

# Unamic Bharat ➤ VOICE OF TRUE <</p>



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#### BRIEF NEWS

#### Many agencies are engaged in the search of missing people

Jammu and Kashmir. The search operation being carried out by several agencies to trace 33 missing people in Kishtwar district, affected by the natural disaster of cloudburst in Jammu and Kashmir, continued for the eighth day on Thursday. Officials gave this information. The death toll in the natural disaster that struck on August 14 in the last village on the way to Machail Mata temple has risen to 65, including three Central **Industrial Security Force** (CISF) personnel and a Special Police Officer (SPO) of Jammu and Kashmir Police. More than 100 people have been injured in this incident. A senior official told the agency, "The search operation being carried out by various agencies to trace 33 missing people has been intensified. Different teams are conducting operations in the worst affected areas." The operation has been

focused on three places -

near the langar (commu-

washed away and Bhuat

the worst affected site

nity kitchen), the area

where houses were

Nala in Gulabgarh-

said police, army,

National Disaster

Central Industrial

Border Roads

these places.

Response Force

Paddar area. Officials

(NDRF), State Disaster

Security Force (CISF),

civil administration and

jointly engaged in relief

and rescue operations at

Organisation (BRO)

local volunteers are

Response Force (SDRF),

# PM Modi, French President Macron discuss Ukraine peace efforts

#### **Agency**

New Delhi/Paris: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday received a phone call from French President Emmanuel Macron during which the two leaders discussed the ongoing efforts for peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict, as well as bilateral relations.

PM Modi said in a post on X that he had a "very good conversation with my friend President Macron".

"Exchanged views on efforts for peaceful resolution of conflicts in Ukraine and in West Asia. Reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the India-France strategic partner-



ing efforts for peaceful resolution of conflicts in Ukraine and the West Asia region." President Macron shared his assessment on the August 18 meeting hosted by US President Donald Trump with President Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders at the White

He also shared his perspectives on the situation in Gaza. "Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's consistent support for peaceful resolution of the conflicts and early restoration of peace and stability. The two leaders also reviewed progress in the bilateral cooperation agenda, including in the areas of trade, defence, civil nuclear cooperation, technology and energy. They reaffirmed joint commitment to strengthen the India-France Strategic Partnership and mark 2026 as 'Year of Innovation' in a befitting manner. President Macron also conveyed support for early conclusion of the Trade Agreement

The leaders agreed to remain in touch on all issues. President Macron said in a post on X:

"I have just spoken with Prime Minister @NarendraModi.

"We coordinated our positions on the war in Ukraine in order to move towards a just and lasting peace, with strong guarantees for Ukraine and Europe's security.

"On trade issues, we agreed to strengthen our economic exchanges and our strategic partnership in all areas - this is the key to our sovereignty and independence.

"Following up on the AI Action Summit held in Paris Russia and Ukraine.

between India and the EU. last February, we are working towards the success of the AI Impact Summit to be held in New Delhi in 2026."For more effective multilateralism, we agreed to work closely together in preparation for the French presidency of the G7 and the Indian presidency of the BRICS in 2026."

Notably, the French President's phone call regarding Ukraine comes days after Russian President Vladimir Putin called up PM Modi and other BRICS leaders to brief them about the Ukraine developments. US President Donald Trump is trying to mediate peace efforts between

### Marandi questions Jharkhand liquor scam probe, writes open letter to CM Soren

Ranchi: Leader of Opposition and BJP state president Babulal Marandi has accused the Jharkhand government of deliberately weakening the probe into the alleged liquor scam. In a strongly worded open letter addressed to Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Marandi raised concerns over the pace of investigation, procedural lapses, and what he described as a deliberate attempt to protect influential individuals.

In the letter, Marandi said that the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) initially acted with urgency by questioning and arresting a senior officer in the case. However, he alleged that the same promptness has since disappeared.

According to him, the government's failure to file a chargesheet within three months has enabled the accused to secure bail one after another. He also questioned the handling of interrogation records, claiming that statements of senior officers and other influential accused were not fully documented, leaving scope for selective interpretation.

Marandi further questioned whether the delay and alleged irregularities were taking



place with or without the knowledge of the Chief Minister. "I do not believe that any officer could dare to commit such a big fraud without your consent," he wrote, adding that if the actions were being carried out knowingly, it would raise serious concerns about the government's role.

