

THE AVENUE MAIL

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JASPRIT BUMRAH CONFIRMS AVAILABILITY FOR INDIA'S ASIA CUP SQUAD- PAGE : 11

C.P. Radhakrishnan is NDA's Vice Presidential candidate

Radhakrishnan served as Jharkhand Guv from Feb 18, 2023 to July 30, 2024

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) The BJP on Sunday announced Maharashtra Governor Chandrapuram Ponnuswamy Radhakrishnan as the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) candidate for the Vice-Presidential election, after a meeting of the party's parliamentary board chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



The decision to field Radhakrishnan, a seasoned politician with long-standing ties to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), is being viewed as a strategic outreach to Tamil Nadu, where Assembly elections are due next

BJP President J.P. Nadda, addressing a press conference after the meeting, said the party had held discussions with allies and several opposition parties over the past week.

"We hope the Vice President's election will take place through consensus. We have spoken to many parties, and while the opposition said they would decide after our announcement, we are hopeful of wider support," he told reporters.

year. Born on October 20, 1957, in Tamil Nadu's Tiruppur, Radhakrishnan was drawn to the RSS during his teenage years.

In his early days, he had already become an active member, shaping his political grounding in the Sangh Parivar's ideology. He rose through the ranks of the BJP, serving as the party's Tamil Nadu state President from 2004 to 2007, a period marked by attempts to expand the BJP's footprint in the Dravidian heartland.

Radhakrishnan assumed charge as Governor of Maharashtra on July 31, 2024, after a stint as Governor of Jharkhand (February 2023-July 2024). He was also entrusted with additional responsibilities as the Governor of Telangana (March-July 2024) and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry (March-August 2024).

CM immerses ashes of Shibui Soren in Damodar River at Rajrappa

Mail News Service

Ranchi/Rajrappa, Aug 17: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren bid an emotional farewell to his father and legendary leader, Dishom Guru Shibui Soren, by immersing his ashes in the sacred Damodar River at Rajrappa on Sunday. The immersion was performed with full traditional rituals, marking a deeply personal and spiritual moment for the Chief Minister and his family.

Hemant Soren, accompanied by his brother Basant Soren, sons, and other family members, departed early in the morning from their ancestral home in Nemra for Rajrappa Temple. The ashes were immersed after the completion of the Sanskar Bhoj-a ceremonial feast held as a mark of respect for the



departed soul. The Sanskar Bhoj was organized on Saturday in Nemra village, drawing lakhs of people from across Jharkhand. Political leaders, party workers, and the general public gathered to pay tribute to the late leader, showcasing the immense respect and admiration he commanded across the state.

Shibui Soren, affectionately known as Dishom Guru, was a towering figure in the Jharkhand movement and a pivotal force behind the formation of the state. His passing marked an irreparable loss for Jharkhand's political landscape. CM Hemant Soren, who considered his father not just as a parent but also as a political mentor, now has to shoulder the responsibility of carrying forward his legacy. (w/gsd)

SC to hear Jharkhand DGP appointment row today

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Monday a clutch of petitions challenging the appointment of Anurag Gupta as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Jharkhand.



As per the causerlist published on the website of the apex court, a Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai and Justices K. Vinod Chandran and N.V. Anjaria will also take a plea seeking contempt action against Jharkhand Chief Secretary for "wilfully and deliberately disobeying" the guidelines laid down in the Prakash Singh vs Union of India case.

According to the judgment, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is required to shortlist three eligible IPS officers with clean service records and sufficient residual service from a list submitted by the state. The state government must then appoint one of the shortlisted officers as the DGP, who must be given a minimum tenure of two years.

As per the plea, the Jharkhand government has appointed Gupta without following the due process, as his name was not on the UPSC-recommended list. Additionally, it introduced a new rule to appoint Gupta, who was set to retire on April 30, 2025 and granted him an extension until April 2026.

Naveen Patnaik admitted to hospital, condition stable: Doctors

Bhubaneswar, Aug 17 (IANS): Leader of Opposition in Odisha Legislative Assembly, Naveen Patnaik, was admitted to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar on Sunday after he complained of uneasiness.



Doctors at the hospital said the 78-year-old five-time chief minister was suffering from dehydration, but his condition is stable and he is responding well to treatment.

Odisha health minister Mukesh Mahaling visited the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader to inquire about his health.

BJP 'probe team' suspects conspiracy in Surya Hansda 'encounter' death

Godda, Aug 17 (IANS): A seven-member 'probe team' of the Jharkhand BJP on Sunday stated that it suspected a "major conspiracy" in the "encounter" death of Surya Narayan Hansda, also known as Surya Hansda.

Hansda was wanted in several criminal cases and had contested the assembly polls on tickets from multiple political parties. The BJP team, led by former chief minister Arjun Munda, visited Hansda's family at Lalmatia's Dakaita village in Godda district on Sunday as part of its investigation. Munda demanded that the state government order a fair investigation into the case by forming a probe committee headed by a retired High Court judge. "We suspect a major conspiracy into the encounter of Hansda by the police. During our probe, we found several fake cases had been registered against him. Out of multiple cases, the court had acquitted him in 14 cases. On May 27, a fake case was registered against him when he was celebrating the birthday of his son at his home," Munda told reporters.



Rahul accuses BJP of manipulating votes under garb of SIR to usurp power in Bihar

Rahul, Tejashwi launch 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' from Sasaram

Mail News Service

Patna, August 17: Embarking in his 16-days of Bihar Yatra christened as 'Voter Adhikar Yatra', Congress leader and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of manipulating the votes and usurping the power in the country through, what he said, a nefarious design at a programme organised in Bihar's Kaimur district on Sunday. Addressing a public meeting at Suara Airstrip Ground, he said BJP wants to steal the votes under the garb of special intensive revision (SIR) in Bihar now. "All over India, assembly elections and Lok Sabha elections are being stolen



and their conspiracy is to do SIR in Bihar and steal the elections of Bihar by adding new voters and cutting voters. We will not let them succeed in their design," said Gandhi in presence of Lalu Prasad Yadav and

Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Mallikarjun Kharge and KC Venugopal of the Congress, Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahni, CPI (ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar

Bhattacharya, CPI (M)'s Subhashini Ali, CPI's Santosh Kumar P. He said this is a fight to save the Constitution. Across the country, BJP-RSS are determined to destroy it. "In Maharashtra, opinion polls said the Grand Alliance would win. In the Lok Sabha, the Grand Alliance won, but four months later in the same area, we lost. We investigated and found that one crore new voters were magically created," Rahul said, "The people of Bihar will not allow vote theft. Because the poor and weaker sections only have the right to vote. Everyone knows what the Commission is doing. We will not allow the Election Commission to do this. Narendra Modi and the NDA

run their government with billionaires. All your wealth is being given to 5-6 billionaires."

Speaking on the occasion, RJD supremo Lalu Yadav said, "Remove the thieves, drive away the BJP, make our party win. At any cost, the BJP must not be allowed to come to power. Rahul Gandhi, Tejashwi Yadav, and everyone together should uproot the BJP." Sharing details of his Yatra in a post on X, Gandhi said, "16 days. 20+ districts. 1,300+ km. We are coming among the people with the Voter Rights Yatra." "This is the fight to protect the most fundamental democratic right - 'one person, one vote.' Join us in Bihar to save the Constitution," Gandhi added.

Give affidavit in 7 days or apologise: Poll body to Rahul on 'vote chori'

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) In a sharp response to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "vote chori" allegation, the Election Commission of India on Sunday gave him a seven-day deadline to either submit an affidavit with evidence or issue a public apology, stating that in the absence of proof, all such charges are false.

"An affidavit will have to be given or an apology will have to be made to the country. There is no third option. If the affidavit is not received within 7 days, it means that all these allegations are baseless,"



Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said while addressing a press meet in New Delhi this afternoon. In a sharp response to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "vote chori"

allegation, the Election Commission of India on Sunday gave him a seven-day deadline to either submit an affidavit with evidence or issue a public apology, stating that in the absence of proof, all such

charges are false. "An affidavit will have to be given or an apology will have to be made to the country. There is no third option. If the affidavit is not received within 7 days, it means that all these allegations are baseless," Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said while addressing a press meet in New Delhi this afternoon.

Furthermore, while calling Gandhi's remarks an "insult to the Constitution," the commission said terms like "vote chori" undermine democratic institutions.

Days after meeting Putin, Donald Trump says 'big progress' made on Russia

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) A day after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska, US President Donald Trump posted a brief and cryptic message on his Truth Social account on Sunday, hinting at a significant development related to Russia. "Big progress on Russia, stay tuned," Trump wrote, without offering any further details.



The post has fueled speculation that the US President may be referring to possible security guarantees for Ukraine, as it coincided with reports from Trump envoy Steve Witkoff revealing that during the talks, Putin signaled that he would be open to allowing the US and its European allies to offer Ukraine a NATO-style security guarantee.

GST reforms to bring double bonus for Diwali: PM Modi



New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the country's citizens will receive a double bonus during Diwali this year through the next generation GST reform that is being planned to

bring down the prices of goods and services to benefit the poor and middle class. In his address at the inauguration of two major highway projects in Delhi, the Prime Minister said: "For us, reform means the expansion of

Once crushed Constitution, now dancing with it: PM slams Opposition

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Opposition while presenting his government's vision for Delhi and the nation. "Some people dance with the Constitution. They used to crush the Constitution in their government," PM Modi said. Stressing that his government had ended hollow laws that exploited workers, he recalled, "Our sanitation workers had a law under which, if they did not report to work, they could be sent to jail for one month. What did they think of the sanitation workers? Our government has abolished such laws."

good governance, and continuous focus is being placed on reforms." He announced that in the coming days, several major reforms will be introduced to

Laying out his commitment to Delhi's transformation, he said, "Delhi should be developed in such a way that people feel it is the capital of a developed India. I have taken a pledge to make Delhi a better city."

The Prime Minister pointed to key infrastructure and environmental projects. "Urban Extension Road is also helping in reducing the mountains of garbage in Delhi. Under Rekha ji's leadership, the Delhi government is working on cleaning the Yamuna. The number of electric buses will cross 2,000, helping fulfill the dream of Green Delhi, Clean Delhi."

make both life and business easier. "As part of this effort, a next-generation reform in GST is being planned. This Diwali, citizens will receive a double bonus through the GST reform,"

PM Modi remarked. He said that the complete framework has been shared with all states, and expressed hope that all states will cooperate with this initiative of the government of India.

Train services from Tatanagar disrupted, several cancelled, diverted, rescheduled



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: The South Eastern Railway has announced significant disruptions to several trains originating from or passing through Tatanagar, citing operational adjustments. The changes, in effect across multiple dates in August, involve cancellations, diversions, and rescheduling of services, potentially causing

inconvenience to passengers. According to railway officials, the Tatanagar-Hatia Express (18601) will be diverted on August 22 via Chandrapura, Giridih, Govindpur Road, and Muri. The Buxar-Tata Express (18184) will depart 90 minutes late from Buxar on August 24. Meanwhile, the Bardhaman-Hatia-Bardhaman MEMU (13503/13504) will be short-terminated at Gomoh on August 19, 21, and 22, suspending

Stone-pelting on Vande Bharat Express near Gamharia-Sini

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: The Vande Bharat Express was once again targeted by stone-pelting in Jharkhand, raising serious concerns about passenger safety. The incident occurred between Gamharia and Sini railway stations near Baliguma, at pole number 266/28, when stones struck the C-2 coach, shattering its window. Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel rushed to the spot and detained a minor, who later confessed during questioning that he acted "just for fun." He was produced before the Chaibasa Railway Court, then transferred to the Seraikela Juvenile Court, and later released on bail.

However, further investigation revealed that others had instigated the minor to attack the train. According to RPF officials, efforts are underway to trace and take action against these individuals as well. Families of some suspects have reportedly approached RPF in an attempt to shield their children. RPF in-charge at Sini station, Shailesh Chand, confirmed that a case has been registered. "Stone-pelting on trains is a very serious offense, and strict action will be taken against all culprits," he said.

Railway authorities have also reiterated their commitment to launching awareness campaigns and strengthening surveillance in sensitive areas. Despite earlier crackdowns, incidents of stone-pelting continue to trouble one of India's fastest trains, once again questioning how secure modern rail services really are. (w/nkm)

services between Gomoh and Hatia. The Jagannathpur-Dhanbad Express (18019/18020) will run only up to Bokaro Steel City from August 18-22 and again on August 24, leaving the Bokaro-Dhanbad section without service. MEMU passenger services

are also affected. The Adra-Waa-Adra MEMU (68077/68078) will remain cancelled from August 18-24, while the Asansol-Adra-Asansol MEMU (68046/68045) will be cancelled on August 24. Additionally, the Tata-Asansol-Barabhum MEMU (68055/68060) will be short-

terminated at Adra on August 19, cutting service between Adra and Asansol. "Passengers are advised to check the official railway website or helpline for real-time updates before planning their travel," a South Eastern Railway spokesperson urged. (w/nkm)

Man kills nephew over illicit affair in Birsanagar

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Aug 17: A shocking case of murder has come to light in Birsanagar, where a man allegedly killed his own nephew over an illicit relationship with his wife. Police recovered the body of Krishna Mahato, missing for six days, from the Subarnarekha River near Jaduguda. The accused, identified as Krishna's uncle Rakesh Mahato, along with his aide Rakesh Murmu, has been arrested. During interrogation, both confessed to the crime.

Investigations revealed that Krishna was abducted on August 12. When he did not return, his family filed a missing person's report. On August 15, relatives informed police that they suspected Krishna had been kidnapped by his uncle. Later, Krishna's brother filed another complaint expressing fears that he had been murdered.

Despite being accused, both suspects remained at home until the recovery of the body confirmed the crime. The body was found with hands and legs tied, and a scarf around the neck, suggesting a meticulously planned murder. "The killing was carried out in a manner that left no chance for escape," said a police official. Both accused are now facing further legal action. (w/nkm)

Woman assaulted over witchcraft allegation in Mango, six booked

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: A shocking incident of superstition-related violence surfaced in Mango when a woman was assaulted after being accused of witchcraft. The attack occurred on the evening of August 15 at Jawaharnagar, Road No. 15, when a group of people barged into the house of the victim, Sushma Kumari. According to her complaint lodged at Mango Police Station, the accused verbally abused her before physically assaulting her, while accusing her of being a witch. Police have registered an FIR against six individuals identified as Sandeep Sharma, Gudia Kumari, Rinki Kumari, Pinki Kumari, Archana Kumari and Sangeeta Devi. The incident took place around 7 p.m., drawing attention when the victim raised an alarm and neighbours intervened. The attackers fled, but Kumari immediately filed a written complaint. The station in-charge confirmed that investigations are underway and all accused will be interrogated. "Accusing women of witchcraft and harassing them is a punishable offense. No one will be spared," police officials stated. Locals condemned the incident, demanding strict action to deter similar cases in the future. The case highlights the deep-rooted problem of superstition and harmful practices still prevalent in some communities. (w/nkm)

2 arrested with stolen goods-laden tempo in Sitaramdera

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Sitaramdera police arrested two youths with a tempo loaded with stolen iron rods and channels during a raid near Pandey Ghat. Police said that during routine patrol checks, the tempo was intercepted and the driver and his associate failed to provide satisfactory answers about the consignment. The two were taken into custody and identified as Varun Sharma of Shankosai under Ulidih Police Station and Sawan Ram of Hume Pipe Chhayanagar. A tempo carrying the suspected stolen goods was also seized. Police suspect the consignment is stolen material intended for illegal resale. An FIR has been registered based on the statement of ASI Shankar Thakur. Authorities confirmed that detailed interrogation is underway to trace the source of the iron rods and channels, as well as the intended buyers. Investigators are also probing the role of the tempo owner. "We are tightening surveillance on illegal transportation of stolen materials in the area. In recent weeks, such incidents have increased and patrolling will be further intensified," officials said. Both accused are being prepared for judicial custody as the investigation expands to uncover the racket behind the stolen consignment. (w/nkm)

Pickpocket steals Rs 12,300 from customer at Mango medical store

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Theft cases in Mango continue to rise, with the latest incident reported from a discount medical store near Chepa Bridge. A customer, Virendra Yadav of Pardih, was robbed of Rs 12,300 while purchasing medicines on Saturday evening. The entire incident was captured on the store's CCTV cameras. According to police, the theft occurred around 8:05 p.m. when Yadav was checking his prescription and medicines at the counter. Taking advantage of the distraction, a pickpocket standing behind him skilfully removed the cash from his back pocket and fled. Yadav realized his money was missing only when he reached the cash counter to pay. Store staff immediately reviewed the CCTV footage, which clearly showed the thief executing the crime. The footage has been handed over to police, who have launched an investigation. "We are analysing the video and will arrest the culprit soon," an officer confirmed. Yadav, distressed by the incident, said, "I had gone to buy medicines worth just Rs 900, but ended up losing over Rs 12,000. (w/nkm)

Dog lovers protest SC order in Jamshedpur

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Animal lovers and activists staged a protest on Sunday in front of Gopal Maidan, Bistupur, opposing the Supreme Court's recent order directing that all stray dogs be removed from streets and placed in shelter homes. Protesters, carrying banners and accompanied by street dogs, raised slogans against the order, calling it "inhumane and impractical." According to demonstrators, community dogs are not just guardians but also an emotional part



of society. "Displacing them will end a bond of coexistence that has lasted for decades," one activist said. Protesters argued that relocating dogs is not a solution and instead demanded increased focus on vaccination, sterilization, and care facilities to manage the population

and ensure safety. The protest drew participation from animal rights activists, social workers, students, and women, all echoing that dogs should be seen as part of community life, not a nuisance. "If authorities forcefully remove the dogs, we will intensify our peaceful movement," warned dog lovers. The demonstration follows the Supreme Court's August 11, 2025 directive in Delhi-NCR, which is likely to be extended to other states, sparking widespread concern among animal welfare groups. (w/nkm)

Ma Mansa Puja inaugurated in Parsudih's Tiril Tola Baniya Basti

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: A spiritual atmosphere prevailed in Tiril Tola Baniya Basti of Parsudih as the Sri-Sri Sarvjanik Ma Mansa Puja, a tradition ongoing since 1988, was formally inaugurated with great devotion and community participation. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of several prominent dignitaries, including former Zila Parishad Vice President Rajkumar Singh, current Zila Parishad Vice President Pankaj Singh, Zila Parishad Member Purnima Malik, social worker and "Seva Hi Lakshya" president Manik Malik, social worker Tapan Barua, area Mukhiya Salge Soren and Gram Pradhan Sagen Hansda. (w/gsd)

Veteran leader and social worker Harivansh Lal Srivastava passes away at 85

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Senior Jan Sangh leader and noted social worker Harivansh Lal Srivastava (85), a resident of Makdampur, Parsudih, passed away on Sunday after a prolonged illness. Known for strengthening the Vishva Hindu Parishad in Singhbhum during the erstwhile Bihar-Jharkhand era, Srivastava was remembered for his service to Hindutva as provincial head of religious affairs in the VHP. He also held key responsibilities in the Jan Sangh and RSS and was among the founding members of the BJP Parsudih Mandal. He worked alongside national leaders such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L.K. Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi and was also the



founding president of Jharkhand Viklang Sansthan, dedicated to the service of the differently-abled. He breathed his last at his residence in Munshi Mohalla on August 17. His mortal remains were cremated the same evening at Parvati Ghat in Bistupur, where his younger son Akhilesh Srivastava performed the last rites. BJP district leaders draped his body with the party flag and offered floral tributes. District Parishad Vice-President Pankaj Sinha, senior BJP leader Ajay Srivastava, JDU district president Subodh Srivastava, JMM leader Pramod Lal and many others expressed their condolences and attended the funeral. Srivastava is survived by three sons, a daughter and several grandchildren. (w/nkm)

Karate kids shine with 21 medals



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Eight young karate students from Ninja Sports Martial Art (Karate of Jharkhand) brought glory to Jamshedpur by winning 21 medals, including nine gold, at the NKF East Zone Karate Championship held in Birbhum, West Bengal. The event was organized by the National Karate Federation of India. The winners, trained under coach Ganesh Singh, were felicitated at MLA Saryu Rai's office in Jamshedpur. Trustees Ashok Goyal and Ashutosh Rai of the Swarnarekha Area Development Trust honoured the young achievers and their coach. "Whenever these children need support, our trust will always stand by them," said Ashutosh Rai during the ceremony. Coach Ganesh Singh expressed gratitude to MLA Saryu Rai, crediting his financial assistance for making the children's participation possible. "Without his help, these eight children would not have reached Birbhum," he said. The medallists include Aryan Gupta, Abhishek Singh, Ashutosh Kumar, Pragya Singh, Anchal Verma, Sahdev Napit, Manoj Napit and Mohit Gop. Their success has been hailed as an inspiration for budding sportspersons in Jharkhand. (w/nkm)

JD(U) takes firm stand on public issues in Jamshedpur



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: The Janata Dal (United) Ulidih Police Station Committee held a key meeting on Sunday at Prithvi Park under the chairmanship of Committee President Praveen Singh. The discussions centered on pressing civic concerns such as the drinking water crisis, drainage cleaning, garbage management, streetlight repairs, bleaching powder spraying and anti-larvae drives.

