder’s first start since arriving this summer from Manchester City.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Eye Asian Games Glory Following China Masters Win “Happy We Broke The Jinx”

Shenzhen: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the Indian men’s doubles badminton team, stated that their victory at the China Masters has given them a significant boost in confidence ahead of the forthcoming Asian Games and that they would keep pushing themselves. At the Shenzhen Arena on Sunday, India’s top-seeded men’s doubles team defeated China’s He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu 11-21, 21-13, 21-17 to win their first China Masters championship. Satwik, who won the men’s doubles title at the China Masters, stated that the competition has always produced favorable outcomes for the two, particularly following setbacks due to injuries. Indian men’s doubles badminton pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty said their China Masters triumph has given them a major confidence boost ahead of the upcoming Asian Games, adding that they will continue to push themselves before the Asian Games. India’s top-seeded

men’s doubles pair produced a stirring comeback to clinch their maiden China Masters title, defeating China’s He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu 11-21, 21-13, 21-17 at the Shenzhen Arena on Sunday. After winning the men’s doubles title at the China Masters, Satwik said the tournament has always brought positive results for the pair, especially after injury setbacks. Lululemon Founder Worth \$6.1 Billion To Divorce Wife After 2Gold, Silver Prices Likely To Face Volatility This Week As I 12000 Fans, 44-Run Fiery Knock: Sooryavanshi Fever Hits Dule Chief Selector Agarkar Spotted At Duleep Final After Missing PCB Gets Brutal Reality Check From Imran Khan’s Sons Over ‘B Arsenal Deliver Statement Fightback To End Chelsea’s Flying Ishan Kishan Gets Special Message From Aditi Hundia After Du Pathan Mocks Pak With “Sunday” Post After India Beating In WCorporate Actions This Week: HEG, Kalyan Jewellers, Waaree EWe Thought It Was An

Ordinary Inspection’: Rustomjee Crown RRapperiya Baalam Reacts To His Song Being Used In Mirzapur W How to Port Your Mobile Number From One Network to Another Bigg Boss 20: Mary Kom To Mahhi Vij, Meet All The Contestant “Playing here is always good. We have always played here coming back from injury. In 2024 after the Olympics, we played here and reached the semi-finals. Then last year we played when we weren’t in good shape, but we reached the finals. I think this tournament, after coming back from injury, has given us a lot of confidence,” Satwik spoke to the media after winning the China Masters. Reflecting on their performance in the tournament, Satwik said the pair stayed committed to their game plan and avoided mistakes in the final.“I think this week has been the same story except for the first round. Today, we didn’t make mistakes, and that was a positive from today’s match. We are just sticking to the game plan. We made a plan before coming here and wanted to execute that. If it works, it’s good; if not, we will go back and work again,” he said.

to Port Your Mobile Number From One Network to Another Bigg Boss 20: Mary Kom To Mahhi Vij, Meet All The Contestant “Playing here is always good. We have always played here coming back from injury. In 2024 after the Olympics, we played here and reached the semi-finals. Then last year we played when we weren’t in good shape, but we reached the finals. I think this tournament, after coming back from injury, has given us a lot of confidence,” Satwik spoke to the media after winning the China Masters. Reflecting on their performance in the tournament, Satwik said the pair stayed committed to their game plan and avoided mistakes in the final.“I think this week has been the same story except for the first round. Today, we didn’t make mistakes, and that was a positive from today’s match. We are just sticking to the game plan. We made a plan before coming here and wanted to execute that. If it works, it’s good; if not, we will go back and work again,” he said.

The fifty-year-old Delhi building that collapsed was dying It Was Revived by Greed

New Delhi, Sep 07: The main component of a formula for catastrophe is frequently greed. This also applies to the Delhi building collapse that claimed at least six lives and wounded several more. The building was a run-down, about fifty-year-old edifice that had been destroyed by weather and negligence just a few months prior. There were a number of paying-guest hostels all around this flimsy, barely standing pile of bricks. It was a profitable prospect because of its close proximity to Delhi University, which is home to thousands of students from all over the nation. The building’s owner made the decision to make money off of this opportunity. Hari Ram Bansal, the owner, renovated the building over several months. The majority of the tenants who moved into the property in August of this year were students. Nevertheless, construction was not finished, and workers were still in the basement when the building fell.Two laborers were among the eleven individuals rescued, suggesting that building had been in progress. The event claimed the life of one laborer. The name of the