The BJP leader also reminded Soren that he had earlier cautioned him about flaws in the state's liquor policy and the possibility of a large-scale scam. He claimed that the lack of corrective action at that stage suggested that

the irregularities were part of a larger conspiracy. According to Marandi, the liquor syndicate in question extends beyond Jharkhand to Raipur and Delhi, involving powerful networks of operators and officials. He alleged that "big deals" were struck to deliberately delay filing the chargesheet, with the understanding that such a delay would guarantee bail for the accused.

He stressed that such developments have shaken public confidence in the state's ability to ensure impartial investigations into corruption cases. The Opposition leader demanded that the Chief Minister order strict action against officials responsible for what he termed a "deliberate weakening" of the case. Since Soren himself holds the ACB portfolio, Marandi argued that responsibility for the lapses cannot be overlooked.

Marandi urged the Chief Minister to hand over the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), arguing that only an independent probe could identify the real culprits and restore public trust. "The investigation should not be allowed to become a sham exercise where arrests are made only to eventually secure bail through procedural lapses," he cautioned.

#### Monsoon session of Jharkhand assembly to begin today



**DB** Reporter

Ranchi: Monsoon sesof Jharkhand Assembly will start from 22 August on Friday to 28 August. This time there will be a total of four working days during the session.

Due to Saturday on 23 August and Sunday on 24 August, the session will not run on those two days. There will also be a holiday on 27 August. It is worth noting that the monsoon session was earlier scheduled from 1 August to 7 August and it was also inaugurated on 1 August.

However, due to the demise of Dishom Guru and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren on August 4, the session was adjourned indefinitely with immediate effect.

After the adjournment of the session, the revised date has been issued by the Assembly Secretariat, according to which now the monsoon session will

During this time, the government will try to complete many important legislative works. Let us tell you that on August 22, the first supplementary expenditure statement of the financial year 2025-26 will be presented. After that there will be mourning. In this, tribute will be paid to Dishom Guru Shibu Soren.

resume from August 22.

There will be holidays on 23 and 24. There will be Question Hour on 25 and the first supplementary expenditure statement will be discussed. There will be Ouestion Hour on August 26 and government bills will be introduced and passed. There will be a holiday on Ganesh Chaturthi on 27. There will be Question Hour on August 28 and government bills will be introduced, after which the members of the Legislative Assembly will present their respective non-government res-

### UIDAI Ropes In Starlink For Aadhaar-Based Customer Verification



#### **Agency**

Unique Delhi: The Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has tied up with satellitebased internet provider Starlink Satellite Communication Pvt Ltd. Starlink will use Aadhaar authentication for customer verification.

This will make the whole process smooth, secure and very easy. According to the Ministry of Electronics and IT, Aadhaar, one of the most trusted digital identity systems, will ensure that customer onboarding (the process of onboarding a new employee into a company and introducing him/her

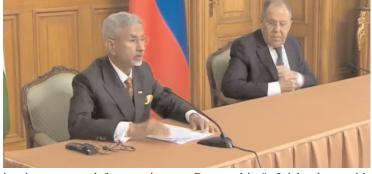
to the role, responsibilities, company culture and work environment) is quick, paperless and compliant with Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. Starlink's integration with Aadhaar authentication marks a powerful synergy, India's trusted digital identity joining hands with global satellite technology.

# India-Russia ties steadiest since World War II, says Jaishankar in Moscow

#### **Agency**

Moscow: In a joint press briefing in Moscow, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India and Russia have been "the steadiest of the major relationships in the world after the Second World War." Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov echoed that sentiment, describing the ties as a "special strategic partnership" shaped by the two countries' leaders.

Jaishankar, who arrived in Moscow after a round of trade and economic talks with Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, said his meeting with Lavrov was an opportunity to review both the political relationship and bilateral cooperation. "I look forward to an exchange of views on politics, on trade, on econom-



ics, investment, defence, science and technology, and of course people-to-people exchanges," he

Jaishankar spoke about recent high-level engagements, including the 22nd Annual Summit last year and subsequent leadership meetings in Kazan. "They have always given us guidance to take forward our Special and Privileged Strategic

Partnership," Jaishankar said, adding that preparations were now underway for the next summit at the end of this year.

He also pointed to an active bilateral calendar, mentioning visits by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, and NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery. "All these showed how deep our relationship is,"

Jaishankar said.

Looking at the global context, Jaishankar underlined the need to adapt to "the evolving geopolitical situation, the shifting economic and trade landscape, and our shared goal to maximise our complementarity."