Leaders expressed dissatisfaction over the poor civic services despite a recent meeting held in the presence of MLA Saryu Roy, where JD(U) leaders had strongly criticized Mango Municipal Corporation and even announced a protest plan. "Even after raising these issues, the cleaning of drains and door-to-door garbage collection remain unsatisfactory. Electricity problems are also unresolved, with dangling live wires posing a danger to the public," said party members. They added that in many areas wires are dangerously supported by bamboo poles, creating risks of major accidents. The leaders stressed that JD(U) workers are constantly engaging with residents to assess problems firsthand. They warned that if the municipal corporation continues to neglect civic duties or leaves work unfinished, the party will once again take to the streets. Present at the meeting were JD(U) district secretary Vikas Sahni, Sanjay Singh, Manoj Gupta, Manoj Ojha, Manoj Rai, Abhijeet Senapati, Vijay Kumar Barman, Vijendra Singh, Ritu, Pratibha Singh, Parvinder Singh, Avdhesh Baba, Yogendra Kumar Sahu, Rahul Tiwari and Neeraj Singh. (w/nkm)

Ganinath Seva Sansthan to celebrate 52nd Jayanti on August 23

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Ganinath Seva Sansthan announced during a press conference that it will celebrate the 52nd Jayanti of its deity, Shri Ganinath Govind Ji Maharaj, on Saturday, August 23. The institution, managed by the Madhyadeshia Vaishya (Halwai) community, has been working for over five decades to uphold the values and ideals of their deity. The celebration began with competitions such as drawing, quiz contests and a

mehndi contest for women, with winners set to be awarded on the Jayanti. Students who excelled in matriculation and intermediate examinations will also be felicitated with "Pratibha Samman." On August 23, the program will begin with a grand procession starting at 7 a.m. from Ganinath Mandir, passing through Tiplate Roundabout and Golmuri Chowk, before returning to the temple. Ritual worship and flag hoisting will follow. Chief guests include former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das, former minister



Mail News Service

Banna Gupta and Jamshedpur MP Vidyut Varan Mahato, while Jugsalai MLA Purnima Sahu will be the special guest. Thousands of community members from Jamshedpur and surrounding areas are expected to attend. During the press conference, president were institution president

Sunder Gupta, general secretary Sanjay Prasad, working president Jaihind Gupta, patrons Raj Kumar Prasad, Vinay Gupta, Shailesh Gupta, youth president Raj Gupta, youth secretary Sujit Kumar Gupta and vice president Dharmendra Kumar among others. (w/nkm)

Aarambh 2025: Arka Jain University hosts welcome ceremony for new students

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Arka Jain University, known for its growing reputation across Bihar and Jharkhand, welcomed its newly enrolled students with a grand annual event titled "Aarambh 2025" at the Tata Auditorium in the XLRI campus. The program was inaugurated by former Odisha Governor and ex-Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Raghubar Das, who lit the ceremonial lamp. Addressing the students, he encouraged them to "dream big and move forward with a positive mindset." He emphasized that education was



not merely about earning a degree, but about cultivating compassion, kindness, and strong values. University Director and Registrar Dr. Amit Kumar Srivastava inspired students to contribute to India's vision of becoming a \$45 trillion economy by 2047, urging

them to stay dedicated to their dreams. Vice Chancellor Dr. Angad Tiwari added, "Self-confidence is the key to success. Parents must believe in their children's dreams and support them unconditionally." The event was made vibrant

with cultural performances, including a Radhakrishna group dance, Aman-group performance, ramp walk, and a lively musical presentation by Band Bairagi. Messages from University Management Board Chairman Prof. (Dr.) S.S. Razi and Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Ishwaranlyer were shared via video. The event saw participation from students, parents, faculty, non-teaching staff, and city dignitaries. "Aarambh 2025" proved to be more than just a welcome-it became a motivational platform urging students to dream fearlessly and chase their goals with passion. (w/gsd)

CHANGE OF NAME

Video Affidavit Dated 07.08.25 at Jamshedpur, I-INDU DEVI THAKUR, wife of Mr Rakesh Kumar Thakur, resident of: Flat No. 3/B, 2nd Floor, Kiran Kunj Apartment, Shiv Path and Mandir Path, Near Mandir Path Park, Bhatiya Basti, P.O: Kadma, Jamshedpur-831005 changed my name as - INDU DEVI & both is same person.

AFFIDAVIT

I, ABHISEK KARMAKAR, aged about 20 years, S/o- Madhu Karmakar, resident of At - Ward No-07, Barbil, P.O/PS- Barbil, Dist-Keonjhar (Odisha) - 758035, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-
1. That I am the deponent of this affidavit and resident of the above noted address.
2. That my actual and correct Date of Birth is 06.05.2005 which has been recorded in my birth certificate issued by the registrar of births and deaths Barbil Municipality vide its registration no-193 dated 23.03.2007, Aadhaar card vide no- 7220 3056 5387 and PAN Card vide no QAPPK1035Q.
3. That in my (CLASS - X) pass Certificate vide no- TV 60083269 and Statement of Marks Certificate vide no- TV 20083556 of ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, BARBIL wherein my Date of Birth is inadvertently recorded as 06.05.2006 instead of 06.05.2005.
4. That I hereby declare that my Date of Birth is 06.05.2005 and the same may be treated, accepted and recorded in all purposes.
5. That I swear this affidavit to-day to produce the same before the concerned authority as and when required.
6. That the contents of this affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Sl. No. : 4513
Date : 14-08-2025 Advocate

Christian Community's silent protest against religious harassment, false conversion charges

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Aug 17: The Christian community in Ranchi organized a silent procession on Sunday to protest the alleged wrongful imprisonment of nuns and tribal youths on false charges of religious conversion at Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh. The march was held under the banner of All Churches Committee and saw large participation from people across denominations, all standing in solidarity against what they called an attack on religious freedom. The procession began around 1:00 PM from the GEL Church premises, where Moderator Marshal Kerketta led a prayer before the march commenced. Holding placards and banners, the participants walked silently through Main



Road, Albert Ekka Chowk, and culminated their rally outside the Raj Bhavan, where it turned into a peaceful meeting. Christian leaders strongly condemned the incident and voiced concerns

over rising intolerance and violations of minority rights. Archbishop Vincent Aind said, "India is a land of diversity, but in some states, the rights of minorities are being suppressed.

This protest is for justice and the protection of human rights." Marshall Kerketta called the incident a blow to both religious freedom and humanity, stating that the Christian community,

despite serving society through education and health care, continued to face discrimination. Bishop BB Baskey of CNI Church warned that if such incidents were repeated, the entire Church community would launch a massive movement. Bishop Nistar Kujur of NWGEL Church emphasized that religious freedom was a constitutional right and demanded the government uphold justice, peace, and security. Other leaders, including All Churches Committee Secretary Joljas Kujur, Chairman Kuldeep Tirkey, and Coordinator Sunil Khalkho, demanded that anti-constitutional acts must stop, and innocent individuals must be granted justice. They warned that continued violations of minority rights would escalate the movement to a larger scale.

Yogendra Sao's 5 bouncers arrested for mine shutdown and assault

Mail News Service



Hazaribagh, Aug 17: Police in Hazaribagh have arrested five bouncers allegedly linked to former minister Yogendra Sao on charges of shutting down a coal mine and assaulting transporters and drivers. The incident occurred at NTPC's Chatti Bariatu coal mines, where protests have been ongoing following the demolition of a boundary wall at Chimney Bhatta, owned by Sao's wife and former MLA Nirmala Devi.

According to reports, on Saturday, the accused allegedly forced operations to halt at the mine and attacked workers. Following a complaint by the transporters' union, an FIR was lodged at Barkagaon police station. Acting swiftly, police arrested the five men from Sao's office on Sunday morning, where both Sao and former MLA Amba Prasad were present at the time. All arrested individuals are residents of Haryana. A senior police officer stated, "We have arrested five bouncers involved in the assault and efforts are underway to trace other accused. Earlier, eight supporters of Yogendra Sao were also arrested and sent to jail in connection with the ongoing unrest." The incident has heightened tensions in the area, with security tightened around the disputed mine. (w/nkm)

FJCCI to launch 'Hamare yahan swadeshi samagri bikti hai' campaign

Ranchi, Aug 17: Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce & Industries (FJCCI) has appealed to traders to display boards at their establishments stating, 'Hamare yahan swadeshi samagri bikti hai.' The campaign will officially begin on August 27, with Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth launching the stickers and visiting shops along with chamber members to encourage the adoption of local goods. Speaking at the press conference, Seth said, "Under the leadership of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is moving rapidly towards self-reliance. The slogan of Vocal for Local is now becoming a reality on the ground." Chamber president Paresh Gattani emphasized that this initiative would serve as a

milestone for Atmanirbhar Bharat. General Secretary Aditya Malhotra added, "The trading community is the backbone of self-reliant India. Whenever the nation has needed, traders have always stood strong." Former president and

ex-Rajya Sabha MP Mahesh Poddar noted that India was progressing in the defence sector and said the recent reduction in GST rates would benefit both traders and consumers, easing business and boosting competitiveness. Assistant Secretary Vikas Vijayargya stressed that promoting local products was the foundation of self-reliance. Several senior chamber members, including R.K. Sarawgi, Pawan Sharma, Kunal Ajmani and Ram Bangad, were present at the event. (w/nkm)

Simdega raid on illegal sand mining uncovers ganja trafficking

60 kg seized

Mail News Service

Simdega, Aug 17: A major drug trafficking racket was exposed in Simdega district during an operation initially launched to curb illegal sand mining. Acting on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Kanchan, the administration formed a special team under the supervision of the SDO and local police station in-charge. During a raid in Labra under Kalebira police



station limits, the team seized a tractor loaded with illegally mined sand. In the course of the operation, officials stopped a suspicious car

passing by. On searching the vehicle, they discovered nearly 60 kilograms of ganja packed inside. The narcotics, valued at around Rs 60

lakh, along with the vehicle, were seized on the spot. Deputy Commissioner Kanchan said strict action will continue against all illegal trades in the district. "Be it illegal sand, ganja, or timber, no unlawful activity will be allowed to flourish in Simdega. We will conduct consistent raids and take stern action," she affirmed. Police have registered a case and further investigation is underway to identify the network involved in trafficking. (w/nkm)

Technomec Solutions marks second anniversary



Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Technomec Solutions, a leading industrial supplier, celebrated its second anniversary at its office in Techno Tower, Pudasili (Dobo), Jamshedpur, with a simple yet meaningful ceremony. Addressing the gathering, Sunil Bagrodia, Managing Director of Technomec Solutions, congratulated the team and acknowledged their contribution to the

company's sustained growth. He highlighted the importance of collective effort and expressed confidence in the team's continued commitment to excellence. The celebrations began with a traditional cake-cutting ceremony, symbolising unity and shared success. The event was attended by key team members including Archit, Manoj, Sanjeev, Kanhu, and other colleagues, whose dedication and efficiency have played a vital role in the company's journey over the past two years. With this milestone, Technomec Solutions reaffirmed its commitment to delivering quality, reliability, and innovation in industrial supply, while strengthening its presence in the sector. (W-pb)

300 devotees to join Nagar Kirtan in Amritsar

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: To mark the 364th Prakash Utsav of Shiromani Shaheed Baba Jivan Singh Ji, around 300 devotees from Tatanagar, will travel to Amritsar, Punjab, to participate in the Nagar Kirtan organised under the banner of Rangreta Mahasabha. The Chetna March will commence from Jamshedpur on September 1 and join the Nagar Kirtan from Jallianwala Bagh to Darbar Sahib. Devotees are scheduled to return on September 10. At a general meeting held today at Tiplate Khalsa Club, State President of Rangreta Mahasabha Manjit Singh announced that this



will be the fifth consecutive year of participation. He expressed happiness over the growing enthusiasm of the Sangat and assured that more devotees will be encouraged to take part in the future. He also informed that arrangements have been made for

langar at different stations during the train journey, accommodation has been provided by Darbar Sahib, and buses have been arranged for local travel in Punjab. The meeting was marked by addresses and acknowledgements.

Manjit Singh delivered the welcome speech, the proceedings were conducted by Sukhdev Singh Mittu, program details were shared by Sahib Singh, and the vote of thanks was given by Amrit Singh. Several dignitaries and community leaders including Kundan Singh, Jasbir Singh, Kartar Singh, Rajendra Singh, Gurdayal Singh Mananwal, Kashmir Singh Cheema, Paramjeet Singh Roshan, Chotu Paji, Ranjeet Singh, Fauji Mansingh Touila, Satnam Kaur, Geeta Kaur, Balwinder Kaur, Kiran Deep Kaur, Jasbir Kaur (Sito), Baby Kaur, Charan Jeet Kaur, Harjeet Kaur, Rani Kaur, and Sindo Kaur were present on the occasion. (W-pb)

'Lord Krishna became Arjun's charioteer to support truth'

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: A grand procession was organised by Jamshedpur Yadav Samaj on the occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami. The procession, marked with devotional fervour, started from Agrico Ground and concluded at Sakchi Mango Garden. As part of the celebrations, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader Mahabir Murmu, along with Goldy Tiwari and Anand Srivastava, was felicitated by Yadav Samaj near Sakchi Gurudwara with a shawl and a



memento featuring Lord Krishna and Radha Ji. Addressing the gathering, Mahabir Murmu said that Lord Krishna was born in Dwapar Yug to end tyranny and corruption. He highlighted various divine episodes from Krishna's

life, including the slaying of Kansa, the playful Bal Leelas in Gokul, and his role as Arjun's charioteer in the Mahabharata, where he ensured the victory of truth. Prominent members of Yadav Samaj including Sagar Rai, Pratap Kumar Yadav, Karan Kalindi,

Abhay, Ashok, Shashi, Vijay, Krishna, Mukesh, and Mrityunjay were present during the event. The celebration reflected devotion, unity, and reverence for Lord Krishna's timeless message of truth and righteousness. (W-pb)

Janmashtami 2025 celebrated with devotion and joy

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: The city of Jamshedpur came alive with colours of devotion, music, and festivity as thousands of devotees celebrated Shri Krishna Janmashtami 2025 with great fervour, commemorating the divine birth of Lord Krishna. Temples across the city, including ISKCON Sidhgora, Beldih Kalibari, and several other spiritual centres, were adorned with flowers, lights, and traditional rangolis, drawing large numbers of devotees. The air was filled with melodious bhajans, soulful aarti, and captivating Krishna Leela performances, creating an atmosphere of divine bliss. One of the major attractions was



the Dahi Handi competitions organised in different parts of the city, where enthusiastic youth

displayed their spirit and teamwork, cheered on by lively crowds. At midnight, devotees gathered in temples to witness the grand aarti and Krishna Abhishek, marking the exact moment of Krishna's birth with chants of "Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki," reverberating across the city. Adding charm to the celebrations, children dressed as Radha and Krishna brought smiles and joy to family gatherings, housing societies, and cultural programmes. The festival not only reflected the deep-rooted spiritual faith of the people but also highlighted the communal harmony and cultural richness of Jamshedpur, as residents across communities joined in the celebration with devotion and joy. (W-pb)

Special Camp for 'Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card'

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: In a major initiative to extend health benefits to the elderly, special camps are being organised across the urban areas of the district from August 18 to August 26, 2025, under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The camps aim to facilitate the making of the 'Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card' for all senior citizens aged 70 years and above. Authorities have appealed to senior citizens to visit their nearest Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) on the scheduled dates and avail the benefits of the scheme. The schedule for the camps is as follows: 18.08.2025-UPHC, Baliguma, 19.08.2025-UPHC, Chhota Govindpur, 20.08.2025-UPHC, Laxminagar, 21.08.2025-UPHC, Lions Club, Notified Area, 22.08.2025-UPHC, Rajnamnagar, Kadma, 23.08.2025-UPHC, Roop Nagar, Sonari, 25.08.2025 -UPHC, Sidgora and 26.08.2025-UPHC, Zone No. 5, Birsanagar. The district administration has urged families to encourage elderly members to participate and ensure that maximum beneficiaries take advantage of this health protection initiative. (W-pb)

Heavy rain likely in 7 districts of Jharkhand on August 19, yellow alert issued

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for heavy rainfall in seven districts of Jharkhand on August 19 (Tuesday), warning residents to remain cautious. The alert covers the south-western and adjoining districts of East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, Simdega, Seraikela-Kharsawan, Palamu, Garhwa, and Latehar. According to the IMD, these districts are likely to witness heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds at a speed of 30-40 kmph. The weather office has



advised residents to avoid unnecessary travel during heavy showers and to stay indoors or in safe locations during thunderstorms. Farmers have

been cautioned against working in open fields during this period. While the southern and western belt is likely to face inclement weather, Ranchi and

its adjoining districts will see relatively clear and sunny skies. The IMD said the capital region may experience mild heat and humidity due to rising day temperatures. On Sunday, Ranchi recorded a maximum temperature of 27.4°C, while Jamshedpur reported 33.1°C, Bokaro 32.5°C, and Chaibasa 31.8°C. Officials informed that Jharkhand has been witnessing uneven rainfall distribution this monsoon, with some districts receiving surplus rain while others continue to remain below normal levels. The fresh spell of rain is expected to improve water levels in reservoirs and

provide relief to farmers in rain-fed areas. The disaster management authorities have urged people to take precautions during the forecast period. Citizens have been advised: To stay indoors during lightning and thunderstorms. Not to take shelter under trees, electric poles, or temporary structures. To avoid venturing into low-lying or waterlogged areas. To keep mobile phones charged and follow official advisories. With the alert in place, district administrations have been asked to remain on standby to deal with any emergency arising from heavy rainfall or lightning strikes. (W-pb)

Even childhood Leela of Lord Krishna reflected love and brotherhood

Fifth Day of Bhagwat Katha in Bistupur

Jamshedpur, August 17: On the fifth day of the Bhagwat Katha at the Satyanarayan Marwari Temple in Bistupur, spiritual fervor filled the air as devotees witnessed the Chhappan Bhog Darshan and Govardhan Puja celebration. Renowned narrator Himanshu Maharaj from Mathura captivated the audience with divine stories from the childhood of Shri Bal Krishna Lal, bringing alive the message of love, humility,

and devotion.