building was Hostel Daze. It had around 30 rooms. The plan was to have two to three students occupy each room. What raises many questions is the fact that it was a residential building, not intended for commercial use.The area was waterlogged following two continuous days of rain in Delhi. The road’s sloping terrain contributes to the waterlogging problem, PTI reported. Locals said water had accumulated in the basement of the collapsed building. But labourers continued working.“Labourers were working in the basement even during the rain. Waterlogging is common in the basements of buildings here, and they could also be trapped,” a local told the agency.Priyanka,

who said she had been living in the area for 20 to 22 years, said PG owners convert their houses into hostels and live elsewhere.“Buildings here are being constructed up to five or six floors. Many houses have been converted into boys’ PGs, with the owners shifting elsewhere. They simply name the properties as PGs, take the rent online, and leave the area without ever checking back,” she said. Bansal relocated to Gurugram 20 years ago, according to another resident.A wall was being taken down and some work was being done in the basement. He said that Bansal continued to come to the property.Now, too little, too late, the authorities have taken action and filed a case against the owner.

Palghar Hospital: “30 Sena Workers Came Into ICU” Employee Slapped Due to Bill Conflict



New Delhi, Sep 07: In the midst of Dahi Handi celebrations, about 25-30 employees of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena stormed into the ICU unit of a hospital in Palghar, mistreated a doctor, threatened the staff over the medical bills of five injured “govindas,” and forcibly removed one of them who had been admitted to the ICU on Saturday nite. The billing assistant was also attacked.“Govindas” are Krishna devotees who participate in the “Dahi Handi” custom

during Janmashtami. After “govindas” hurt during a Dahi Handi event outside the Shiv Sena central office in Palghar were taken for treatment, the incident happened at Relief Hospital early on Saturday morning. Two of the five “govinda” patients who were brought to our hospital suffered injuries to their chests, while the other three had injuries to their heads, shoulders, and spines, respectively. The hospital billing assistant who was slapped by the staff, Vivek Babulinga, stated, “We had to move the patient with the head injury to the intensive care unit and recommended a CT scan because he had lost consciousness.” The Shiv sena workers, including the party’s Palghar district and city unit chiefs, wanted the patients to be released at the earliest. By midnight, the total medical bill for the five patients amounted to Rs 19,866, of which Rs 10,000 was paid in cash by an associate. ”Some Shiv Sena office-bearers arrived and demanded an immediate discharge. However, in accordance with hospital pro-

toocol, the discharge summaries and billing for the patients were still pending, so we asked for some time. They did not pay the full bill; instead, they paid only Rs 10,000 and insisted that the costs for all five patients be adjusted against that amount,” Babulinga said.“While the bill was being processed, Shiva Sena workers barged straight in from the casualty area; they approached our doctor and nurse, shouting and threatening them, asking why the patient had been admitted. They told the female doctor, ‘You have not been spared only because you are a woman; had you not been a woman, we would have destroyed you,’” Babulinga said.The billing assistant said that the workers abused the doctors and hurled profanities directly at the female doctor. “As the situation escalated, I stepped in to ensure no harm came to the doctor. When I intervened, they immediately slapped and assaulted me. After that, they started shouting, ‘Let’s get the patient out of the ICU,’ and a mob of 25-30 people stormed

the ICU; they intimidated and threatened our nursing staff and forcibly took the patient away,” he said. Babulinga said he arrived at a police station at three o’clock in the night and filed a complaint.Asked what his demand was, Babulinga said:”The legal procedure should be followed. These people misuse power”.A case was registered on Sunday morning against Kundan Balkrishna Sankhe (Shiv Sena district chief) Rahul Ramdas Gharat (Shiv Sena city chief) Rohit Gavit (son of MLA Rajendra Gavit) Manish alias Vicky Sankhe, Sairaj Patil, Rahul Sankhe, Manoj Gharat, Neelam Sankhe, Shubham Bandivdekar, Rishabh Vare as well as 7-8 unidentified persons.They have been charged under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Maharashtra Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Act for assault, criminal intimidation, trespass, unlawful assembly and other offences, the Palghar police said.

The crowd splits after Carlos Alcaraz’s hilarious “opponent” error at the US Open

Maharashtra, Sep 05: Carlos Alcaraz’s next game at the U.S. Open isn’t who he believed it to be. After winning on Sunday, Alcaraz was shocked to hear in an ESPN interview that he would play either Stefanos Tsitsipas or Ben Shelton in the quarterfinals. Shelton ultimately prevailed.