Lavrov, welcoming Jaishankar, said he was glad to host him in Moscow after a busy schedule of meetings. He said, "We define our relations as a special strategic partnership, and this was defined by our leaders, and I hope that we fully justify these links."The Russian minister framed ties against the backdrop of a changing global order. "This is a multipolar system of international relations with an increasing role played by the SCO, BRICS and the G20.

#### JMM urges Assembly to pass proposal for Bharat Ratna to Shibu Soren

**DB** Reporter

Ranchi: Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) General Secretary Vinod Kumar Pandey has called on the ruling party to make the forthcoming supplementary monsoon session of the Jharkhand Assembly (22-28 August) historic by passing a resolution to recommend the Bharat Ratna for the late Dishom Guruji Shibu Soren and forwarding it to the central government.

Pandey said the supplementary budget would be presented on August 22, with tributes to be paid to departed leaders. On August 26, during a special discussion on excessive rainfall and farmers' difficulties, he urged the ruling party to ensure that the Assembly speaks with one voice in honour of Shibu Soren, sending a united message to Delhi.

Describing Soren's life as a symbol of sacrifice, struggle and service, Pandey noted his leadership in mass movements against social ills such as drug addiction



olutions.

and exploitative moneylending, as well as his efforts to connect tribal society with education and social consciousness. He emphasised Soren's pivotal role in advancing the movement for a separate Jharkhand state to a decisive

"There is a need to work towards securing the Bharat Ratna as a tribute to Guruji, who transformed the demand for a separate Jharkhand into a mass movement from Ranchi to Delhi through his tireless struggle," Pandey





### From Promise to Plight: Illegal Coal Trade Thrives Where Governor Once Envisioned Development

**DB** Reporter

Charhi (Hazaribagh): The glaring contrast between promises of development and the grim reality on the ground has once again raised serious questions about the functioning of the Hazaribagh district administration and police.

On March 27, 2023, Jharkhand Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan visited Bahera Panchavat in Churchu Block, where he promised development, including the construction of the Bahera-Bodra road under PMGSY. A cheque of ?1 crore was handed to women's SHGs, with assurances of a brighter future.

Two years later, the same location behind the panchayat build-



ing now houses a large illegal coal depot, hidden under tarps. Trucks loaded with illicit coal now thunder down the same roads that were supposed to usher in development.

Youth in villages across Charhi, Churchu, and nearby areas are being pulled into the murky world of illegal coal operations,

primarily due to lack of employment and failed government schemes. Despite schemes like Birsa Harit Gram, Poto Ho Khel Vikas, CM Self-Employment, and MNREGA, ground-level implementation remains poor.

Local sources say coal is collected during the day using bicycles and motorcycles, and loaded into trucks by night with the help of JCBs, heading to sponge iron factories and coal markets in Banaras and Dehri.

Meanwhile, police inaction is fueling local frustration. Residents accuse the Charhi police station in-charge of ignoring calls and giving safe passage to known offenders. Some allege that administrative protection enables this vast illegal network to operate unchecked.

When villagers attempt to raise their voices, they are reportedly harassed by police instead. As fear silences dissent, a critical question looms: Will the government ever act to replace darkness with the promised light of development?

### Successful Cleanliness Drive Organised by Dr.

### S. Radhakrishnan Teacher Training College

**DB** Reporter

Ramgarh: A cleanliness drive was successfully organised at Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Teacher Training College, Sukrigarha, Lari, Ramgarh, under the banner of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. The programme began with a flag-off by Mr. Sanjay Kumar Prabhakar, Secretary of the College Management Committee, and Principal Dr. Sushil Kumar Upadhyay, who sent the trainees towards Sukrigarha village to conduct the drive.

The campaign was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Ashok Ram, the coordinator of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. During the village visit, B.Ed. and D.El.Ed. trainees, along with faculty members, took active part in sanitation activities including sprinkling bleach-



ing powder in wells, disinfecting drains, and spraying mosquito repellents in and around households.

Villagers were also advised to boil or filter rainwater before consumption to prevent waterborne diseases. The trainees spread awareness through slogans like "Cleanliness is the cure for all diseases," "Cleanliness is service," and "Filth is fatal." They also performed street plays and raised chants to engage and educate the local community.

#### Focus on Housing, Electrification, and Transparency in DC Sameera S's Review Meeting

Medininagar: On Thursday, a meeting of the District Coordination Committee was held at the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate Sameera S. In the meeting, the progress of various departmental schemes was thoroughly reviewed, and officials were directed to complete all works in a timebound and transparent manner.