Addressing the gathering, Maharaj Ji emphasized that even in the playful act of stealing butter, Shri Krishna was spreading a profound message of love and brotherhood.

"By answering the Gopis' calls and engaging in his playful Leelas, Krishna awakened deep devotion and affection in their hearts," he said.

He also recounted the episode of Govardhan Puja, highlighting how Lord Krishna encouraged the people of Vraj to stop worshipping Indra and instead offer prayers to Shri



Govardhan Maharaj. Enraged, Indra caused torrential rains for seven days and nights, but Krishna lifted the Govardhan

mountain on his little finger, offering shelter to the people of Vraj and ultimately humbling the pride of Indra.

A tableau of Lord Govardhan Maharaj was presented, accompanied by the display of Chhappan Bhogofferings before Lord Giriraj Ji. The spiritual atmosphere moved devotees to tears.

The event saw the presence of several hosts and organizers, including Sant Kumar Vijay Kumar Agiwal, Satyanarayan Anup Agarwal, Arun Bankrewal, Umesh Mahesh Sanghi, and Hariprasad

Abhishek Agiwal. Sunday's prasad was sponsored by Suresh Kumar Agiwal, Rahul Piyush Chaudhary, and Santosh Sanghi.

Other prominent attendees included Suresh Agiwal, Vijay Kumar Agiwal, Babulal Sonthalia, Bajrang Lal Sonthalia, Hari Shankar Sonthalia, Murari Lal Sonthalia, Satyanarayan Naredi, Banwari Lal Sonthalia, Vishwanath Naredi, and Ashok Naredi, along with a large number of devoted followers. The sixth day of the Katha will feature the narrations of Rukmani Mangal and Sudama Charitra. (w/gsd)

Tributes paid to Ramdas Soren



Ghatshila, Aug 17: Rich tributes were paid to late minister and former Ghatshila MLA Ramdas Soren at Dahigoda Shiva Mandir complex, near Laldih railway gate. Local leaders, social activists and residents gathered to remember his contributions to the region and his role in state politics. Those present included Uttam Das, Amit Roy, Joga Ghosh, Deepak Bera, Dil Bahadur, Bimal Bari, A.K. Singh, C.R. Puri, S.K. Singh, Suresh Singh, Bikram Bodra, R.K. Barneal, S.S. Das and Deepak Dutta, among others. The attendees recalled his service-oriented political career and expressed that his absence left a void in Ghatshila's public life. (w/nkm)

First blood donation camp at Adityapur Railway Station

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: For the first time, a one-day blood donation camp was organized at Adityapur Railway Station premises by Prateek Sangharsh Foundation, in collaboration with Jamshedpur Blood Centre and supported by the Freight Depot Sick Line.

The camp was inaugurated with floral tributes and lamp lighting before the statue of Bharat Mata.

The event saw the presence of Siddhant Verma (DME), A. Mandal (SSE), Dr. Nirjala Jha and PSF Director Arijit Sarkar. A total of 85 donors participated in the camp, which aimed at fulfilling humanitarian responsibilities and ensuring timely availability of blood for



patients in need. Organizers highlighted the importance of voluntary blood donation as a life-saving act. Key contributors to the event included R.P. Nair, A.K. Mahakud, Shubhokanto Pradhan, Sanjay Pradhan, Anish, Bhupesh and several PSF members including Deepak Kumar Mitra, Tapan Chanda, Bhaskar Kundu and Ravi Shankar.

The initiative was widely appreciated as a successful effort toward community welfare and social responsibility. (w/nkm)

69 donors participate in Independence Day blood donation camp

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: A blood donation camp was organized on Independence Day at M.O. Rahman Hall, Old Purulia Road, Zakir Nagar, by the Rahman Foundation in collaboration with the Narayana Health Blood Bank.

The event was sponsored by Umeed Niti Education Trust and supported by Dost Trust, IBN-Sina Hospital and several other NGOs.

The camp ran from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the twin objectives of collect-



ing blood for local hospitals and patients in need, while also spreading awareness about voluntary

blood donation. It was open to individuals aged 18 and above who met the necessary health parameters.

A total of 69 men and women donated blood, displaying what organizers described as "a commendable spirit of generosity and community service."

Each participant was registered on arrival and underwent a medical screening before donation. Donors were later provided refreshments and guidance on post-donation care.

"This initiative is not

just about donating blood, it is about saving lives and strengthening community bonds," said Sayed Perwez Khalid, convener of Dost Trust.

Other prominent participants included Shakil Ahmad, President of IBN-Sina Hospital, Dr. Zafar, Abbas Ali and Dr. Misbah, who also lauded the collective effort of NGOs and volunteers.

Organizers emphasized that the camp fostered a strong sense of social responsibility and hoped similar initiatives would continue in the future. (w/nkm)

Umesh Shah appointed state President of ABAS, Vijay Khemka named General Secretary

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: The National President of the Akhil Bharatiya Agrawal Sammelan, Gopal Sharan Garg, has appointed Umesh Shah as the Jharkhand State



President of the organization. Shah, a resident of Chandrabali Udayan in Kashidih, takes over with the aim of infusing new energy and purpose into the Sammelan's activities across the state. Vijay Khemka from Mango's Purulia Road has been appointed as the General Secretary for Jharkhand. Prabhakar Agrawal of Ranchi has been named the State Chairman. National General Secretary Gopal Goyal has officially sent appointment letters to the newly appointed office bearers. Umesh Shah shared this information through a press release issued on Sunday. He expressed his commitment to strengthening the organization with the cooperation of the community and said the new team was ready to work toward fresh goals with renewed enthusiasm. (w/gsd)

Rajkumar Singh honored for providing free water supply during summer crisis

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Former Zila Parishad Vice President Rajkumar Singh has been recognized for his remarkable social service during the summer heat-wave.

In a ceremony jointly organized by the Radha Krishna Temple Committee and the South Ghaghidih Panchayat at Somay Jhopdi's Yogi Maidan, Singh was felicitated with a memento and traditional attire. During the peak summer months, Singh addressed the critical water shortage in the area by supplying free drinking water through his two private tankers to various localities across the Panchayat. His efforts, supported by Panchayat head Bharat Joda and the Radha Krishna Temple Committee, ensured a steady and clean water supply to hundreds of residents. Singh stated that his water distribution initiative extended beyond summer



and also covered religious ceremonies, weddings, and festivals. "Water is life, and this belief drives my social service," he said, affirming that he would continue such humanitarian work in the future as well. Local residents and committee members praised his selfless initiative, calling it a great relief for the region. Attendees at the event included Pankaj Das, Prakash Das, Banwari Das, Raju Jora, Bhaskar Das, Dinesh Pandey, Amriti Pritam Sandil, Padma Kumari Das, Parvati Das, Suvarna Patra, and Sukhdev Das, among others. (w/gsd)

SI Arun Kumar Singh's autopsy completed, body handed to family

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Aug 17: The postmortem of Sub Inspector Arun Kumar Singh, whose body was found under suspicious circumstances near Jagriti Maidan in the RIT police station area of Seraikela-Kharsawan district, was completed on Sunday at Sadar Hospital.

Following the arrival of his family, the body was formally handed over to them.

Sub Inspector Arun Kumar Singh was a native of the Koilwar police station area in Ara district, Bihar.

He had been serving in various police stations within Seraikela-Kharsawan district for the past three years and was recently transferred to Ranchi. Despite his transfer more than two and a half years



ago, he continued to oversee the storeroom at the RIT police station, as subsequent station in-charges reportedly did not assume responsibility for it.

Sources indicated that the delay in handing over the storeroom's charge may have led to the withholding of his salary, causing further distress. His body was discovered on Saturday morning behind a chicken shop located at the northern end of Jagriti Maidan. Due to the family's delayed arrival, the body had been preserved in cold storage at the hospital until the post-mortem could be conducted.

The cause of death remained under investigation, as questions continued to arise over the circumstances leading to his death. (w/gsd)

Free dental camp held on Independence Day



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: A free dental camp was organized at My Dentist Dental Clinic, Bhalubasa, Jamshedpur, on the occasion of India's 79th Independence Day. The camp was jointly conducted by renowned dentists Dr. Bishesh Das, Dr. Mayank Bhardwaj and Dr. Anish Prakash, with sponsorship from JL

Morrissons Ltd. The initiative provided free dental check-ups, consultations and treatments to local residents. A total of 121 people benefited from the camp.

The doctors highlighted the importance of regular dental check-ups, stressing that proper oral care can prevent many serious health complications.

The Independence Day celebration was also marked with patriotic fervour, making the health initiative even more memorable.

Locals praised the efforts of the doctors, the clinic and JL Morrissons Ltd for their socially responsible step.

They expressed hope that other institutions would come forward with similar welfare activities for the community. (w/nkm)

I-Day celebrated at KVPSD CM School of Excellence



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Aug 17: The Kumar Vijay Pratap Singhdeo Chief Minister School of Excellence, Seraikela, celebrated India's 79th Independence Day with patriotic enthusiasm. The event was marked by a flag-hoisting ceremony led by school principal Narayan Kumar, who extended greetings to the entire school family and citizens. In his address, Kumar paid tribute to the martyrs, stating, "Our independence is the result of the sacrifice of brave patriots.

To preserve it, we must remain dedicated to the nation and work selflessly in its interest."

Students added to the atmosphere with chants of Bharat Mata ki Jai, Vande Mataram and Jai Hind.

Senior teacher Praveen Kumar Rath, teacher Meenakshi Rajak, student representatives and others also shared their views, emphasizing the need for commitment and responsibility toward the country. The program concluded with a collective pledge to uphold the spirit of freedom and patriotism. (w/nkm)

Live-in relationships a threat to Indian culture: Sunil Anand

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: The Ananda Marga Pracharak Sangh organized a three-day block-level seminar at the Ananda Marga Jagriti Centre, focusing on the theme "Pran Dharma." Trainer Sunil Anand delivered a thought-provoking address, stating that Pran Dharma is the soul of human life, guiding individuals from animalistic tendencies to divine consciousness.

He criticized live-in relationships as an assault on Indian culture, saying, "This concept insults the marital system established by Lord Shiva, who laid the foundation of an organized social order through his marriage with Parvati." Anand emphasized that this system gave women dignity, while Western-inspired practices like live-in relationships weaken that foundation.

The seminar also highlighted how Mughal, British and modern capitalist influences have attempted to weaken India's spiritual essence. According to Anand, Ananda Marga stands firmly against such disruptive tendencies, promoting the view that life is a relative truth that must be lived with spiritual insight.

The movement urges people to reconnect with their inner consciousness and work toward establishing a global human religion, which Anand described as "the need of the present age." (w/nkm)

DRM Pandey Inspects Shalimar, Santragachi stations

Mail News Service

Kharagpur, Aug 17: Lalit Mohan Pandey, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Kharagpur Division, conducted an extensive inspection of Shalimar and Santragachi stations, focusing on passenger amenities, cleanliness and safety standards.

At Shalimar station, Pandey reviewed the coaching depot, pit line and the ongoing Jetty Project, closely assessing progress and operational preparedness. He interacted with officials to ensure smooth functioning and timely completion of the works. At Santragachi, the DRM inspected the station building and



passenger facilities, stressing the importance of enhancing passenger comfort. "Maintaining high standards of cleanliness, convenience and safety is non-negotiable," Pandey emphasized during his visit.

He instructed officials to continuously monitor services and imple-

ment further improvements in line with passenger expectations and safety norms. The inspection underlined the Railways' commitment to strengthening infrastructure while ensuring that travellers experience better amenities at these key stations. (w/nkm)

Demand for permanent solution to railway crossing chaos

Mail News Service

Jhargram, Aug 17: Jhargram witnessed a street meeting organized by the Junglemahal Swaraj Morcha (JSM), demanding an immediate solution to the severe traffic congestion caused by the railway gate at Kadamkanan crossing.

The organization called for the construction of either a Road Over Bridge (ROB) or a Road Under Bridge (RUB) to ease the daily suffering of thousands of residents.

Local people and JSM leaders highlighted that students, office-goers and even emergency patients face immense hardships due to frequent traffic snarls at the crossing. "We have already submitted written appeals to the railway authorities, local representatives and the Ministry of Railways," said Ashoke



Mahata, Central President of JSM. He added, "Today's meeting marks the beginning of a renewed movement. We will soon submit fresh memorandums and continue the agitation with local people until the problem is solved."

The meeting strongly urged joint

action from both the Railways and the State Government to begin work without delay.

The JSM emphasized that people's suffering should not be prolonged any further and authorities must take responsibility to resolve the crisis. (w/nkm)

Meritorious students honoured at Janmashtami Fair in Seraikela

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Aug 17: The five-day Shri Krishna Janmashtami Puja and Fair, being organized under the aegis of the Regional Gaud Society Mahalimurup, continued with grandeur at Rangatand Ground in Jagannathpur, Seraikela. On the second day of the celebrations, the organizing committee held a special felicitation ceremony to honour meritorious students of the community.

Students who passed their matriculation and intermediate examinations with first division were presented with certificates



and shields in recognition of their achievements. The event aimed not only to celebrate academic excellence but also to inspire the younger generation to pursue their goals with dedication. Chief guest Pitobhas Pradhan, General Secretary of

Gaud Seva Sangh, praised the students and encouraged them to work hard to maintain their honour. "Talent and perseverance will help you build a successful career. Our society will ensure that deserving students get every possible support to pursue high-

er education," he said. Guest of honour Anita Pradhan, Panchayat Samiti member, added, "Meritorious students should continue to bring pride to our community." Committee spokesperson Umakant Pradhan, who con-

ducted the program, motivated the students by saying, "This recognition will act as wings for your talent, helping you soar high to achieve your dreams. Society will always stand by you." Other speakers, including ASI Bhagwat Oraon, Kashinath Pradhan and Hemsagar Pradhan, also encouraged the students. The dignitaries jointly inaugurated the Janmashtami fair with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event was attended by committee office-bearers and a large gathering of community members, making the celebration both festive and inspiring. (w/nkm)

Driver Chalak Mahasangh demands pension and job quota for locals



Mail News Service

Jaduguda, Aug 17: The Jharkhand Driver Chalak Mahasangh held a meeting on Sunday at Sohda Football Ground, Jaduguda, where members staged a strong protest to press their demands before the state government. The federation demanded pension for drivers above 60 years of age and 75 percent reservation for local drivers in private companies.

They also called for fixed wages in private companies, ambulance facilities for drivers' families in case of illness, rest houses every 100 km along highways and proper toilet facilities at limited company sites. Treasurer Jagmohan Pingua and Deepak Kalindi accused the government of failing to implement its earlier promise of 75 percent local driver recruitment. The meeting witnessed participation from drivers across Ghatshila, Jaduguda, Potka and Jamshedpur. (w/nkm)

Labour Union celebrates 79th Independence Day at UCIL



Jaduguda, Aug 17: The recognized workers' body, Jaduguda Labour Union, celebrated the 79th Independence Day at all three of its unit offices.

The main event was organized at the Turamdih UCIL residential colony union office, where Union General Secretary Surjeet Singh hoisted the national flag.

Members saluted the Tricolour and paid tribute to the sacrifices of freedom fighters. Singh also highlighted the contribution of the company to the nation's progress, urging workers to remain united in strengthening both the industry and the country.

The celebrations reflected patriotic fervour among the workers and their families, who actively participated in the program. (w/nkm)

RJD leader alleges extortion threat over land demarcation

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Aug 17: Former RJD district president Gajanand Sahu from Tikar village under Ichagarh police station has filed a complaint alleging extortion and threats from local men. Sahu claimed that Chhotu Ghosh, Tapas Ghosh and others demanded ₹5 lakh from him and threatened to kill him if unpaid. On August 14, when officials arrived to demarcate his land (Khata no. 623, Plot no. 2945, 27 decimals), the accused allegedly disrupted the process, chased away the government surveyor and prevented the measurement. Sahu said he had earlier complained to the SP and SDO but no action was taken. He alleged, "The accused are openly obstructing legal work and threatening me because I refused to pay extortion money." Police have registered the complaint and are investigating. (w/nkm)



Devotees celebrate Mansa Puja



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Aug 17: The annual worship of Goddess Mansa, revered as the deity of snakes, was celebrated with great devotion in Seraikela and surrounding areas. From early morning, long queues of devotees were seen at temples and pandals, offering prayers and seeking blessings. Former Vice Chairman of Seraikela Nagar Panchayat and social worker Manoj Kumar Chaudhary offered prayers at the historic Mansa temple in Diwansai. "I prayed to Maa Mansa to remove the sufferings of people and grant prosperity to the region," he said.

The festival was marked by traditional rituals and festive spirit, reflecting the deep faith of the local community in the goddess believed to be the daughter of Lord Shiva and Parvati. (w/nkm)

TGS hosts health camp for security guards



Gamharia, Aug 17: Under the 'One Tata Steel Volunteering' initiative, Tata Steel Growth Shop (TGS) Security Department organized a free health check-up camp for outsourced security guards.

A total of 112 male and female guards underwent tests for lung health, thyroid, blood pressure and diabetes. The camp was supervised by TGS and Tata Steel Security heads Mahendra Singh Banra and Mukesh Kumar. Trade union leader Dinesh Upadhyay, Inspector Manoj Mandal, Harjeet Singh and Dr. Om Prakash Pandey played key roles in the event. The CSR and medical teams also contributed to the camp's success. (w/nkm)

Little Play School celebrates Janmashtami with fervour

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Aug 17: Little Play School celebrated Krishna Janmashtami with vibrant performances by children.



The highlight was a live tableau depicting Radha and Krishna, which mesmerized the audience. Children also staged cultural programs and short skits. School director Anu Rani said, "Such events instil cultural awareness and help children understand the significance of our traditions." The program was attended by NSS officer Naval Choudhary, teachers Pooja Kumari, Richa Pathak, Mansi, parents and a large number of children. (w/nkm)

Women workers trained on 'Just Transition' in Gamharia

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Aug 17: The Jharkhand Mahila INTUC organized a one-day workshop on 'Just Transition' for women workers, inaugurated by executive president Bharti Singh. Speakers explained that 'Just Transition' is a process ensuring social justice and equality for workers in changing industrial landscapes. JUSCO Workers' Union president Raghunath Pandey stressed, "This is not only about technology but about safeguarding livelihoods. Women workers must not lose their rights and jobs in this transition." TISCO



Union vice-president Shah Nawaz Alam emphasized training women to adapt to new technologies, while INTUC national chairperson Devika Singh said, "Women must not just participate but lead this change." The workshop saw strong participation from women and men workers.