After defeating Tommy Paul in his fourth-round encounter, the reigning champion went to the set. The 2003 U.S. Open winner Andy Roddick questioned Alcaraz about the difficulties that each player would pose. A confused Alcaraz asked him to repeat the question.“You’re either going to play Shelton or Tsitsipas,” Roddick said. “Maybe just a word on both of them and the challenges ...”He didn’t get to finish the sentence because Alcaraz leaned over to look at the paper in front of Roddick.“Really?

Oh my God, I thought I was playing Medvedev-Tiafoe,” Alcaraz said, before both men started laughing. Carlos Alcaraz finds out through Andy Roddick that he got his US Open draw wrong all along Currently playing Alex Michelsen, Frances Tiafoe defeated Daniil Medvedev in their match that was taking place during the interview. Although it may seem uncommon for a tennis player to be unaware of his next match thus late in a tournament.

After US Open Fiasco, Wimbledon Set to Tighten Rules for Content Creators

New Delhi: Wimbledon could take a tougher stance on influencers and content creators after a series of disruptions at the US Open. The incidents have raised concerns among players about the changing atmosphere at major tennis tournaments. The All England Club is not expected to introduce a separate accreditation category for influencers or content creators, according to the Press Association. Wimbledon is also likely to take a strict approach to items such as ring lights and other equipment that could interfere with matches. The potential crackdown comes after several incidents at this year's US Open, where players have complained about spectators using bright lights, talking loudly and filming content



during points. The New York Grand Slam has made a conscious effort to bring new audiences to tennis, including by officially accrediting around 100 content creators alongside traditional journalists and broadcasters. But the experiment has also highlighted the difficulty of balancing social media-driven engagement

with the etiquette expected at a major tennis tournament. Coco Gauff, one of the biggest stars of the women's game, has argued that certain behaviours from influencers needs to change. "I think it's great to have a different demographic to the sport," Gauff said after her second-round win over Paula Badosa on September

3. "I have no problem with influencers. I've met some of them and follow some of them online." Gauff, however, stressed that everyone attending a tennis match needs to understand the environment they are entering. "Any venue you come to, you have to follow that etiquette towards it," she said, suggesting that brands hosting guests at tournaments could do more to make first-time spectators aware of the rules. For Gauff, the biggest problem is not necessarily the arrival of influencers themselves, but the behaviour of those who are unfamiliar with tennis etiquette. "I definitely think no flash photography because that does bother [me]. I am one of the lenient players," she said.

Alcaraz Crushes Paul as Noskova Storms Into Maiden US Open Quarterfinals

New Delhi: Carlos Alcaraz continued his dominant march at the US Open 2026, brushing aside American Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals in New York. The defending champion was tested early, but once the Spaniard found his rhythm, Paul struggled to keep pace with his relentless baseline game. The second seed had to work for the opening set as Paul looked to use the home crowd and his aggressive tennis to unsettle Alcaraz.

But the Spaniard remained patient, absorbing the American's pace before turning defence into attack. A crucial break late in the set gave Alcaraz the advantage, and he made sure Paul had little opportunity to fight his way back. Alcaraz carried that momentum into the second



set, taking control of rallies with his powerful forehand and exceptional movement. Paul was repeatedly forced into defensive positions as the Spaniard dictated play from the baseline. Alcaraz broke at key moments and protected his own serve to move within one set of another convincing victory.

The third set followed a similar pattern. Paul continued to compete and refused

to surrender easily, but Alcaraz remained composed whenever the pressure increased. The Spaniard eventually closed out the match in straight sets, extending his remarkable record at Flushing Meadows. The victory was Alcaraz's 11th consecutive win at the US Open, his 18th straight Grand Slam win on hard courts and his 15th Grand Slam quarterfinal. It was also his fifth US Open

quarterfinal. Alcaraz will next face either Ben Shelton or Stefanos Tsitsipas in the quarterfinals. Shelton, seeded eighth, and Tsitsipas were scheduled to meet in the other fourth-round clash, with both players looking to earn a blockbuster meeting with the defending champion. Alcaraz's run is particularly impressive given that he spent four months away from competition because of a wrist injury. However, the Spaniard has looked increasingly sharp as the tournament has progressed, suggesting that his best tennis may still be ahead of him. While Alcaraz powered through his fourth-round contest, Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova produced an equally impressive display of resilience to reach her maiden US Open quarterfinal.