#### Strict Monitoring of Housing **Schemes**

During the review, it was found that Manatu and Haidernagar blocks are lagging behind in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) 2016-22. Similarly, in the Abua Awas Yojana, Manatu and Pandu blocks showed unsatisfactory progress. The DC expressed displeasure over the situation and instructed the concerned blocks to speed up the work immediately.

100% Electrification for PVTG

**DB** Reporter

Ramgarh: In an effort

to promote sanitation

and public health during

the monsoon season, a cleanliness drive was

carried out in Bogasauri



**Families** 

The DC gave clear instructions that not a single PVTG family should remain without an electricity connection. The Executive Engineer of Electricity Department informed that under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Abua Awas Yojana, beneficiaries will be provided free electricity connections. He added that as soon as the BDOs provide the list of beneficiaries, electricity connections will be ensured in all houses.

#### **Coordination and Transparency** are the Keys to Development

In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stated that coor-

Clean Water and Hygiene Are Key to

Staying Safe During Monsoons: Sudhir

dination and transparency among departments are the foundation for achieving better results. She directed all departmental officials to ensure regular reporting on the progress of development schemes, public facilities, and special campaigns, while prioritizing inter-departmental communication and problem-solving.

#### **Officials Present in the Meeting** The meeting was attended by

Deputy Development Commissioner Javed Hussain, Assistant Collector, DRDA Director, officials from various departments, BDOs, and COs.

### Youth Murdered Over Money Dispute in Palamu, Father-Son Duo Arrested

**DB** Reporter

**Medininagar**: A shocking murder case has come to light in the Lesliganj police station area of Palamu district. Over a financial dispute, a father and son strangled a young man to death and later tried to destroy evidence by burning the body in a forest. The incident has created a stir in the region.

Murder on August 16, Body Burnt in Forest on August 17

According to the police, the incident took place on 16 August 2025. The accused, Janeshwar Singh (34) and his father Rajeshwar Singh (58), residents of Ghutwa village, strangled Manoj Bhuiyan alias Manu Bhuiyan (20) to death. The next day, 17 August, the duo carried the body to Bhuri forest and set it on fire in an

The crime was exposed when, on

attempt to wipe out evidence.

Case Uncovered After Uncle's

20 August, the victim's uncle Lalan Bhuiyan lodged a complaint at the police station. Acting swiftly, the police initiated an investigation, during which both accused confessed to their crime.

Burnt Remains Recovered, Accused Sent to Judicial Custody The police recovered the charred remains of the victim from Bhuri forest. Under the leadership of Station In-charge Uttam Kumar Rai, the police team arrested both accused and produced them before the court, from where they were sent to judicial custody.

#### Dr. S. Radhakrishnan **Evening Degree College Receives University** Recognition

Ramgarh, Sukrigarha Dr. (Lari): Radhakrishnan Evening Degree College, located in Sukrigarha, Lari, has been granted official recognition by Vinoba University, Bhave Hazaribagh, for its fouryear undergraduate programme for the aca-

demic session 2025-

The name of the college has now been listed on the Chancellor Portal by the Government of Jharkhand. Interested students can select the college through the Chancellor Portal and apply for admission in the four-year Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) programme for the 2025-29 session. Available subiects include Hindi. English, Sanskrit, Urdu, Khortha. History, Geography, Political Science, Home Science, Economics, Anthropology, Sociology, Philosophy.

#### DC Aditya Ranjan Reviews Labour, Employment, and Skill **Development Schemes in Dhanbad**

**Complaint** 



**DB** Reporter

Dhanbad: Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate Aditya Ranjan conducted a comprehensive review of the Labour, Employment, and Skill Development Department's schemes and initiatives during a meeting held at the Collectorate auditorium. The DC directed officials to inspect private schools and hospitals to ensure compliance with minimum wage and PF regulations. He instructed that strict action be taken against institutions found violating labour Additionally, laws. establishments with more than 10 employees must register with the labour department, he

said. DC Ranjan also emphasized surprise inspections at dhabas, hotels, and commercial establishments to curb child labour. Labour officials were directed to inspect major shopping complexes and submit compliance reports. The Superintendent instructed to take immediate action where violations are detected.

Regarding welfare schemes, the reviewed registration and benefits provided to organised and unorganised workers, including scholarships, maternity benefits, and death compensation. He stressed the need to expedite the inclusion of more workers under these schemes.