Thanks were extended by Noorjahan Khan Warsi. Several trade union leaders, including Noorjahan Warsi, Shikha Choudhary, Rinku Roy, Sabana Khan and others, were also present. (w/nkm)

Ramdas Soren remembered

Mail News Service

Jaduguda, Aug 17: JMM leader Paltan Murmu expressed deep grief over the untimely demise of Jharkhand's Education Minister Ramdas Soren. In a press release, Murmu said that the entire state, particularly the people of Ghatshila, was "deeply shocked" by his passing, calling it an "irreparable loss."

He described Soren as a simple, humble and honest leader whose contribution to the Jharkhand movement would always be remembered.

Thousands of people attended his funeral, paying tearful tributes. Murmu added, "Though Ramdas Da is no longer with us, he will always live in our hearts.

We will strengthen the organization by following his ideals." (w/nkm)

Free health check-up camp in memory of social worker Rampad Bez



Mail News Service

Gamharia, Aug 17: A free health check-up camp was organized at Baganpara, Bada Gamharia in memory of late social worker Rampad Bez.

The camp, chaired by Chittaranjan Bez, was inaugurated by former Jharkhand Health Minister Banna Gupta, who himself underwent a medical check-up.

Speaking on the occasion, Gupta said, "A healthy body is a person's greatest wealth.

Regular health check-ups are essential for everyone." He also advised people to take special precautions during the monsoon season. More than 300 people benefited from free medical examinations at the camp.

Prominent community members including Trilochan Pal, Rampad Pal, Umamad Pal, Sachin Das, Prabhat Das and Deepa Rao were present, alongside members of the organizing committee. (w/nkm)

Tribute paid to late president Nielsen Pradhan

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Aug 17: After the program, guests and community members paid heartfelt tribute to the late President of Janmashtami Puja Committee, Nielsen Pradhan.

Dignitaries offered floral respects to his portrait and observed two minutes of silence, praying for eternal peace of his soul.

Remembering his contributions, the gathering resolved to fulfil his dream by organizing the Janmashtami fair on a grand scale.

"We are committed to carry forward his vision," said members of the committee. (w/nkm)

Students awarded at free computer training valedictory function

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Aug 17: Lakshya Jharkhand, in collaboration with Global IT Computer Classes, organized a certificate distribution ceremony for students who completed free computer training under Infosys CSR support. The event began with lamp lighting and a tribute to late Jharkhand Education Minister Ramdas Soren. Gamharia Police Station in-charge Kunal Kumar encouraged the students, saying,



"Computer knowledge is essential in every field today. If used well, it will open doors to employment opportunities." Certificates were distributed to 80 trained students by distinguished guests, including former councillor Dhananjay Gupta, Jawaharlal Mahali and Sharadendu Shekhar. The program was conducted by Rashmi Sahu. Guests praised the initiative for providing free technical education to underprivileged students. (w/nkm)

Singhbhum Sports Lovers' Committee to honour veteran players

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Aug 17: The Singhbhum Sports Lovers' Committee convened a meeting on Sunday at Rabindra Bhavan Park under the chairmanship of President D.K. Banerjee. It was decided that on August 29, to mark National Sports Day, the committee will felicitate 11 veteran players of the district. The event will take place at Rabindra Bhavan. For smooth conduct, an organizing committee has been formed with Matloob Alam, Suryakant Bose, M. Bihari and Surten Topno as members. Stage management responsibilities have been assigned to Ramesh Das,



Sheetal Bage and Sunita Puri. Secretary Kabu Dutta, Diwaker Gop, Sushil Kumar Maharana, Janak Kishore Gop and other committee members were also present.

Banerjee said, "Honouring senior players is our way of recognizing their lifelong dedication to sports and inspiring the younger generation." (w/nkm)

Chief Justice inspects Seraikela Court premises

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Aug 17: Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court, Tarlok Singh Chauhan, visited the Seraikela-Kharsawan District Court complex on Sunday, accompanied by his wife.

He was accorded a guard of honour by the police before inspecting the premises in detail and reviewing judicial arrangements. On the occasion, he also planted saplings, stressing the importance of environmental conservation. Earlier on Friday, the Chief Justice had inspected Chandil Sub-Divisional Court as part of his continuous visits to strengthen trans-



parency in the judicial system. District and Sessions Judge Ramashankar Singh, Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh, SP Mukesh Kumar Lunayat and other judges and judicial officers

were present. Chauhan remarked that "justice must go hand in hand with social and environmental responsibility," underlining the judiciary's role in fostering trust among people. (w/nkm)

India's new resolve

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address from the ramparts of the Red Fort on India's 79th Independence Day was not just another ceremonial speech marking the nation's freedom. It was a statement of intent, a declaration of resolve and a roadmap for the immediate and long-term future of India. Two of his announcements stand out as particularly significant—both rooted in public welfare and national strength.

The first was an economic assurance that before Diwali, taxes on essential goods would be reduced, giving much-needed relief to the common man. In a country where inflation often burdens households, this move will be welcomed as a genuine Diwali gift. Alongside this, the Prime Minister announced the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Vikas Bharat Yojana, aimed at providing employment opportunities to 3.5 crore youth. The scheme promises an incentive of ₹15,000 to young people entering their first job in the private sector, giving them both encouragement and a sense of security. In a time when job creation is a central challenge, this step is both timely and impactful.

Equally important was the Prime Minister's assertion that Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms will be brought forward before Diwali. It has been eight years since GST came into effect and the call for review has been growing. Modi's suggestion of reducing the existing four slabs into just two—5% and 18%—is not only practical but long overdue. Simplification of GST would reduce confusion, improve compliance and benefit businesses across sectors. The long-standing demand to bring petrol and diesel under GST may also see fruition, offering relief from fluctuating state taxes and ensuring uniformity. If these reforms are implemented, they could go down as one of the most important economic decisions of this decade.

Beyond the economy, the Prime Minister touched upon themes of nationalism and security that carried both symbolic and practical weight. For the first time in his Independence Day speech, he mentioned the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), calling it a symbol of service, dedication, discipline and organization. This was significant, as the RSS has long been a force shaping India's socio-political fabric. By acknowledging its role from the Red Fort, Modi made a statement about the ideological backbone of his governance.

On the matter of national security, the Prime Minister's tone was uncompromising. His sharp message to Pakistan—that "water and blood will not flow together"—echoed across the globe. He invoked Operation Sindoor, describing it as a historic act of humanity's fight against terrorism. According to him, the operation not only brought Pakistan to its knees but also shook the world's conscience. This was a powerful reminder that India is no longer a passive victim of cross-border aggression but a nation willing to strike back decisively.

The announcement of the upcoming Sudarshan Chakra Mission carried further weight. While details remain scarce, Modi's words hinted at strategic water security, ensuring that India's rivers are used for its own farmers and citizens, not diverted to adversaries. This indirect yet strong message was clearly aimed at Pakistan and perhaps even the United States, affirming India's right to safeguard its natural resources. It signals a new India, assertive and unwilling to compromise when it comes to sovereignty and the welfare of its people.

The larger message of Modi's speech was that India will neither bow to pressure nor tolerate threats. He positioned the country as a rising power that protects its farmers, secures its fishermen and stands firm against enemies. This vision of strength, both internal and external, resonates at a time when global politics is rife with uncertainty and power shifts.

Independence Day speeches are often symbolic. But this year's address will echo far beyond ceremonial boundaries. By linking economic reform with national security and welfare policies with strategic missions, Modi has drawn a portrait of a self-confident India. His words carry weight not just within the country but across the global stage, where India is increasingly seen as a decisive voice.

In essence, the Prime Minister has set the tone for the coming years: India as a nation of resilience, empowerment and unshakable resolve.

From the Editorial Desk

"The Echo of I Wish"

By Rishika Ganguly



I wish I had slowed down enough to feel the days instead of chasing them.

But now I know the quietest hours held the loudest truths.

I wish I had spoken less out of fear and more out of love.

But now I know the voice inside me was never meant to be silenced.

I wish I hadn't wasted years trying to be perfect.

But now I know that scars don't ruin stories - they write them.

I wish I had stayed when life felt too heavy to carry.

But now I know even broken wings can remember how to fly.

I wish I had told the people I love that they were enough.

But now I know it's not too late - even whispers can reach hearts.

I wish I hadn't tried so hard to erase the parts of me that didn't shine.

But now I know the shadows just mean the light is real.

I wish I could go back and hold my younger self - scared, soft, and searching.

But now I know she became someone stronger than she ever imagined.

I wish I had seen the beauty in the ordinary.

But now I know that's where life hides its miracles.

I wish I'd lived more for joy and less for approval.

But now I know I was never born to please the world - only to live fully within it.

I wish I had known that letting go doesn't mean giving up.

But now I know it means making space for something new to grow.

I wish I could rewind. But now I know the story is beautiful - because it moved forward.

Not whim, but constitutionally valid inclusiveness should decide voter eligibility



By Dev Chandrasekhar

The Election Commission's approach to voter eligibility in Bihar's "Special Intensive Revision" (SIR) reveals an institution that appears to be replacing constitutional rectitude with administrative convenience.

Faced with judicial scrutiny over potential mass disenfranchisement, the EC has offered evasive responses and procedural defences that collapse under examination.

Their approach threatens millions of eligible voters. Being rejected is the proven framework of validated inclusivity that should guide all voter eligibility decisions.

Voter eligibility decisions cannot be divorced from constitutional foundations.

Article 326 of India's Constitution guarantees adult suffrage not as privilege but as right. That eligible citizens should participate in democracy is the fundamental presumption.

The Constitution therefore requires that eligibility systems be designed for inclusion rather than exclusion.

This approach has been validated across decades of modern India's democratic practice.

Successful voter registration drives, emergency electoral preparations, and inclusion of previously marginalized communities demonstrate that constitutional compliance and administrative efficiency reinforce. They do not contradict each other.

Validated inclusivity means designing systems that accommodate India's realities—poverty, limited documentation, linguistic diversity—rather than penalizing citizens for them.

Bihar's SIR abandons this framework. Traditional voter eligibility verification places responsibility on the Election Commission to confirm citizen status through field surveys and community engagement.

The SIR reverses this presumption. Existing voters must now re-prove

eligibility through documentation many cannot possess.

Citizens are required to produce one of eleven specific documents—a list that notably excludes widely-held documents like Aadhaar cards, ration cards, and voter ID cards while including documents with much lower possession rates such as passports, birth certificates, driving licenses, and bank passbooks.

The statistical reality exposes the impossibility of these requirements. According to petitions before the Supreme Court, less than 2.4% of Bihar's population holds a passport, birth registration remains low, and a minuscule percentage possesses government-issued permanent residence certificates or land allotment documents.

Yet these rare documents are included in the acceptable list while widely-held identity proofs like Aadhaar cards, ration cards, and MGNREGA job cards have been excluded.

This creates a fundamental disconnect between stated policy and ground reality.

Migrant workers often lack permanent addresses required for most formal

EC's Stand	Constitutional Way Forward
Constitutional Presumption Existing voters must re-prove eligibility; treats citizens as suspects requiring documentation	Presume inclusion: Presume inclusion of verification through field surveys and community engagement
Documentation Requirements Rigid eleven-document list; excluding those without formal papers (voter ID, passport, PAN, Aadhaar, bank account property docs, etc.)	Accept flexible documentation: Community attestation, employer certificates, cross-verification through existing beneficiary lists
Impact on Marginalized Groups Dismisses exclusion of migrant workers, women, rural populations since they	Design systems to accommodate vulnerable populations follow NNEIG/Aadhaar inclusive models
Verification Methods Initially planned mass documentation, adversarial approach toward voters	Enhanced field verification through door-to-door surveys, collaborative community-based verification, mobile registration drives
Procedural Fairness Inadvertently planned mass merges/deletions with minimal notice treats judicial oversight as interference	Ensure adequate notice and opportunity to respond: robust due process protections, treat voter removal as a serious constitutional matter



documents. Women in traditional households may not possess property documents, bank accounts, or educational certificates. Rural populations frequently lack access to the institutional frameworks that generate formal documentation. The elderly may possess outdated documents that don't meet current verification standards.

This goes against Article 14's equality guarantee that prohibits arbitrary exclusion from rights.

Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India established that procedures affecting rights must satisfy reasonableness standards. The Supreme Court's jurisprudence in Navtej Johar v. Union of India further established that facially neutral policies violating equality through exclusionary effects contravene constitutional promises. Bihar's wealth-dependent requirements resurrect barriers Article 326 was designed to eliminate. It reverses our Constitution's foundational precept that disallowed economic status from determining political participation.

The Supreme Court's jurisprudence in Navtej Johar and Anuj Garg further established that

facially neutral policies violating equality through exclusionary effects contravene constitutional promises.

The Commission's defence before the Supreme Court has been evasive. When pressed to justify the SIR as necessary for "electoral integrity," the EC has defended documentation requirements that ignore demographic realities.

Even when confronted with evidence that marginalized populations lack the required documentation, the EC's response has been to point to "eleven-document flexibility" while ignoring that many citizens possess none of these papers.

Proportionality doctrine requires that restrictions remain proportionate to legitimate aims. Potential disenfranchisement of lakhs based on documentation requirements appears grossly disproportionate to any electoral accuracy problem. Courts cannot recognize decisions based on fundamentally incorrect facts. They see them as per incuriam, or disregarding the law or the facts. Yet the Commission continues defending requirements that exclude vast populations from the democratic process.

The framework of validated inclusivity is not mere hypothesis. It has been proven empirically through successful implementation across decades of India's democracy. These validated approaches demonstrate that voter eligibility decisions can maintain integrity while embracing democratic standards.

Enhanced field verification represents this inclusivity in action. Door-to-door surveys by trained personnel reach citizens where they live, accommodating those unable to navigate bureaucratic processes. This method has been validated through successful voter drives that identified genuine duplicates. Legitimate registrations have been confirmed through community knowledge rather than documentation barriers.

Community leader involvement validates collaborative rather than adversarial eligibility verification. Local officials and recognized leaders possess intimate constituency knowledge that enables accurate identity confirmation while building trust. This approach has been validated through gram

panchayat systems and community-based programs that work with rather than against India's social structures.

Mobile registration drives eliminate geographic and economic barriers by bringing services to villages, urban slums, and remote areas. The state should facilitate rather than frustrate participation. The true mark of a democracy is expanded rather than contracted electoral participation.

Accepting community attestation, employer certificates, and cross-verification through existing beneficiary lists has been validated through numerous programs that maintained integrity while ensuring inclusion.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act exemplifies validated inclusivity perfectly. NREGA's flexible documentation requirements—accepting community verification alongside formal documents-enabled participation by previously excluded rural workers while maintaining program integrity.

Despite many shortcomings, Aadhaar enrolment demonstrates how sustained outreach can include previously undocumented citizens. Mobile camps and simplified verification processes showed that democratic governance and administrative efficiency are not competing values but complementary requirements.

Bihar's choice of exclusionary documentation over these validated inclusive methods reveals a rejection of democratic standards in favour of administrative convenience.

India's Constitution provides clear guidance: voter eligibility systems must presume inclusion, accommodate diverse populations, and place the burden of verification on the state rather than citizens.

The choice before the Election Commission is clear: embrace standards set by our Constitution or continue defending an approach that citizens and courts in any self-respecting constitutional democracy should reject on grounds of arbitrariness, disproportionality, and systematic exclusion of eligible citizens.

(The Author is a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Innovation in Public Policy. The views expressed are personal.)

Education as belonging: The brief, lasting legacy of Ramdas Soren

Sharique Mashhadi

Jharkhand's late Education Minister reminds us that learning is about dignity, equity, and shared responsibility.

Ramdas Soren's tenure as Jharkhand's School Education & Literacy Minister was brief, but it carried a depth of vision not often seen in public life. In a state as diverse and layered as Jharkhand, where education is entangled with questions of culture, access, and systemic inertia, Soren brought a refreshing clarity. He believed education had to be more than policy - it had to affirm dignity, deepen equity, and hold systems accountable.

Born in Ghorabanda (East Singhbhum) in 1963, Soren's life was shaped by grassroots experiences. When he assumed office in December 2024, he was widely respected for his simplicity, his advocacy for tribal education, and his quiet conviction that schools must serve children first, not systems. His passing on August 15, 2025 cut short what might have been a transformative journey, yet in those few months, he left

behind insights that continue to resonate.

One of his most significant contributions was the push to include tribal languages, particularly Santali, in the curriculum. For Soren, this was not just a matter of pedagogy but of recognition. He understood that when children are taught in their mother tongue, learning feels alive, connected, and meaningful. Too often, education alienates children from their cultural roots; Soren sought to reverse that, making the classroom a space where identity was affirmed rather than erased. In linking language to dignity, he reframed education as a process of belonging, not just instruction.

Equally striking was his insistence that education was not the government's responsibility alone but a collective social endeavor. He often drew inspiration from Kerala, pointing to the way communities there treated education as a shared commitment. In Jharkhand, he pushed for stronger roles for school management committees and greater involvement of local communities. For Soren,



equity was not an abstract principle but a lived necessity—no child's future, he believed, should be decided by income, geography, or social status.

He also tried to humanize the machinery of education. By instructing district education officers and superintendents to visit

schools regularly and even take classes once a month, he created a bridge between bureaucracy and the classroom. It was a simple but radical move, signaling that accountability was not about paperwork but about presence—about showing up for children and teachers in real time.

Soren did not hesitate to confront systemic bottlenecks either. He took firm action against exploitative practices in private schools, reinforcing his commitment to keeping education affordable and fair. At the same time, he was unafraid to question aspects of the National Education Policy, particularly its timelines for

phasing out intermediate colleges. His critique was not resistance to reform but a call for sensitivity - to ensure that change did not destabilize students or teachers. This balance of courage and pragmatism set him apart.

His reform agenda also sought to expand opportunities while ensuring

quality. He proposed more Chief Minister's Schools of Excellence and Netarhat-style institutions, working to make high-quality education accessible beyond the privileged few. His focus on enrollment drives, improved mid-day meals, and large-scale teacher recruitment reflected his understanding that access and quality were inseparable pillars of educational progress.

What stands out, finally, is the way Soren refused to let education become a bureaucratic checklist. For him, it was always about transformation - making learning inclusive, accountable, and alive in people's everyday lives. His legacy lies not only in policies but in the values he embodied: that education must affirm identity, build equity, and remain a collective responsibility.

In remembering Ramdas Soren, one is reminded that true change in education does not begin with grand announcements. It begins with listening - to the child, to the community, and to the society that education ultimately seeks to serve. (Views are personal.)

India-Maldives bilateral trade jumps 3-fold in last 7 years

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) Bilateral trade between India and the Maldives has registered a more than 3-fold jump over the past seven years from \$223 million in 2017-18 to \$680 million in 2024-25, according to official figures.