Pakistan Fans Hurl Sexist Abuse at Kranti Goud During IND vs PAK Clash, Video Surfaces Online

Sexist Abuse Sparks Outrage Online

Dubai: A video from India's Women's Asia Cup clash against Pakistan has sparked outrage after Kranti Goud appeared to be subjected to sexist and gender-based abuse from spectators during the match. In the video circulating on social media platform X, voices can be heard making derogatory remarks about the Indian cricketer's gender and appearance, including repeatedly claiming that she was a man. The identity of the spectators and the circumstances surrounding the incident could not be independently verified. The incident has drawn criticism online, with users condemning the abusive remarks directed at Goud during one of the biggest rivalries in women's cricket. The alleged heckling came during India's dominant seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in their Women's Asia Cup T20 clash on Saturday. While the video has triggered debate on social media over the treatment of women athletes, Goud's name and the nature of the remarks have become a major talking point following the match. Gender-based abuse and comments about the physical appearance of women athletes have remained a recurring problem in sport, particularly on social media and in stadiums. The video involving Goud has once again brought the issue into focus, with fans calling out the remarks as unacceptable. On the field, India produced a thoroughly dominant performance, bowl-



ing Pakistan out for just 55 in 18.1 overs, their lowest-ever total in T20 internationals. Young spinners Shree Charani and Prema Rawat led the demolition, picking up three wickets each. Charani returned figures of 3/7 from four overs, while leg-spinner Prema claimed 3/9. Deepti Sharma took 2/5, while Shafali Verma also chipped in with a wicket. Pakistan had started confidently, reaching 27 without loss, but collapsed dramatically

after India's spinners took control. Harmanpreet Kaur's bowlers delivered a staggering 78 dot balls as Pakistan lost six wickets for just nine runs to slip from 27/0 to 36/6. India then chased down the modest target in 8.4 overs despite losing three wickets. Captain Harmanpreet remained unbeaten on 18 and sealed the victory with a six, while Deepti finished not out on 12. The win continued India's dominance over Pakistan in the Wom-

en's T20 Asia Cup, with India now winning seven of their eight meetings in the competition. During India's Women's Asia Cup T20 match against Pakistan, spectator video surfaced showing sexist and gender-based abuse towards Indian cricketer Kranti Goud, sparking widespread condemnation. India dominated the game, bowling Pakistan out for a record low 55, with young spinners Shree Charani and Prema Rawat leading the bowling attack. India chased the target in 8.4 overs, sealing their seventh win against Pakistan in eight Asia Cup meetings. The incident highlighted ongoing issues of abuse against women athletes in sports. "We have matches, we have practice sessions, and we use social media. I do too—and I use it quite deeply—because I genuinely like knowing what people are saying about me, whether they're saying good things or not. That curiosity is natural; everyone has it, you would too, definitely," Fulmali said. "But when I look at the comment section, there's a lot of hate. Of course, there are good comments as well, but the percentage is a bit low. So it does affect you a little, it does hurt your feelings. But now I've learned to deal with it," Fulmali added. "I've spoken to my other teammates about this as well, and they face the same things that I do. So I feel this has become normal, because we can't control what people think.

Antonelli Wins Italian GP, Ends 60-Year Wait



Monza: Formula One leader Kimi Antonelli won his home Italian Grand Prix after a sensational race from 19th to first on Sunday in a massive blow for Mercedes teammate and closest championship rival George Russell. The 20-year-old was the first Italian winner at Monza since Ludovico Scarfiotti for Ferrari in 1966, while the victory was the 50th by an Italian driver since the championship started in 1950. Russell, who had taken the lead on lap two moments before Ferrari's Charles Leclerc crashed heavily and halted the race for half an hour, finished runner-up -- 3.857 seconds behind -- after being hunted down by his teammate on fresher tyres late in the race with Max Verstappen a distant third for Red Bull. The Briton had hoped to slash Antonelli's 59-point lead after the Italian took engine penalties and lined up on the back row of the grid, with two other drivers starting in the pitlane, but instead ended up 66 adrift after 13 rounds and with Antonelli ever closer to becoming Formula One's youngest champion and Italy's first since Alberto Ascari in 1953.