India's exports to the Maldives rose from \$217 million in FY 2017-18 to \$561 million in FY 2024-25, while imports from the Maldives expanded from \$6 million to \$119 million during the same period. The trade between the two countries is expected to increase further with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing a Rs 4,850 crore line of credit to the Maldives during his recent visit to the island nation last



File photo

month. Additionally, PM Modi announced that discussions for a free trade agreement have also started between the two countries.

India has decided to promote renewable energy in the Maldives and will share its experience in this sector with the Indian Ocean neighbour. PM Modi visited the Maldives at the invitation of President Mohamed Muizzu and attended the country's 60th Independence Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour. This also represented a turnaround in relations with the Muizzu government, which came to power in 2023. The turnaround in the bilateral ties assumes significance as President Muizzu, known to be close to China, was known for his anti-India rhetoric while in the opposition as part of his political strategy to oust the earlier government.

Use ChatGPT as second opinion, not primary source: OpenAI executive

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) OpenAI's latest language model, GPT-5, may be more powerful and accurate than its predecessors, but the company has warned users not to treat ChatGPT as their main source of information.

Nick Turley, Head of ChatGPT, said the AI chatbot should be used as a "second opinion" because it is still prone to mistakes, despite major improvements.

In an interview with The Verge, Turley admitted that GPT-5 continues

to face the problem of hallucinations, where the system produces information that sounds believable but is factually wrong.

OpenAI says it has reduced such errors significantly, but the model still gives incorrect responses about 10 per cent of the time.

Turley stressed that achieving 100 per cent reliability is extremely difficult.

"Until we are provably more reliable than a human expert across all domains, we'll continue

to advise users to double-check the answers," he said.

"I think people are going to continue to leverage ChatGPT as a second opinion, versus necessarily their primary source of fact," he added.

Large language models like GPT-5 are trained to predict words based on patterns in huge datasets.

While this makes them excellent at generating natural responses, it also means they can provide false information on unfamiliar topics.

FM to review Q1 performance of public sector banks on Aug 20

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) The Finance Ministry has called a meeting of the chiefs of public sector banks (PSBs) on Wednesday to review their financial performance for the first quarter of the current financial year.

The meeting will be chaired by Financial Services Secretary M. Nagaraju, according to reports.

Public sector banks have posted strong earnings in the April-June quarter of 2025-26 (Q1 FY26).

Together, the 12 PSBs reported a record profit of Rs 44,218 crore -- reflecting an 11 per cent growth over the same quarter previous year.

CII poll gives thumbs up to rollout of smart meters in power sector

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) A CII poll on the roll-out of Smart Metering in India has revealed an optimistic view around smart meters and their usage in India. The respondents suggested mandating smart meter rollouts through clear regulatory directives and empowering consumers with data visibility, accurate billing, and prompt grievance redressal.

On the outcomes of the poll, Secure Meters Group Chief Executive Officer, Suket Singhal, who also led CII Taskforce on Smart Metering in 2024-25, said: "The most significant outcome of this poll was the need to improve consumer engagement. By ensuring that the experience of prepayment in electricity equals or is better than mobile telephony or DTH,

we as an industry will be able to deliver on its promise to customers." "Once consumers have been adequately trained, they will remain engaged, and at the level of grassroots politics, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) will become acceptable," he added.

The findings are based on the responses received from a poll conducted over the last two

months among the participants of the 3rd CII Smart Meter Conference. The poll explores various aspects of smart meter projects, infrastructure, challenges, consumer awareness, security, and potential improvements. While most people term the current state of smart metering infrastructure in India as being average, 41 per cent of respondents have a positive

view. Some of the key challenges identified include outdated utility infrastructure leading to interoperability and data management issues, unreliable connectivity in remote areas, regulatory hurdles, slow and cumbersome procurement process, and low levels of awareness about billing and privacy concerns, necessitating focused outreach and awareness efforts.

SEBI sees sharp rise in settlement pleas

Mumbai, Aug 17 (IANS) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) received a record number of settlement applications in 2024-25, showing a clear trend of entities preferring to resolve disputes without prolonged litigation. According to the SEBI's latest annual report, the regulator received 703 settlement pleas during the year, a sharp rise from 434 in the previous financial year.

Of these applications, 284 were resolved through settlement orders, while another 272 were either rejected, withdrawn, or returned. Through the cases that were settled, the SEBI collected Rs 798.87 crore as settlement charges and an additional Rs 64.84 crore as disgorgement charges. The settlement mechanism allows companies and individuals

Collects over Rs 860 crore in FY25

accused of violating securities laws to close cases by paying a fee and meeting certain conditions, rather than contesting them in court. The violations in these cases covered a wide range, including insider trading, fraudulent trading, Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), mutual funds, and Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). Alongside settlement cases, the SEBI also dealt with a large number of appeals during the year. A total of 533 new appeals were filed before the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) in 2024-25, compared with 821 in the previous year.

Apple ramps up India output as Foxconn begins iPhone 17 production at Bengaluru plant

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) Taiwanese electronics major Foxconn and Apple's key supplier has started production of iPhone 17 at its new Bengaluru factory.

This marks a significant milestone for the facility, which is Foxconn's second-largest iPhone manufacturing unit outside China and has been set up at an investment of around \$2.8 billion (about Rs 25,000 crore).

The Bengaluru unit, located in Devanahalli, is now operational alongside Foxconn's Chennai plant,



where iPhone 17 production is also underway, as per sources close to the development.

This follows the local production of iPhone 16

series last year around the same time-frame, ahead of its global and India launch.

However, Apple or Foxconn were yet to offi-

cially comment on the development.

The new facility had faced a brief setback earlier this year after several Chinese engineers left abruptly, but Foxconn has since managed to bring in experts from Taiwan and other locations to bridge the gap. Apple is betting big on India as a manufacturing hub. The company is expected to scale up iPhone production to 60 million units this year, compared to 35-40 million units in 2024-25.

In the year ended March 31, 2025, Apple assem-

bled 60 per cent more iPhones in India, worth an estimated \$22 billion.

Apple CEO Tim Cook recently underlined India's growing importance in the company's global supply chain.

After announcing financial results on July 31, he revealed that a majority of iPhones sold in the US in June 2025 were made in India.

During the second-quarter earnings call, Cook also confirmed that all iPhones sold in the US during the June quarter were shipped from India.

US report flags genocide, systematic abuses of Uyghurs, Tibetans in China

Washington, Aug 17 (IANS) Beijing is carrying out severe and systematic violations of fundamental freedoms of the ethnic minorities, such as Tibetans and Uyghurs, according to the US State Department's 2024 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices on China.

The report spotlights arbitrary detentions, transnational repression, and extensive cyber surveillance, particularly targeting ethnic minorities such as Tibetans and



Uyghurs. The 42-page document highlights the "Genocide and crimes against

humanity occurred during the year in China against predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and members of

other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang".

The findings showed that arbitrary arrest and detention continued to be systemic in 2024, enabled by laws that grant public security officers broad powers to hold individuals for long periods "without formal charges".

According to the report, former political prisoners and their family members were often targeted again, while many continue to remain imprisoned or held under other forms of

Tanishq launches grand store in Baruiapur

Baruiapur, Aug 17: Tanishq, India's largest jewellery retail brand from the house of Tata has expanded its retail footprint with the launch of its grand store in Baruiapur, Kolkata, inaugurated by Mr. C K Venkataraman, Managing Director, Titan Company along with Mr. Alok Ranjan, Circle Business Head, Tanishq. As part of the grand inauguration, the brand is offering an irresistible offer wherein customers can get a free gold coin on every purchase. The offer is valid from 14th August to 16th August 2025. The store is located at Padma Pukur, Baruiapur Kulpi Road, opposite Padma Pukur Petrol Pump, Kolkata. Baruiapur store spanning across 5000

sq. ft., presents an extensive selection of iconic Tanishq jewellery designs across dazzling plain gold, exquisite diamonds, kundan and polki. The store houses a versatile range of contemporary daily-wear jewellery collection 'GlamDays' as well as a modern, lightweight jewellery line, 'String It'.

Further elevating the experience, the store displays 'Aalo'- a luminous collection inspired by the divine light within. Additionally, 'KonkonKotha', an exclusive festive and wedding bangle collection, which is deeply rooted in Bengali culture, the collection pays tribute to the timeless significance of bangles as emblems of identity, emotion, and tradition.

The store hosts stunning jewellery pieces from 'Rivaaah', a dedicated wedding jewellery sub-brand of Tanishq. Speaking on the inauguration, Mr. C K Venkataraman, Managing Director, Titan Company Ltd. said, "With the launch of our new store in Baruiapur, we are strengthening our presence in the region by offering a more expansive and elevated Tanishq experience." Mr. AlokRanjan, Circle Business Head, Tanishq further added, "We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new store in Baruiapur, a significant milestone in our journey to bring the Tanishq promise of trust, craftsmanship, and elegance even closer to our customers in Kolkata."

Mahindra showcases next-gen SUVs on NU_IQ platform

Howrah, Aug 17: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., India's leading SUV manufacturer, has unveiled its Global Vision 2027, presenting four futuristic SUV concepts - Vision.S, Vision.T, Vision. SXT, and Vision.X. Built on the all-new modular, multi-energy NU_IQ platform, these models are set for launch from 2027.

The NU_IQ platform combines modularity, adaptability, and advanced technology to redefine SUV mobility across India and global markets. It supports multiple powertrains, front- and all-wheel drive, and both left- and right-hand-drive configurations. Mahindra says the design philosophy, branded HEARTCORE, blends expressive styling with practicality, promising command seating, superior driving dynamics, flat-floor architecture, lightweight build, and sci-fi inspired NU_UX digital tech. Company leaders emphasized the platform's no-compromise approach. R Velusamy, President - Automotive Business (Designate), called it a "strategic blueprint for the future of Mahindra SUVs globally." Chief Design Officer Pratap Bose said the new design language, based on the theme 'Opposites Attract', creates "an emotional bond between people and their vehicles." In Howrah, industry watchers expect Mahindra's Vision 2027 to influence consumer sentiment significantly. Howrah, a hub for passenger vehicle trade in eastern India, could see rising interest in premium SUVs as demand shifts toward versatile, tech-driven mobility solutions. Dealers suggest these models may reshape purchase patterns once they debut in showrooms.

Russia's Communist chief hails North Korean troops in Ukraine conflict

Seoul, Aug 17 (IANS) The leader of Russia's Communist Party has hailed North Korean troops deployed in Moscow's conflict against Ukraine in a letter sent to the North's leader Kim Jong-un, according to the North's state media Sunday. Gennady Andreyevich Zyuganov, Chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation's Central Committee, sent his letter to Kim to mark the anniversary, according to North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), Yonhap News Agency reported.

3 killed, 8 injured in shooting at New York club



New York, Aug 17 (IANS) Three people were killed and another eight injured in an overnight shooting at a club in New York's Brooklyn early on Sunday, reports said. The shooting took place at the "Taste Of The City Lounge" in the Crown Heights neighbourhood, New

York City Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch told a news conference, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Tisch said there were multiple shooters involved, adding that police were still investigating and nobody was in custody.

Those wounded in the shooting are being treated at hospitals for non-life-threatening injuries, she said.

"It's a terrible shooting that occurred in the city of New York," Tisch said.

Last week, three people were injured in a shooting at Times Square, said the New York City Police Department (NYPD).

All the injured were hospitalised and in stable condition, said a NYPD spokesperson. A 17-year-old boy was taken into custody, and a firearm was recovered.

The shooting occurred at the intersection of 44th Street and Seventh Avenue in the city's heavily toured district.

1 dead, 1 injured following shooting in Sydney's inner west

Sydney, Aug 17 (IANS) One man was dead and another has been hospitalised with serious injuries following a shooting outside a hotel in Sydney's inner west area on Sunday, reports said.

Police in the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) said in a statement that emergency services were called to reports of a shooting outside a hotel in the inner-western Sydney suburb of Forest Lodge around 6.40 p.m. (local time) on Sunday, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Officers arrived to find that two men had been shot multiple times by unknown assailants, who subsequently left the scene in a vehicle.

Ambulance paramedics treated both victims, but one died at the scene. The second man was transported to the hospital in a serious condition.

According to local media, witnesses reported hearing between six and 12 gunshots.

Melania Trump pens 'peace letter' to Putin, urges protection of future generation

Washington, Aug 17 (IANS) US First Lady Melania Trump has penned a heartfelt "peace letter" to Russian President Vladimir Putin, urging him to safeguard children and future generations by bringing an end to the war in Ukraine.

According to media reports, the letter was personally delivered to Putin by US President Donald Trump ahead of his summit with the Russian leader at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, on Friday.

In her emotional appeal, Melania highlighted the devastating impact of the conflict on children, describing them as "caught in the crosshairs" of violence.



Her letter opened with a moving line, "Dear President Putin, Every child shares the same quiet dreams in their heart, whether born randomly into a

nation's rustic countryside or a magnificent city-centre. They dream of love, possibility, and safety from danger." The First Lady wrote that

protecting future generations must be the shared responsibility of both parents and world leaders. "As parents, it is our duty to nurture the next generation's hope. As leaders, the responsibility to sustain our children extends beyond the comfort of a few," she noted.

This marks Melania Trump's second known involvement in US foreign policy related to Russia and Ukraine.

She had earlier played a role in convincing her husband to strengthen military aid to Kyiv and to take a firmer position in dealings with Moscow over the long-running conflict.

Calling children "a purity, an innocence which stands above geography, government, and

ideology," Melania appealed directly to the Russian President.

"Mr. Putin, you can singlehandedly restore their melodic laughter. In protecting the innocence of these children, you will do more than serve Russia alone, you serve humanity itself," she added.

The letter ended with an urgent call for immediate action, urging Putin not to delay.

"Such a bold idea transcends all human division, and you, Mr. Putin, are fit to implement this vision with a stroke of the pen today. It is time," she concluded.

The letter was handed to Putin shortly before the Alaska summit between the two leaders.

Why Thanjavur should be on every culture traveller's itinerary

Chennai, Aug 17 : Sunrise or sunset? That's the question most first-time travellers to Thanjavur always ask. If you're looking to capture the sheer magnificence of one of India's most imposing temples, I'd suggest an early morning alarm to witness the first rays of the sun hitting the temple. Locals call this the "Thanjai Periya Kovil" (The Thanjavur Big Temple). The Brihadeeswara Temple is one of the first 'living' temples to earn a UNESCO World Heritage tag almost 40 years ago. A six-hour drive from Chennai (eight hours from Bengaluru) brings you up close with this architectural landmark that has seen a new wave of interest in the 2020s thanks to Manirathnam's Ponniyin Selvan (PS) films.

The Mighty Cholas
The PS franchise pays tribute to one of India's first maritime dynasties: the Cholas. By the 11th Century AD, the Chola empire was spread across Southern and Eastern India and also included territories in the Maldives and Indonesia. The Cholas weren't just one of India's most formidable thalassocracies (or maritime kingdoms) but equally well known for their awe-inspiring



architecture. The Brihadeeswarar Temple stands as testimony to that legacy. This temple was commissioned by one of the most famous Chola kings of them all - Raja Raja Chola, and took eight years to build before it was finally completed in 1010 CE.

An Architectural Marvel
A total of 60,000 tonnes of granite were used to build the 'Big Temple'. Historians and architects are still intrigued by how the Cholas transported all this granite when the closest known source of granite is at least 60 km away. The highlight is the

kumbam (the bulbous capstone) that weighs about 80 tonnes and was carved from a single block. That's not the only showstopper; the Nandi statue at the entrance of the shrine (which is 6 feet long and 13 feet high) was also carved from a single block. The temple features

intricate carvings and inscriptions. While sunrise is probably the best time to be here, sunsets at the temple are quite spectacular too.

'Bringer of the Ganges'
Raja Raja Chola's son, Rajendra Chola I, succeeded his father in 1014 and consolidated the

Chola empire even further. He earned the title Gangaikonda Chola ('bringer of the Ganges') after he won a key battle over the Palas and expanded the Chola territory further north. Rajendra Chola I established a new capital in 1025 AD and built

another temple with the same name (Brihadeeswara) at the new capital. Gangaikonda Cholapuram is now a sleepy village that is about 90 minutes away from Thanjavur. It's worth the drive to appreciate the intricate sculptures and the magnificence of this other great Chola temple that stands 180 feet tall. We'd recommend visiting Gangaikonda Cholapuram at sunset.

One of South India's cultural capitals

It's been over a millennium, and yet the Chola legacy continues to define Thanjavur. The Thanjavur experience doesn't just end with the Brihadeeswara Temple. The Nayaks and Thanjavur Marathas have left their imprint (after the Cholas). Thanjavur is one of Tamil Nadu's cultural and architectural hubs, connecting the dots of some of the state's most popular symbols from temples, Carnatic

Music, Bharatanatyam and fine cuisine. The Sarasvathi Mahal library (one of Asia's oldest) was established by the Nayaks in the 16th century and received the patronage of Serfoji II, one of the last great Thanjavur Maratha kings. This library is home to many rare manuscripts and also includes documented

accounts of recipes and culinary insights from the royal kitchen. We'd also recommend a visit to one of the Thanjavur Veena (it takes 15 days to handcraft) makers.

Plan Your Visit To Thanjavur

Best time to visit: The weather is more pleasant from October to February. You can take advantage of summer deals at hotels, especially during the weekdays.

Getting there: Thanjavur is about a six-hour drive from Chennai and an hour's drive from the Tiruchirappalli airport.

Accommodation: Svamta is the best address in town, a heritage home that's morphed into a luxury hotel with Chola-style bronzes and a swimming pool that might remind you of a temple tank. There's also Tanjore Hi, a 1920s villa that has been transformed into a quirky boutique hotel with a magnificent spiral staircase. Great Trails by GRT Hotels offers a resort-style experience with authentic Tamil Nadu-style cuisine.

Local flavours: Don't miss Thanjavur's invigorating filter coffee. Coffee Palace does a terrific version and also serves a crispy rava dosa - the perfect evening snack.

German Shepherd's leap saves children from stray dog in Rishikesh: "Well Done Dogesh Bhai"

Rishikesh, Aug 17 : A heartwarming video from Rishikesh has gone viral, showcasing a courageous German Shepherd protecting a group of children from a stray dog. The video, reportedly shot in a residential neighbourhood, shows a German Shepherd sitting calmly on a balcony, keeping a watchful eye on the street below. A group of children run past, followed by a stray dog, and the German Shepherd suddenly becomes alert. The dog jumps off the balcony and rushes towards the stray, chasing it away to protect the children.

Some also affectionately dubbed the dog "Dogesh Bhai."

One user wrote, "Well done, Dogesh Bhai. You saved those kids like a true bodyguard."

That leap though...at such heights...at looked like that could've hurt if it wasn't most likely some trained dog retired, maybe... Regardless, honourable behaviour and such a blessing to witness," another user commented.

A third user stated, "Hero mode: Activated. Leapt like a superhero, saved the day. Kids + doggo = Team Awesome!"

However, not everyone is convinced that the dog was intentionally trying to save the kids, with some users offering alternative interpretations of the dog's behaviour. A fourth added, "Okay, I love dogs, but let's be honest here. The dog



jumped not to save the kids but to chase the other dog."

The Labubu doll craze has taken 2025 by storm, captivating collectors and fashion enthusiasts worldwide. These quirky, snaggle-toothed plush toys have evolved from niche collectables to a global fashion phenomenon. Amid this, a video has surfaced online, leaving social media users amused. The video features an Indian woman fervently worshipping a Labubu doll, believing it's a Chinese deity. In the video, the woman performs traditional rituals, offers prasad, and shows devotion to the doll, oblivious to the fact that Labubu is actually a popular Chinese toy renowned for its quirky design and online popularity. Shared widely on TikTok and X, the clip sparked laughter, with users marvelling at the

cultural mix-up.

"An Indian girl told her mother that Labubu is a Chinese god. Just hearing this, she started worshipping Labubu. Jai Labubu," caption of the video shared on X read.

This viral video comes at a time when the Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognisance of the surge in stray dog attacks, directing authorities to take strict action to ensure public safety. The court has ordered the capture, sterilisation, and relocation of stray dogs to shelters, emphasising the need to protect infants and young children from rabies.

The court's decision has received mixed reactions online. Some users have expressed support, citing the need to protect children and vulnerable individuals from stray dog attacks. On the other hand, ani-

mal lovers and activists have criticised the order, arguing that it lacks empathy and ignores the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023. Some have even termed it a "death sentence" for stray dogs.

The video has sparked a mix of reactions, with some people finding it hilarious and others pointing out how easily misinformation can spread online. One user wrote, "This is the last generation of innocence." Another commented, "I see a woman who can accept anything.. who sees divinity in everything.. Just Indian things."

A third said, "Maybe you don't fully get what bhakti means. When you're truly devotional, even a toy can become a source of transformation, because of what's going on inside you. You open up to grace, and grace is everywhere."

"Jai Labubu": Indian woman offers prayers to Labubu Doll after mistaking it for Chinese God

Mumbai, Aug 17 : The Labubu doll craze has taken 2025 by storm, captivating collectors and fashion enthusiasts worldwide. These quirky, snaggle-toothed plush toys have evolved from niche collectables to a global fashion phenomenon. Amid this, a video has surfaced online, leaving social media users amused. The video features an Indian woman fervently worshipping a Labubu doll, believing it's a Chinese deity. In the video, the woman performs traditional rituals, offers prasad, and shows devotion to the doll, oblivious to the fact that Labubu is actually a popular Chinese toy renowned for its quirky design and online popularity. Shared widely on TikTok and X, the clip sparked laughter, with users marvelling at the cultural mix-up.



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A third said, "Maybe you don't fully get what bhakti means. When you're truly devotional, even a toy can become a source of transformation, because of what's going on inside you. You open up to grace, and grace is everywhere."

Labubu, created by Hong Kong-born artist Kasing Lung, has gained a significant following among Gen Z and collectors, who share unboxing videos and limited-edition drops on social media platforms. These quirky,

snaggle-toothed plush toys have evolved from niche collectables to a global fashion phenomenon. Originally inspired by Nordic mythology and launched in 2019, Labubu's popularity exploded after celebrities like BLACKPINK's Lisa, Rihanna, and Dua Lipa were spotted with them, often clipped to luxury handbags.

The doll's prices range from Rs 1,744 for standard editions to a staggering Rs 10.5 lakh for rare figures. However, not everyone is a fan, with some people warning about its supposed negative energy and drawing comparisons to Pazuzu, a demon figure from The Exorcist.

Mumbai, Aug 17 : In an era of artificial intelligence (AI), it is becoming increasingly difficult to differentiate fact from fiction. Videos created using the latest AI tools claim to show - often convincingly - that an event or accident has taken place. The latest in this long line is a disturbing video that reportedly shows a marine trainer named "Jessica Radcliffe" being fatally attacked by an orca, also known as the killer whale, during a live show. It has gone massively viral across TikTok, Facebook and X. However, multiple fact-checking sources have confirmed that the footage is entirely fabricated and has no basis in fact.

What The Video Shows
The now viral clip shows the young woman dancing on top of the orca at Pacific Blue Marine Park. People are seen cheering as the whale comes out of the water, but after some time, it suddenly lunges and pulls "Jessica Radcliffe" under the water. Several users who have shared the video claim the woman died just minutes after being pulled from the water.

No Evidence Of Incident Or Trainer

Despite being shared widely, there is no credible evidence to support the



claim that a marine trainer named Jessica Radcliffe was attacked by a killer whale. Authorities, marine parks and established news outlets have found no record of her existence or the incident. The Star reported the footage is fictional; even the voices in the clip appear to be artificially generated.

Other reports say there is no official statement, which usually is the protocol in case of such mishaps at marine parks. Then the movement of water and strange pauses in the video, as gathered by forensic analysis, also confirm that

the video is AI generated. Even the name of the park is fake.

Entirely AI-Generated With No Real-World Basis
Forbes labelled the clip "a hoax", pointing out that a real tragedy of this scale would have made international headlines. The video's visuals and sound are likely manipulated by AI tools for sensational effect. The Economic Times noted that the story and name don't align with any verifiable records, reinforcing the conclusion that the entire narrative is fabricated.

Misleadingly Draws On

True Tragedies

These hoax videos exploit a grain of truth to appear plausible. They echo the real-life deaths of Dawn Brancheau in 2010 at SeaWorld and Alexis Martinez in 2009 - both trainers fatally harmed by orcas. However, these incidents are unrelated and well documented, unlike the Radcliffe story, which has no official backing or confirmation.

Why Such Hoaxes Strike A Chord

In many past instances, experts have said that a video's emotional intensity and realistic production val-

ues contribute to its virality. Clips like these tap into deep concerns about the ethics of keeping intelligent marine mammals in captivity, while exploiting sensationalism to spread rapidly - often before fact-checks catch up.

The orca attack video featuring "Jessica Radcliffe" is a complete fabrication. There is absolutely no verified incident, and no evidence that such a trainer ever existed. As cases like this circulate online, the importance of verifying against credible sources has never been clearer.

Patriotic celebrations at Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Seraikela

I-Day celebrated with football tournament



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Aug 17: The premises of Saraswati Shishu Mandir High School in Seraikela reverberated with patriotic spirit as the institution celebrated the

79th Independence Day. The campus was decorated with flowers and colourful materials under the guidance of teachers. The programme began with Chairman of the school management committee,

Ramnath Acharya, performing a Bharat Mata puja followed by flag hoisting and salute. In his address, he reminded students of the long struggle for freedom and the sacrifices made by countless patriots. "Today we must resolve

to dedicate ourselves to the nation and rebuild its glory as the world's knowledge leader," he said. Students presented cultural performances, patriotic songs, pyramid formations and dance sequences. A Krishna-Radha tableau staged by students drew admiration from the audience. Successful students of talent competitions were awarded on the occasion. The event concluded with the singing of Vande Mataram. Parents, teachers and school management members including Treasurer Prasad Mahato, Guru Charan Mahato, Aditya Dubey and Prakash Acharya were present. (w/nkm)

Chaibasa, Aug 17: Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Padsa village of Majhgaon block, where a one-day football tournament, sports competitions and cultural programs were organized. The event saw participation from villagers and community leaders in large numbers. The program was graced by Jharkhand State Pan Tanti Swasi Kalyan Samiti (West Singhbhum unit) District President Ismail Singh Das, District Spokesperson Madan Das, Secretary Duriyodhan Dashbya and Karan Pan. Other special invitees included Central General Secretary of Adivasi Mahasabha Gabbar Singh Hembrom, President of Manki Munda Sangh Ganesh Patapingua, along with several dignitaries of the Adivasi Mahasabha, who were also felicitated on the

occasion. The final match of the football tournament was inaugurated jointly by Ismail Singh Das and Gabbar Singh Hembrom with the ceremonial kick-off. Addressing the players, Ismail Singh Das said, "Play with such dedication that one day, from playing in rural fields, you get the chance to represent at the national level and make your parents and community proud." The winners of the tournament were felicitated by the guests, while vote of thanks was delivered by Epil Samad. The event also saw the participation of prominent local figures, including former Majhgaon candidate Bhusan Patapingua, Anil Chatar, Manish Pingua, Tarun Chatar and Jagdish Mahato. Thousands of villagers gathered to witness and enjoy the Independence Day celebrations. (w/nkm)

Press Club of Seraikela celebrates Independence Day

Seraikela, Aug 17: The Press Bhavan premises in Seraikela came alive with patriotic fervour as the Press Club of Seraikela-Kharsawan celebrated the 79th Independence Day. District Information and Public Relations Officer (DIPRO) Avinash Kumar hoisted the tricolour in the presence of journalists, Press Club office bearers and officials of the Information Department. The event was attended by Press Club president Manmohan Singh Rajput, patron Santosh Kumar, general secretary Pramod Kumar Singh, along with journalists Vijay Saw, Vipin Varshney, K. Durga Rao, Sumeet Singh and Rahul. Assistant Officer Nandan Upadhyay was also present.

Addressing the gathering, DIPRO Avinash Kumar highlighted the significance of press freedom in a democratic society, alongside political independence. "The media must continue to serve as the voice of the people while upholding the values of truth and responsibility," he said, extending Independence Day greetings to all. The programme concluded with the national anthem and a pledge to safeguard democratic values. (w/nkm)

Patriotic spirit marks Independence Day in Seraikela district

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Aug 17: The 79th Independence Day was celebrated across Seraikela district with a wave of patriotism. Tricolour hoisting ceremonies were held at institutions, schools and public squares, accompanied by the singing of the national anthem. At various schools, students participated enthusiastically, followed by the distribution of sweets and chocolates. At the District AYUSH office, Civil Surgeon Dr. Poonam Kumari hoisted the national flag in the presence of CHOs and staff. Congress district president Ambuj Kumar hoisted the tricolour at Hari Om Nagar Ground,



Kulupatnga Congress Camp Office and Bhatia Basti, distributing pens and chocolates among children. In Chandil, at Upgraded High School Chainpur, Principal Prakash Mandal hoisted the flag in the presence of Block Education Extension

Officer Dinesh Kumar Dandpat. Social worker Jalesh Kavi led the flag hoisting at Birsu Munda Chowk under Seraikela Public. Former director and retired teacher Ranjan Kumar Pattanayak led the celebrations at Utkalmani Adarsh Library, while senior artist Malay Kavi hoisted the flag at Wisdom Coaching Centre. In several schools, students took out morning processions and staged patriotic cultural programmes. "The younger generation must remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters and keep the spirit of nationalism alive," said one of the school principals. (w/nkm)

Kendmundi village hosts spirited Independence Day celebration

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Aug 17: The heartland village of Kendmundi in Rajnagar Block celebrated the 79th Independence Day with great enthusiasm at Rajendra Chowk. The programme was organized by local residents, creating an

atmosphere of unity and patriotism. The national flag was hoisted by eminent educationist, social worker, poet and author Rabi Kanta Bhakat, who is also a former lecturer and District Legal Services Authority official. In his address, he urged villagers to maintain unity and preserve their mother tongue. "Education is the key to progress and I assure students of my complete support in this field," he said. Chief speaker Deepak Kumar Bhakat called for collective efforts towards development, brotherhood and harmony. Several social workers including Dinesh Bhakat, Gurupad Bhakat, Shiddheshwar Mardi, Akash Bhakat and others contributed to the programme's success. Patriotic songs, slogans and cultural events added vibrancy to the celebrations. The event concluded with the distribution of sweets and chants of Bharat Mata ki Jai. (w/nkm)

Independence Day celebrated at Seraikela Civil Court with dignity



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Aug 17: Independence Day was celebrated in a dignified atmosphere at the Civil Court campus in Seraikela. Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ramashankar Singh hoisted the national flag, joined by judi-

cial officers and staff. Among those present were Family Court Principal Judge Biresh Kumar, Additional District and Sessions Judges Choudhary Ehsan Moji, Braj Kishore Pandey and Deepak Malik, Chief Judicial Magistrate Lucy Sosen Tigga, Civil Judge (Senior Division) and DLSA Secretary Anamika Kisku, SDJM Ashish Agrawal and Consumer Forum president Sunil Kumar Singh. In line with directives from Jharkhand State Legal Services

Authority, Ranchi, a special Jail Adalat-cum-Legal Awareness and Medical Camp was also organized inside the district jail. The camp, presided over by Judge Singh, addressed the grievances of inmates. "No prisoner should remain deprived of legal aid," Singh stressed, assuring immediate steps for those on bail but unable to furnish surety. During the Jail Adalat, nine petitions of undertrials were heard, out of which four were disposed. A medical camp was also held where prisoners underwent health check-ups. Singh personally inspected the women's ward and interacted with female inmates about their concerns. (w/nkm)

JMM holds condolence meeting for Shibu Soren, Ramdas Soren



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Aug 17: A condolence meeting was organized under the banner of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) on Saturday to pay homage to veteran leader Shibu

Soren and Education Minister Ramdas Soren. The meeting, led by Jharkhand movement activists Vishwanath Rai and Sukumar Bose, began with floral tributes to Shibu Soren's portrait followed by two minutes of silence.

Speakers described Shibu Soren as the "architect of Jharkhand" and remembered his pivotal role in the statehood movement. "His death marks the end of a political era. Jharkhand has lost one of its tallest leaders and a guiding force," said district JMM president Dr. Shubhendu Mahato. Others present, including Ambuj Akshay Mahato, Devalal Mahato, Shankar Mahato, Paritosh Mahato, Gautam Bose and several activists, recalled his ideals and urged people to carry forward his vision of social justice and tribal rights. The meeting also remembered the late Education Minister Ramdas Soren, describing him as a "people's leader who worked tirelessly for the marginalized." (w/nkm)

Loyola School, Telco celebrates 79th Independence Day



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Loyola School, Telco celebrated the 79th Independence Day with fervour and pride. The campus, decorated with tricolour flags and balloons, radiated patriotic zeal. The programme began with the National Flag hoisting by Chief Guest Amit Choudhary, Officer In-Charge of Birsanagar Police Station, followed by the National Anthem. Students presented patriotic songs, dances, and a thought-provoking skit on "Unsung Heroes," showcasing lesser-known freedom fighters.

In his address, the Chief Guest urged students to uphold values of humility, discipline, and respect for teachers while focusing on their goals. Head Girl Nirja Tiwary of Class 10 impressed the audience with her powerful extempore speech, calling on everyone to protect the nation's sanctity as true citizens. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the Principal. The celebration instilled pride and responsibility among students, reminding all of the sacrifices made for freedom and the duty to preserve it. (w/gsd)

Shiksha Niketan School, Telco Observes Independence Day



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Shiksha Niketan School, Telco, celebrated the 79th Independence Day with patriotic fervour. Chief Guest Jyotirmoy Das, President of the School Management Committee, hoisted the tricolour along with Principal Sumita Dey. The programme began with a prayer, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Students pre-

sented patriotic performances that enthralled the gathering. Vice-Principal Rajni Pandey, members of Roshni, teachers, and staff joined in the celebration. Principal Sumita Dey greeted the guests, congratulated all on the occasion, and encouraged students to follow the ideals of unity and responsibility. The event reflected the spirit of freedom and dedication towards the nation. (w/gsd)

Independence Day celebrated at Srinath Public School

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Srinath Public School marked the 79th Independence Day with pride and enthusiasm. Chief Guest Shambhu Nath Mahato, Founder of Sandhya Shambhu Educational Trust, accompanied by Sandhya Mahato, graced the occasion. Distinguished guests included Chairman Sukhdev Mahato, Vice Chancellor of Srinath University Dr. S.N. Singh, Dean of Administration J. Rajesh, Dean of Academics Prof. Dr. Deepak Shukla, HR Head



Ravikant, Trustee Member Anita Kumar Mahato and Principal Mahato, Academic Director Dilip Sanjay Kumar Singh. Teachers,

parents and students were present in large numbers. The celebration began with a traditional welcome, followed by flag hoisting and the rendition of the National Anthem. Students performed patriotic songs and dances, while the march-past parade highlighted discipline and unity. Mansi Kumari of Class XI delivered a speech on freedom. Principal Sanjay Kumar Singh paid tribute to freedom fighters and urged everyone to protect national unity. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Nisha Singh. (w/gsd)

**उत्पाद एवं मद्य निषेध विभाग,
झारखंड, राँची।**

Lt No. 1551, Dt. 14.08.2025

Notice for Settlement of Retail Liquor Shops in the State of Jharkhand

In continuation of the notification advertised through PR No. 359086 Excise (25-26), regarding the schedule of the e-lottery under the terms and conditions prescribed in "Jharkhand Excise (Settlement & Operation of Retail Shops) 2025", the following schedule for the settlement of "country liquor shops" and "composite shops" for September 2025-March 2030 is hereby again brought to the notice of all concerned.

- Online Application: Applicants may apply online for the settlement of country liquor shops and composite shops at <https://exciselottery.jharkhand.gov.in> (application portal) from August 8, 2025, 11:00 AM to August 20, 2025, 07:00 PM.
- Fees and Deposits: Applicants can deposit the application fee and earnest money deposit through various methods, including Credit Card, Debit Card, Net Banking, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, etc. This must be received and verified in the department's account/portal by August 20, 2025, 11:59 PM.
- E-Lottery Process: The e-lottery will be conducted through a randomization process on August 22, 2025, at 11:00 AM. The link for online telecast of the lottery process shall be available on <https://excise.jharkhand.gov.in> as well as on the district's website. Furthermore, the online telecast of the e-lottery process will take place at the collectorate offices.
- Sequence of the E-Lottery: The e-lottery for shops or groups of shops will be conducted in descending order at the state level, based on the fixed minimum guaranteed revenue for the respective shops.
- Publication of Results: The results of the e-lottery will be published on <https://excise.jharkhand.gov.in> as well as on the website of the NIC for the respective districts.
- Document Submission: Successful bidders must submit self-attested photocopies of all documents along with the original document to the District Excise Office by August 25, 2025.
- Payment Deadlines: The earnest money deposit and license fee must be paid by the successful bidder no later than August 25, 2025.
- Shop Location Details: Successful bidders must submit details of an undisputed shop location for the proposed retail shops by August 29, 2025.
- Excise Transportation Duty: The Advance Excise Transportation Duty (ETD) must also be deposited by the successful bidder by August 29, 2025.

For details regarding the terms and conditions of the sale notification, district-wise details of shops or groups of shops, the e-lottery process, affidavits, etc., please visit (<https://exciselottery.jharkhand.gov.in>) or the NIC Website of the respective districts.

For assistance regarding the e-lottery process, applicants can contact the department help desk or reach out via: General Call: 9430321831, WhatsApp Message: 9508065730, Email: excise.jhr@gmail.com (available from 10 AM to 06 PM daily)

For any banking or payment-related assistance, the following contact details are available: General Call & WhatsApp: 8372059736, General Call: 7766025037 (available from 10 AM to 06 PM daily), Email: prosenjit.das1@hdfc.com and bikram.ghosh@hdfc.com

Please note that the department reserves the right to reschedule the application submission and e-lottery dates.

**Sd/-
Excise Commissioner
Jharkhand, Ranchi**

PR.NO.359676 Excise (25-26)

Health

Study explains why loss of smell is associated with Alzheimer's disease



New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) Brain's immune cells may explain why a fading sense of smell is an early signal for Alzheimer's disease even before cognitive impairments manifest, according to a study.

Researchers at DZNE and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) in Germany revealed that the brain's immune response seems to fatally attack neuronal fibres crucial for the perception of odours.