India Blank Bangladesh 3-0, Seal AFC U20 Asian Cup Qualification After 20 Years

New Delhi: India finally ended their long wait for a place in the AFC U20 Asian Cup, with the Blue Colts putting in a strong performance to beat Bangladesh 3-0 in their final Group B qualifier in Tashkent on Sunday. Danny Meitei Laishram, Vishal Yadav and substitute Md Arbash found the net as India secured their second win of the qualifiers and finished runners-up in Group B to seal their place in the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2027. It was a result

that ended India's 20-year wait for a return to the continental tournament. The Blue Colts finished with six points from three matches, behind group winners Uzbekistan, who collected nine points after beating Syria. India qualified as one of the seven best runners-up across the eight qualifying groups. The match started on an even note, with neither side able to create much in the opening stages. India, however, grew into the game and took the lead

in the 25th minute. Danny Meitei Laishram pressed Bangladesh defender Md Abdul Riyad Fahim and forced him into giving the ball away to Hateem Ali. The India striker then took on two defenders before playing the ball to an unmarked Danny inside the box. Danny kept his cool and finished to put India ahead. The goal gave India control of the game and they came close to extending their lead in the 34th minute. Danny's looping



free-kick dipped towards the goal, but Bangladesh

goalkeeper Raj Chowdhury made the save. India picked up where they left off after the break and doubled their advantage in the 60th minute. A long throw into the box was flicked on by Rishikanta towards Vishal, who produced an acrobatic finish to beat Chowdhury and make it 2-0. Bangladesh pushed forward after conceding the second goal, but India dealt with their attacks and kept the visitors from creating a clear chance. India head coach

Mahesh Gawali made two changes in the 72nd minute, bringing on Md Arbash and Prashan Jajo for Danny and Vishal. Arbash needed only seven minutes to make an impact. Yaipharemba Chingakhram started the move before India worked the ball through the Bangladesh defence.

Arbash finished it off with a powerful left-footed strike into the roof of the net to make it 3-0. Gawali made three more changes in the closing stages, with Ani-

ket Yadav, Omang Dodum and Daniyal Makakmayum coming on as India saw out the win comfortably. The AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2027 will be held from March 24 to April 10, 2027. The top four teams will qualify for the FIFA U20 World Cup 2027. India's U20 football team ended a 20-year wait by qualifying for the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2027 after a decisive 3-0 win over Bangladesh in the final Group B qualifier in Tashkent.

Pakistan Super League May Move to January 2027 to Avoid IPL Clash

New Delhi: Next year's Pakistan Super League could be held in January after the media rights holders of the T20 event complained about limited advertising revenues during the April-May window when IPL is held in India. This year the PSL again clashed with the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the suggestion to hold the event early next year came at a meeting of the PSL Governing Council in London on September 1. According to a reliable source, media rights holder Walee Technologies, who also own



a franchise in the eight-team PSL tabled the proposal to have the PSL in January-February. The PSL since its inception in 2016, has been held in

the February-March window, but because of ICC events in this window in 2025 and this year, the PCB was forced to reschedule the league to

April-May where it clashed with the IPL. Franchise owners have also expressed concerns over declining interest in the PSL amid Pakistan's poor performances across formats. The source aware of developments said that the media rights holders made it clear that the April-May window was not good for security advertising sponsorships due to different reasons. Under the PSL's existing agreement with the franchises the eight teams receive 95 per cent of the broadcast revenue from the central revenue pool.

India-Japan T20I Marks Major Step for Cricket Beyond Traditional Boundaries

New Delhi: BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia has described India's historic one-off T20 International against Japan as a significant step in cricket's push to expand beyond its traditional boundaries and reach new audiences. India and Japan will face each other for the first time in a T20I on September 22 at the Sano International Cricket Ground in Tochigi Prefecture. The match, to be played under the banner of the Suzuki Cup, comes ahead of the men's cricket competition at the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, which begins on Sep-



tember 19. The fixture will also commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. Saikia said the India-Japan match reflected the wider

ambition of taking cricket to newer territories and strengthening its presence in regions with significant potential. In a post on X, the BCCI secretary said international crick-

et's global journey was being shaped by events that take the sport beyond its established markets. "The India-Japan T20I match on 22nd September, '26 is one such moment taking international cricket to Japan, connecting with a new audience and strengthening the game's presence in a region with immense potential," Saikia said. He also credited ICC chairman Jay Shah for his efforts to expand cricket's global footprint, saying the vision had remained focused on making the sport more accessible, inclusive and truly global.