These olfactory dysfunctions arise because immune cells of the brain called "microglia" remove connections between two brain regions, namely the olfactory bulb and the locus coeruleus, they noted in the paper published in the journal Nature Communications.

These findings, based on observations in mice and humans, including analysis of brain tissue and so-called PET scanning, may help to devise ways for early diagnosis and, consequently, early treatment.

"The locus coeruleus regulates a variety of physiological mechanisms. These include, for example, cerebral blood flow, sleep-wake cycles, and sensory processing. The latter applies, in particular, also to the sense of smell," said Dr. Lars Paeger, a scientist at DZNE and LMU.

"Our study suggests that in early Alzheimer's disease, changes occur in the nerve fibres linking the locus coeruleus to the olfactory bulb. These alterations signal to the microglia that affected fibres are defective or superfluous. Consequently, the microglia break them down," Paeger added.

Specifically, the team found evidence of changes in the composition of the membranes of the affected nerve fibres: Phosphatidylserine, a fatty acid that usually occurs inside a neuron's membrane, had been moved to the outside.

"Presence of phosphatidylserine at the outer site of the cell membrane is known to be an 'eat-me' signal for microglia.

Karavir Malhotra reveals the cooling off mechanism used on 'Andhera' sets

Mumbai, Aug 17 (IANS) Actor Karavir Malhotra, who is receiving a lot of positive response to his work in the recently released streaming series 'Andhera', has shared that the team used lame jokes as a cooling off mechanism after shooting heavy scenes.

The actor spoke with IANS during the promotional run of the show, and shared that they used to shoot a lot during the day. But, once the shoot was cut, there was a stark contrast to the trainwreck of emotions that unfolded during the shoot. He told IANS, "We were shooting a lot in a day. The performance bit is obviously there, but like because it's a supernatural horror show everything is very heightened. And, your performance needs to match that tone of whatever's happening around you. So that element was there and I remember that we actually had a huge contrast, if you would come to our set, you would see very contrasting sides to us."

He further mentioned, "If you were watching our BTS, you would see like this very serious side as soon as we used to cut, we used to like start cracking the weirdest and lamest of jokes and we also have a group, it's called the 'Hall of Lame'."



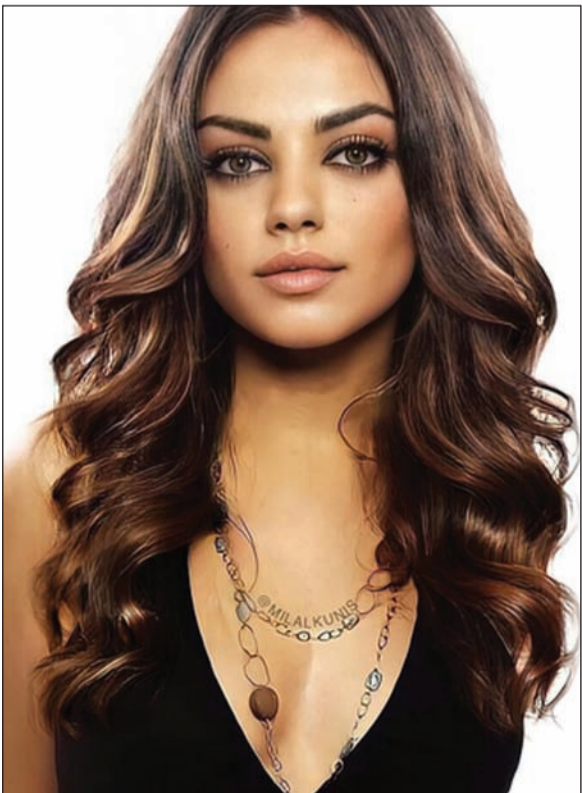
15 years of 'Black Swan': Mila Kunis opens up on unsparing preparation for her part in the film

Los Angeles, Aug 17 (IANS) Hollywood actress Mila Kunis delivered one hell of a performance in the Darren Aronofsky directorial 'Black Swan'. However, legendary things are often shaped by gruelling circumstances.

The actress recently opened up about her gruelling preparation for her role in the film, reports 'People' magazine.

Speaking with 'Vogue' to mark the 2010 film's 15th anniversary, the actress, who was joined by co-star Natalie Portman and director Darren Aronofsky, shared how she transformed herself to portray a professional ballerina on-screen.

She said, "My prep was a lot of dancing and very little eating, which I know you're not supposed to say, but it's the truth. I drank a lot of broth and danced for 12 hours a day". She further mentioned, "We were only supposed to have



three months of prep before filming started, but we lost some financing, so that got extended to six months while Darren tried to find money.

Aditi Rao Hydari shares pictures from 'the most warm 3 days' at IFFM 2025

Mumbai, Aug 17 (IANS) Actress Aditi Rao Hydari, who was last seen in the streaming series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', is chuffed on clinching the Diversity in Cinema honour at the latest edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).

On Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a series of pictures from the film festival. In the pictures, the actress can be seen posing with the dignitaries at IFFM including Aamir Khan.

She wrote in the caption, "On the day of

India's independence, the diversity in cinema honour is all the more special. To celebrate and be a part of the Indian film industry. Part of diverse stories, languages, cultures, histories, to connect through love through our stories and to share our joy, pain and laughter through cinema".

She further mentioned, "I want to live in your hearts forever and you will all live in mine forever! Thank you @iffmelbourne Thank you @mitulange This was the most warm 3 days. You all felt like home. Thank you Melbourne for the love".



Prior to this, the actress flaunted her new haircut on social media. She was seen flaunting her soft waves and a breezy fringe in the stills uploaded by her on Instagram. Aditi looked absolutely radiant as she posed for the camera after a fun salon session.

Aditi was last seen on screen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's maiden series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', a period drama, set in the red-light district of Heera Mandi in Lahore during the Indian independence movement. The series explores the lives of

tawaifs and their intersection with political and personal struggles under British colonial rule.

The series also starred Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Sheikh, Sharmin Segal, and Taha Shah Badushsa.

Meanwhile, Aditi will be sharing screen space with acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi in the forthcoming family comedy 'Parivarik ManuRanjan'. The shoot of the drama is presently underway in Lucknow. The actress also has 'O Saathi Re' in the pipeline.

Prajakta Koli shares her honest take on evolution of the creator economy 5 years down the line

Mumbai, Aug 17 (IANS) Actress and content creator Prajakta Koli, who is getting a lot of positive response to her recently released streaming series 'Andhera', has an honest opinion on the evolution of the creator economy.

Prajakta is one of the earliest content creators from India, and has seen many monumental changes in the course of the evolution of the content industry, and the creators. In fact, she was also one of the earliest creators to cross-over to long-format OTT content.

Prajakta recently spoke with IANS ahead of the release of 'Andhera' in Mumbai, and said that while it's true that the bigwigs of any industry most likely have a prophecy about the changes in their respective industries, she belongs to a different breed. The actress said that she doesn't know what it's gonna be like in the next 5 years in the creator economy.



Priya Bapat says OTT has given her challenging parts to play

Mumbai, Aug 17 (IANS) Actress Priya Bapat, who leads the investigation in the recently released psychological-horror streaming series 'Andhera', has said that working on OTT has been a very rewarding experience for her.

The actress spoke with IANS during the promotional run of the show, and shared that while she has been working in the Hindi and Marathi cinema for over 20 years, it's the OTT, which has given her the opportunity to try meatier parts.

She told IANS, "I feel that I think I have got more meaty parts and more challenging roles in the space of OTT now even from the time I started be it 'City of Dreams' or 'Andhera', every show that I have done so far has given me a lot more. Everything I did and learnt



in my Marathi industry and from the cinema that I did, I think more than the box-office, OTT really has been challenging, experi-

menting and it's a great space to be".

The actress also called the experience of working in OTT, a liberating expe-

rience as makers on OTT trust her with parts which are well-fleshed out.

She further mentioned, "It is liberating, and also for an actor like me it's a great time because people are trusting you with different parts, more women characters are being written in a good way in a good space".

'Andhera', which is set in Mumbai, follows Inspector Kalpana Kadam and Jay, a medical student, who become entangled in a missing-person case that unearths a sinister presence beneath the city. The series explores the fictional space of "What if darkness comes to life?". It also stars Surveen Chawla, Priya Bapat and Prajakta Koli.

Produced by Excel Entertainment, and directed by Raaghav Dar, the series is available to stream on Prime Video.

Pragya Jaiswal shares unseen BTS pictures of 1st anniversary of 'Khel Khel Mein'

Mumbai, Aug 17 (IANS) Actress Pragya Jaiswal is celebrating 1 year of the release of her Hindi film 'Khel Khel Mein'. On Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared an array of BTS pictures from the shooting of the film.

In the pictures, the actress can be seen posing for the camera with her co-stars including Taapsee Pannu, Akshay Kumar, Ammy Virk, Aditya Seal, Fardeen Khan and Vaani Kapoor.

She also penned a heartwarming note in the caption, talking about her experience. She wrote, "Can't believe it's already been a year since Khel Khel Mein released. One of the most fun and exciting films I've ever been a part of, with one of the most amazing teams and set".



Expressing gratitude towards the filmmakers and the cast, she shared, "A huge thank you to #MudassarAziz for believing in me and trusting me to be your Naina. Beyond grateful to have

shared this journey with an incredible set of co-actors @akshaykumar @taapsee @fardeenkhan @vaanikapoor @ammyvirk @adityaseal Thank you for the experience, the learning and all

the laughter. Thank you @ashwinvarde Sir for being our rock".

"And of course to the audience, thank you for showering us with so much love over the past year for KKM. To the entire KKM family (the absolute best), Thank You", she added.

'Khel Khel Mein' was directed by Mudassar Aziz, and is a remake of the 2016 Italian film 'Perfect Strangers'.

Pragya's portrayal of Naina in the film received a lot of appreciation. Her effortless ability to capture both the joy and pain of her character struck a deep chord with the audience, making Naina's journey unforgettable. As Naina, her emotional depth and natural presence stood out, earning her both audience affection and critical appreciation.

Ankita Lokhande says 'keep shining' to every woman who has been told she is too much



Mumbai, Aug 17 (IANS) Popular television actress Ankita Lokhande said 'keep shining' to every woman who has been told she is too much.

Dropping a string of sizzling photos of herself posing in a black bodycon jumpsuit, the 'Pavitra Rishta' actress shared on her IG: "To every woman who has ever been told she's too much. Too loud, too ambitious, too bold. Thank you for never dimming your light. Keep shining. The world needs more of your fire. #needofvalidation."

Despite being a strong-headed woman herself, Ankita badly misses the presence of her late father, Shashikant Lokhande.

On Wednesday, she remembered her father on his death anniversary with a special post. Ankita said that while it has been three years since her dad left for heavenly abode, it still feels like yesterday.

She took to her Instagram handle and posted a throwback family picture featuring Ankita, her mother, and her late father.

"Some wounds don't get healed.. You just learn to hold them gently.. Three years have gone by, yet it still feels like yesterday.. I'm so grateful to have had a father like my hero, my friend, my biggest strength," Ankita captioned the post. Ankita revealed that she holds on tightly to all the lovely memories with her father.

She added: "The memories are the only thing we're left with now, but his blessings keep me going.. Thank you for being my papa. Mumma, Arpan and Me miss you, love you, and remember you every single day..."

Ankita wrote: "To everyone who has lost somebody remember: grief doesn't shrink. We just grow around it. And somehow, there's space now... for both the love and the loss.. Love & Memories Papa."

Ankita made her acting debut with the popular role of Archana Manav Deshmukh in the beloved show 'Pavitra Rishta'. Later, she went on to be a part of the movies 'Manikarnika'.

Regena Cassandra vividly remembers how she got her debut film

Mumbai, Aug 17 (IANS) Actress Regena Cassandra, who is awaiting the release of her upcoming film 'The Wives', directed by Madhur Bhandarkar, has a photographic memory. The actress recently spoke with IANS, and walked down the memory lane, as she recollected how she got her first film.

Regena even remembers the outfit she wore at the time during the audition. The actress made her debut with 'Kanda Naal Mudhal' at the age of 14, and has an interesting story behind her getting cast for the film. The film was helmed by V. Priya, who was once an assistant of acclaimed director Mani Ratnam. The film also marked her directorial debut.

She told IANS, "Well, that's my favourite memory. It's embedded in my mind forever, with visuals and all (laughs). I even remember what I wore the day I went to audition for it. I had worked with Priya ma'am prior to 'Kanda Naal Mudhal' for a documentary. I must've been 8 or 9 years old. We lost touch after. Cut to five years later I get called for an audition and I go. I finished the audition and the team asked me to wait to meet the director. She walked out, both of us squealed, and the rest is history". She further mentioned, "I was so happy I got to work with her for debut. It's such a sweet memory. Both our firsts.



'Kanda Naal Mudhal' launched me into a world which at that time had no clue would end up being my career. Acting wasn't my career option. It was something I considered a hobby at that time".

When asked about her experience of working with Madhur Bhandarkar in 'The Wives', she said, "The best experience I have had so far. I am a director's actor and it's so important for me to be in sync with my director.

Jasprit Bumrah confirms availability for India's Asia Cup squad

Mumbai, Aug 17 (IANS): India have received a significant boost ahead of the Asia Cup with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah reportedly making himself available for selection for the continental tournament. According to a report in The Indian Express, the 31-year-old fast bowler has informed the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel that he is fully fit and eager to feature in the T20 tournament, scheduled to be held in the UAE next month.

The selectors are expected to meet in Mumbai on Tuesday, 19 August, to name the squad. "Bumrah has informed the selectors that he will be available for Asia Cup selection. The selection committee will meet and discuss it when they meet next week," a source was quoted as saying.



Bumrah has not featured for India in white-ball cricket since last year's T20 World Cup, where he played a pivotal role in guiding Rohit Sharma's side to glory. In the final at Bridgetown, Barbados, he returned figures of

2 for 18 against South Africa to help India clinch a dramatic victory.

More recently, Bumrah was released from the Test squad for the decisive fifth match of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy at

The Oval, with the team management choosing to manage his workload. The senior pacer played three of the first four Tests, claiming two five-wicket hauls and bowling a total of 119.4 overs across the series. His absence from the final Test, however, reignited debate about his fitness, especially after a back injury had kept him out of action for four months earlier this year.

With the Asia Cup being played in the T20 format, such concerns are expected to be less pressing. Bumrah will only need to bowl a maximum of four overs per match, and with three to four days' rest between fixtures in the group stage, his workload is unlikely to be an issue. Importantly, he will also have had nearly 40-days' break between his last Test appearance

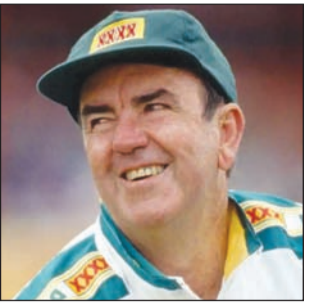
in England and India's opening match of the tournament.

India, who could face arch-rivals Pakistan up to three times during the competition, are expected to travel early to the UAE. While the BCCI had floated the idea of a preparatory camp in Bengaluru, the management preferred instead to arrive in the Emirates a few days beforehand to acclimatise to conditions.

"Instead of having a camp here, the team will fly three to four days early so that they can get decent practice before the tournament starts," a source told The Indian Express.

Bob Simpson shaped Australian cricket, inspired the global game: Jay

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) ICC chairman Jay Shah has mourned the passing of former Australia captain Bob Simpson, praising his immense contributions to the game and stating that he will be remembered as a true legend of cricket.



On Saturday, Cricket Australia (CA) said Simpson died in Sydney at the age of 89.

"Bob Simpson was one of the true greats of our sport, and it is deeply saddening to learn of his passing. His legacy is immense. As a player, captain, and later as a coach, he shaped Australian cricket and inspired the global game," Shah said in a statement. "He nurtured and guided a generation of players who went on to become legends in their own right, and his influence extended far beyond the field. On behalf of the International Cricket Council, I extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the entire cricket fraternity. His passing is a profound loss for the game, but his contributions will always be remembered and cherished," he added.

No Babar, Rizwan in Pak's 17-member squad for Asia Cup



Lahore, Aug 17 (IANS) Pakistan have excluded the senior duo of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan for the upcoming Asia Cup as Salman Ali Agha will continue to lead the side in the T20I format. The eight-team ACC Asia Cup T20I tournament will be staged in Abu Dhabi and Dubai from September 9 to 28. Pakistan are placed in Group 'A' alongside India, Oman and UAE. They

will open their campaign against Oman on September 12 before the blockbuster clash against archrivals India on September 14. Babar and Rizwan both were featured in the recently concluded three-match ODI series against the West Indies. The wicketkeeper-batter has been Pakistan's captain in the 50-over format. However, the duo hasn't featured in Pakistan's T20I squad since last year.

There had been speculation that Babar and Rizwan might be recalled to the T20I squad, but the Pakistan selectors stayed committed to their approach, opting instead to back the exciting young talent for the upcoming T20I tri-series and the Asia Cup 2025. Only a handful of senior players - ace pacer Shaheen Afridi, express quick Haris Rauf and reliable batters Fakhar Zaman and Khushdil Shah - have managed to retain the selectors' confidence for the upcoming assignments.

BCCI holds fast bowling development camp for targeted and U19 pacers at CoE

Bengaluru, Aug 17 (IANS) With the 2025/26 domestic season set to begin with the Duleep Trophy commencing on August 28, the BCCI said it recently conducted a fast bowling development camp at its Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru.

As part of the camp, 22 fast bowlers - 14 targeted pacers and eight from the Under-19 group - went through an intensive program covering multiple aspects of fast bowling, skill and fitness wise. "At the BCCI Centre of Excellence, fourteen Targeted and eight Under-19 fast bowlers took part in the Fast Bowling Development program which has been a key initiative in the last few years." "In addition to the players going through fitness evaluations,



they also worked on skill enhancement and tactical acumen building under the Tutelage of Mr. Troy Cooley the Fast Bowling Coach at BCCI CoE, ensuring comprehensive preparation for the season ahead," wrote the BCCI in

a video posted on its 'X' account on Sunday. In the video, Harshit Rana and Anshul Kamboj, who made his Test debut on the tour of England, were seen going through the paces of various activities in the camp. Also present in the

camp were Simarjeet Singh, Tushar Deshpande, Suryansh Shedge, Gurjapneet Singh and Yudhvir Singh Charak.

Interestingly, Suyash Sharma and Shreyas Iyer were also spotted, indicating that they were also a part of routine fitness testing at the CoE. It is also believed that Vijaykumar Vyshak, Khaleel Ahmed, Yash Thakur, and Raj Bawa were a part of the fast bowling camp at the CoE.

From a larger perspective, the hope will be that the extensive fast bowling camp gets Indian team more frontline fast-bowling options to support the likes of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami in any international cricket series or tournament in future.

The door is always open for him: Khalid Jamil on Chhetri's omission from India camp

Bengaluru, Aug 17 (IANS) A new era has just begun for Indian football, and this time, it is Khalid Jamil, who is at the helm of affairs for the senior India men's national team - an Indian coach taking charge of the Blue Tigers' dressing room for the first time in 13 years.

The national camp began on Independence Day (August 15), when the players and staff reported to Bengaluru, before the first training session was held at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence on August 16.

The absence of striker Sunil Chhetri in the probables squad for the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup has raised a few questions, though for Jamil, the doors are open.

"Sunil is a legend of Indian football. I have played against him, I've seen him play on numerous occasions, and he is one of my favourite players. He



is a role model for Indian football, and the door is always open for him," said Jamil.

The national camp began with 22 players, with 13 others currently fulfilling their respective club engagements in the Durand Cup.

Jamil, on his maiden international appointment, said, "It is my pleasure to serve the

country. It has always been my dream to do this, and it has now come true, so that feels very good. There is a big task ahead of us, and we've got many areas that we need to work on. I am fully aware how big a responsibility it is for me, but I feel thankful that the Federation (AIFF) felt me worthy to be entrusted with it."

The 48-year-old's first assignment will be the CAFA Nations Cup, where India have been drafted into Group B, and will travel to Hisor, Tajikistan, to play the hosts (August 29), IR Iran (September 1), and Afghanistan (September 4). The top teams from groups A and B will play the final on September 8 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the two second-placed teams will face each other in a battle for third place on the same day in Hisor.

Jamil, who is keeping an eye on the progress of the other 13 players, said, "We started the camp with some players still not available, but we've got the players we need to begin our preparations. The important thing is that we remain united as a team, because this will be India's first-ever participation in the CAFA Nations Cup, and it will be a good opportunity for us to play stronger opponents.

Therefore, for the national interest, we would like to request co-operation from clubs to release players on time, to ensure their adequate participation during the preparatory camp."

However, the newly-appointed India head coach has his sights set on the AFC Asian Cup Final Round Qualifiers, where India will face Singapore in the October FIFA International Window (October 9 in Singapore and October 14 in India), in their Group C encounters.

"It will be good for us to play against quality opponents in the CAFA Nations Cup. There is absolutely no excuse for us, as we have enough time to prepare for it," said Jamil. "Playing against stronger teams like Tajikistan and Iran will definitely be beneficial for us to prepare for the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers."

The matter gets closed there: Ashwin reacts to CSK's statement on Brevis' signing

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) Former India all-rounder

Ravichandran Ashwin has issued a clarification of his claims that the five-time IPL winners may have paid more than the stipulated amount to acquire the South Africa rising star Dewald Brevis, after CSK released a statement on the replacement signing of Brevis in IPL 2025.

Earlier this week on his YouTube channel, Ashwin had claimed that when Brevis was to be signed as a replacement, he was supposed to be signed at the base price, but was paid an extra amount to play in IPL 2025. "I will tell you something. About Brevis. He had a great time last IPL with CSK. In fact, a few teams were talking to him. A few teams left him because of the price. When he was supposed to be signed as a replacement, he was supposed to be signed at the base price. But what happens is you talk to the agents and the player will say, if you give me X amount extra, I will come." Ashwin had said. CSK, however, issued clarification on Saturday that Brevis' signing was done in accordance with IPL rules and regulations and that the batter was not offered more than the official figure stated in the advisory on April 18.



Divya to compete in Open section of Grand Swiss Chess: What it means



New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) "Chess does not fit women properly. It's a fight, you know? Women are weaker fighters." This was a statement

made in 1989 by the undisputed king of chess at that time, Garry Kasparov to Playboy magazine. It was a statement that

raised eyebrows and actually stoked the fire in female competitors.

Then came Judit Polgar, who broke all the notions of women in chess and became the first female in the sport's history to achieve 2700 rating points. Polgar competed against male competitors and even recorded India's very own Viswanathan Anand.

Reaching the fag end of his career, Kasparov accepted defeat on the front that women can actually give men a run for their money in chess.

Now, India's Divya Deshmukh is all set to go down the path of Polgar.

Divya's story is well-known to everyone by now.

A young, bright and confident girl who made all the noise by winning the Women's Chess World Cup by beating compatriot Koneru Humpy to become the first Indian to do so. Praise from all corners followed and the celebrations were grand but young Divya is now focused on the Candidates tournament.

Mayan Jha wins 28th One-Day Chess Championship

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: The 28th One-Day Chess Championship, organized by Bishop Chess Academy, Telco, was held at the Leam and Fun Activity Centre with enthusiastic participation from young players. The event saw intense competition, with Mayan Jha securing first place with 4.5 points. Gagandeep Singh, Divyansh Agarwal, and Riddhan Goyal followed with 4 points each, while Harsh Raj Sah also scored 4 points.

The tournament was officiated by Chief Arbiter Aman Chouhey. N.K. Tiwari, Secretary of East Singhbhum District Chess Academy,



graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Sunita Singh was the Guest of Honour. All participants received mementos and certificates, while the

top three winners were awarded trophies. The championship was praised as a well-organized and exciting chess event. (W-mb)

Alcaraz sets Sinner showdown in Cincinnati final

Cincinnati, Aug 17 (IANS) Carlos Alcaraz advanced to his seventh consecutive tour-level final by beating an ailing Alexander Zverev 6-4, 6-3 at the Cincinnati Open.

The victory set up a final showdown with Jannik Sinner, a rematch of the Rome, Roland Garros and Wimbledon title matches this season. "I'm really looking forward to playing against him once again," said the Spaniard, who will meet Sinner for the fourth time this year and 14th time overall. "We raise our level to the top and we bring a really beautiful tennis to the match. I'm ready to take the challenge. I'm ready to see the things that I did wrong in the last match and trying to be better on that side on Monday." At 22 years and three months, Alcaraz is the third-youngest player to reach nine Masters 1000 finals after Rafael Nadal (20) and Novak Djokovic (21), according to ATP stats. Through to his ninth ATP Masters 1000 final (7-1) and first on hard courts since he claimed the Indian Wells crown last year, Alcaraz extended his winning streak to 16 matches at that prestigious level on the heels of his title runs in Monte-Carlo and Rome.

Sans Khalid JFC pipped at the quarter final post, lose to Diamond Harbour FC

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Jamshedpur FC's Durand Cup journey came to an end on Sunday evening as the Men of Steel suffered a 0-2 defeat to Diamond Harbour FC in the quarterfinal at the JRD Tata Sports Complex. Playing without Khalid Jamil on the sidelines, the spirited performance by JFC fell short despite the roaring support of over 12,000 home fans.

Diamond Harbour drew first blood early when Ruakima latched onto a long pass from Joby Justin in the third minute to put the visitors ahead. The



setback did not dampen JFC's resolve as they launched waves

of counterattacks, with Jayesh Rane, Rei Tachikawa, and Sanan

combining to test the opposition defense. Rane's curling effort in the first half narrowly missed the target, while Praful and Sreekkuttan also went close but failed to convert.

The visitors doubled their lead in the 41st minute with a well-taken free kick, leaving JFC facing an uphill battle. Despite the deficit, the Men of Steel came out stronger in the second half. Pronay Halder's header missed by inches, while Sanan and Praful were denied by the rival goalkeeper in quick succession. Substitute VP Suhair nearly found Nishu Kumar with a dangerous cross late on, and debutant Manvir Singh linked

up with Rane to create another chance.

The most dramatic moment came in stoppage time when Rei Tachikawa's free kick was headed in by Praful, sending the stands into wild celebration. But joy quickly turned to despair as the assistant referee flagged for offside, ruling out what could have been JFC's lifeline.

Though eliminated, Jamshedpur FC's fighting spirit without their former head coach earned appreciation from the fans. The result marked the end of their Durand Cup campaign, but also highlighted the squad's growing resilience ahead of the upcoming season. (W-mb)

New connectivity of UER-II, Dwarka Expressway will ease lives of NCR people, says PM Modi

Delhi infra push: PM Modi slams previous dispensations, reiterates swadeshi pitch

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday underlined the need to transform New Delhi into a 'Vikas Model' (development model), saying the national capital should embody the aspirations of a nation determined to become 'Viksit (developed)'.

Addressing a large public gathering during the inauguration of the Dwarka Expressway and Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II), PM Modi congratulated residents of the national capital on the occasion.

He mentioned that the farmers and labourers would be the ones who would get the most benefits from the newly constructed projects.

He drew a cultural connection while noting, "The highway is named Dwarka Expressway, the



name of the place is Rohini, the occasion is Janmashtami, and by coincidence, I am also from the land of Dwarkadeesh. Poora mahaul bahot Krishnamay ho

gaya hai (the entire atmosphere is filled with devotion towards Lord Krishna)".

Emphasising the importance of the new infrastructure, he

said, "Delhi got the connectivity of UER-II and Dwarka Expressway, which will ease the lives of the people of the NCR. Travelling to offices will

become easy, and it will save a lot of time. Our farmers, labourers and businessmen will benefit a lot from it."

Linking the projects to his Independence Day address, PM Modi said India's economic momentum is being recognised globally.

"The entire world knows what the new India is thinking, it is aspiring to be, what its resolutions are. When the world sees India, the first thing they think about is our capital, Delhi. This is why we have to make Delhi a 'Vikas Model', which shows that it is the Capital of India, which is aspiring to become 'Viksit', he said.

Reflecting on the government's efforts over the past 11 years, the Prime Minister said the BJP-led Centre has been "relentlessly" working on multiple fronts to develop Delhi.

Kharge calls PM 'Bahut khatarnak aadmi hai' over SIR in Bihar

Mail News Service

Patna, August 17: Congress President Mallikarjun

Kharge, while addressing people during Rahul Gandhi's Voter Adhikar Yatra on Sunday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a "very dangerous man" and urged the masses to ensure his removal to safeguard citizens' rights and the Constitution.

Criticising PM Modi for praising the RSS during his Independence Day speech at the Red Fort, Kharge claimed that as long as the BJP remains in power, the votes, rights, and freedoms of the people are at risk.

"He is a very dangerous man. Unless you remove him from power, your votes, rights, freedom, and even the Constitution will not remain safe," he said.

"None of your people went to jail during the freedom struggle. They submitted applications to the British for jobs and pledged to stay with them. If PM Modi honours such people from the Red Fort, what would the souls of our freedom fighters say?" Kharge said.

He further alleged that Prime Minister Modi is stealing away the votes of people, the jobs of youths and the MSP of the farmers.

"PM Modi steals your votes, the jobs of the youth, the MSP of farmers, and your rights. He is a thief and it is necessary to remove that thief," Kharge added.



Four hardcore Maoists surrender in Chhattisgarh

Raipur, Aug 17 (IANS) In a major success for anti-LWE operations in central India, four notorious Maoists surrendered before security forces in Gariaband district, marking a significant setback for the insurgent network active in the region.

Among those who laid down arms was Deepak a.k.a. Bhima Mandavi, a divisional committee member (DVM) with a reward of Rs 8 lakh.

The total bounty on the surrendered cadres stood at Rs 19 lakh, senior police officials said.

The other three included Kailash a.k.a. Bhima Bhogam, a member of the Protection Team; Ranita a.k.a. Paiki, an Area Committee member; and Sujita

a.k.a. Uren Karam.

With rewards ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, all four had been active in the Dhamtari-Gariaband-Nuapada Division since 2013.

Acting on Intelligence shared by the surrendered Maoists, security forces recovered Rs 16 lakh in cash from suspected hideouts. The operation also yielded 31 live cartridges, two empty magazines, detonators, eight BGL rounds, 12 bore ammunition, and a trove of Maoist literature believed to be used for indoctrination and recruitment. Their surrender is being seen as a strategic breakthrough, especially in the wake of recent setbacks suffered by the Maoists organisation, said the officials.

Can't share machine-readable voter list as it may lead to breach of privacy: CEC

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS)

Sticking to its firm stand of protecting the privacy of voters, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Sunday refused to release machine-readable voter list - a demand repeatedly made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said machine-readable voter list has been banned since the 2019 verdict of the Supreme Court, as in such a list, the entries and photos can be tinkered with.

"We recently saw some media reports displaying voter lists with

photos of electors without consent, which is a breach of privacy," he said, adding that the poll panel was obligated not to circulate photos of mothers or sisters. He said machine-readable voter list is different from the searchable voter list, which is available on the ECI, where a voter can enter his details to check if his name is in the voter list. CEC Gyanesh Kumar said the ECI is standing like a rock with voters, and no eligible voter's name can be deleted to deny him or her the right to vote.

He said within 56 hours of a



Supreme Court order, the ECI has created a website for each district in Bihar, and it can be used to search a voter's name using the

EPIC number. Earlier last week, the ECI accepted three key suggestions from the Supreme Court over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Bihar, agreeing to the addition of a list of non-included voters with reasons in the draft roll. For the convenience of citizens, the ECI said that in addition to the list of deceased, voters at two places and permanently shifted given by BLOs to all political parties since July 20, a list of non-included voters with reasons shall also be put in the draft roll.

SC to hear Punjab govt's plea against referral of bills to President today

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS)

The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Monday a writ petition filed by the Punjab government challenging the Governor's decision to refer the Sikh Gurudwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill, 2023, to the President for her consideration.

As per the causelist published on the website of the apex court, a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai and Justices K. Vinod Chandran and N.V. Anjaria will take up for hearing on August 18 the plea challenging the President's "simpliciter inaction" on the two bills without granting or withholding assent.

The petition raises two significant questions of



"constitutional import": first, whether the Governor, acting on his own discretion and contrary to the advice of the Punjab government, could refer the bills to the President; and second, in what manner the President is required to act once a bill has

been reserved for his consideration by a Governor.

The plea, filed through advocate Nupur Kumar, contended that both bills were sent to the President "in contravention to the aid and advice of the State Council of

Ministers, and in the absence of any constitutional trigger or extraordinary breakdown of democratic governance".

Both the Bills referred to the President, as per the plea, either fall within the State List or, if they fall within the Concurrent List, do not conflict with any law made by the Union Parliament.

"They also do not attract any of the constitutional provisions that would either (a) mandate Presidential assent as a condition precedent to their enactment; (b) require reference on grounds of repugnancy or inconsistency with central law; or (c) raise exceptional circumstances that imperil constitutional democracy so as to justify a departure from the mandate of ministerial aid and advice," it

stated.

Further, the plea cited the recent judgement in the State of Tamil Nadu v. The Governor of Tamil Nadu case, where the Supreme Court categorically held that "there is no 'pocket veto' or 'absolute veto' available to the President in discharge of his functions under Article 201" and that decisions on reserved bills must be taken "within a period of three months".

The Sikh Gurudwaras (Amendment) Bill mandates free live telecast of Gurbani from the Golden Temple, while the Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill seeks an independent mechanism for the appointment of the Director General of Police (DGP). Both were passed by the Assembly in 2023.

Foreign Secy Vikram Misri meets Nepal's leadership

Kathmandu, Aug 17 (IANS) Foreign Secretary

Vikram Misri called on Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli on Sunday and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation across various sectors.

The Indian Embassy in Nepal, in a post on X, said: "Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called on the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli. FS reaffirmed the deep civilizational ties and strong India-Nepal partnership, and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation across various sectors."

Misri also called on Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel and conveyed greetings from the Indian leadership. During the meeting, he briefed the President on the progress in bilateral ties.

"Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called on the Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal Mr. Ramchandra Paudel and conveyed greetings of the Indian leadership, apart from briefing Hon'ble President on the progress in bilateral ties," Indian Embassy in Nepal posted on X.

The Foreign Secretary also called on Nepal's Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba. During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to further enhance the multifaceted partnership between two nations across all sectors.

'Govt to launch nation-wide action against spurious agriculture inputs'



Bhopal, Aug 17 (IANS) The Union Government will soon launch a nationwide campaign to crack down on fake and harmful agricultural inputs, including spurious pesticides, fertilisers, and seeds.

This decision comes in the wake of a major crop failure in Madhya Pradesh, where farmers have suffered heavy losses due to suspected faulty weedicide.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made a surprise visit on Sunday to the soyabean fields of Chhirkheda village in Raisen district, following complaints from farmers. Instead of healthy crops, he found burnt fields, dried plants, and widespread damage.

Farmers told the Minister that the destruction was caused by a weedicide produced by a private company. Surrounded by hundreds of farmers and Agriculture Department officials, Chouhan inspected the fields and took stock of the situation first-hand.

"This is not an isolated misfortune," he declared. "The anguish of these farmers echoes across multiple districts. Their pain is our summons to act."

With characteristic decisiveness, the Minister announced the formation of a high-level scientific inquiry to investigate the matter thoroughly and impartially. On his directive, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) constituted a four-member committee to examine the affected fields.

The committee shall be chaired by Dr. J.S. Mishra, Director of ICAR's Directorate of Weed Research (DWR), Jabalpur.

CM Rekha, Jitendra Singh receive astronaut Shubhanshu at Delhi airport

New Delhi, Aug 17 (IANS) Returning for the first time in India after completing a successful space mission stint, astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla arrived in the early hours of Sunday at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in the national capital, where he was welcomed by Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. Taking to social media platform X, Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh in a post wrote: "A moment of pride for India! A moment of glory for #ISRO! A moment of gratitude to the dispensation that facilitated this under the leadership of PM @narendramodi.

India's Space glory touches the Indian soil... as the iconic son of Mother India, #Gaganyatri Shubhanshu Shukla lands at Delhi in the early hours of morning today. Accompanying him, another equally accomplished Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, one of the astronauts selected for India's first Human mission Gaganyaan who was India's designated backup for the mission to the International Space Station #ISS. Privileged to receive both of them at the New Delhi Airport along with Delhi CM @gupta_rekha, #ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan and later welcomed by a group of students."



Elvish ruined many homes by promoting betting: 'Bhau Gang' claims responsibility for firing

Gurugram, Aug 17 (IANS)

Hours after unidentified attackers opened fire outside the residence of YouTuber Elvish Yadav in Haryana's Gurugram, an Instagram post surfaced in which the 'Bhau Gang' claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to police, three bike-borne assailants sprayed over two dozen bullets at Yadav's house between 5.30 a.m. and 6 a.m. before fleeing the scene. The bullets hit the ground and the first floor of the residence, though no injuries were reported.

The Instagram post, featuring two gun illustrations and the text 'BHAU GANG SINCE 2020,' alleged that the attack was



linked to Yadav's promotion of illegal betting apps.

The gang is reportedly led by Portugal-based fugitive gangster Himanshu Bhau.

In the post, the alleged members wrote: "Today, the bullets that were fired at Elvish Yadav's house were fired by us, Neeraj Faridpur and Bhau

Ritoliya. Today, we have introduced ourselves to him. He has ruined many homes by promoting betting. And all these social media bugs, we are warning that if anyone is found promoting betting, they can get a call or a bullet at any time. So all those who are into betting, be ready." So far, there is no official confirmation linking the online claim to the attack.

Bigg Boss OTT winner Yadav, who lives on the second and third floors, was not present during the attack. His caretaker and some family members were inside at the time, but no one was injured.

"Today, on 17.08.2025, at around 5:30/6:00 a.m., some

unknown persons fired at a house under the jurisdiction of Police Station Sector-56, Gurugram. No person has been shot in this incident," Gurugram Police said in a statement.

Additionally, the attackers are absconding. Police teams rushed to the spot, gathered forensic evidence, and began scanning CCTV footage from nearby areas. Officials said legal action is being initiated, and further investigation will proceed once Yadav's family registers a formal complaint.

The father of the YouTuber said he had not received any threats before the incident. Yadav is currently outside Haryana for work.