#### Mamta Devi. On Chairman of the Dulmi tance of clean water and

village under the guidance of local MLA Thursday, bleaching powder was sprinkled in several wells as a preventive health measure. The initiative was led by Mr. Sudhir Manglesh,

Twenty-Point Programme and District Spokesperson & Media Chairman. During the drive, villagers were educated about the impor-

various precautions to prevent waterborne diseases. Mr. Manglesh emphasized that diseases like cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea tend to rise dur-

He stressed the importance of keeping wells and water sources clean and urged residents to drink only boiled water and maintain hygiene in and around their homes. Those present at the event included Mahendra Ohdar, Utam Kumar, Rajkumar Hemlal Mahato, Bablu Mahato, and Arvind

ing the rainy season due

to contaminated water.

Mahato, Kumar, among others.

#### Missing CCL Employee Found Dead Inside Car Submerged in Pond in Ramgarha

#### **DB** Reporter

**Ramgarh:** The body of a missing Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) employee, 55-year-old Manshu Sahu, was recovered along with his car from a pond near a petrol pump at Nayamod-Ara-Hirk Road under Kuju OP on Thursday.

Sahu, a resident of Badgaon, had been missing since the night of

August 16 after leaving work at Kuju colliery around 11 PM. Police believe he met with an accident and his car plunged into the pond. Due to poor visibility at night, the incident went unnoticed for five days.

Acting on suspicions raised by family members, who had traced his last phone location near the



pond, a relative entered the water and suspected a vehicle inside.

### NDMA Team Reviews Disaster Preparedness in Hazaribagh

#### **DB** Reporter

Hazaribagh: A team from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), New Delhi, conducted a comprehensive review of disaster preparedness in Hazaribagh district on Thursday. The visiting team included Ambuj Bajpai (Deputy Secretary, PRAG), Saroj Kujur (Under Secretary, General), and Dr. Wasim Iqbal (Consultant, Disaster Management).

The review meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Shashi Prakash Singh at Collectorate auditorium. Officials and disaster volunteers from Hazaribagh, Ramgarh, Dumka, and Sahebganj participated, including police and



administrative personnel.

Dr. Wasim Iqbal provided an overview of the functioning of State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA) and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA) with a on Disaster Risk focus Reduction (DRR). The team

emphasized strengthening preparedness and response systems, regular updates to State and District Disaster Management Plans (SDMP/DDMP), and inter-departmental coordination involving Armed Forces, CAPF, NDRF, SDRF, and civil-military collaborations.

Key discussions included the effectiveness of early warning systems, SEOC/District EOC operations, and the training of community volunteers such as "Aapda Mitras," "Aapda Sakhis," and "Didis."

The team also reviewed regionspecific challenges such as elephant attacks, snake bites, heatwaves, lightning, fire incidents, and heavy rainfall. The importance of mock exercises, especially multi-hazard and CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) drills, was highlighted, with a special focus on critical infrastructure like aviation, railways, seaports,

power plants, and nuclear facili-

#### Grand Shobha Yatra Marks Start of Three-Day Bhadon Amavasya Festival in Katras

**DB** Reporter

Katras: A grand Shobha Yatra (religious procession) was taken out on Thursday in Katras to mark the beginning of the three-day Shri Bhadon Amavasya Mahotsav 2025, organized under the banner of the Shri Shri Sati Dadi Mandir Committee.

The colorful procession began from Rahul Chowk in Katras Bazaar, led by chief hosts Amit Soni and his wife Shweta Soni. Hundreds of men, women, and children participated with decorated



kalash (sacred pots) and flags in hand, accompanied by traditional music and drumming. The event witnessed vibrant tableaux portraying various Hindu deities including Radha-Krishna, Shiva-Parvati, Hanuman, Khatu Shyam, and Dadi Rani Sati, all adorned in

traditional costumes.

The procession passed through the main areas of Katras before culminating at the Dadi Rani Sati Temple in Pachgadhi, where the formal rituals of the three-day religious celebration began, conducted by local priests Ajay Pandey, Mahendra Pathak, and Ishwar Shastri.

# Agriculture Minister Holds Public Hearing,

### Addresses Complaints of 74 Petitioners

**DB** Reporter

Ranchi: A public hearing (Janata Darbar) was held at the state Congress headquarters on Thursday, where Agriculture Minister Shilpi Neha Tirkey listened to grievances from 74 petitioners representing various districts. During the session, the minister directed the concerned officials to promptly resolve the issues raised. She emphasized the government's zero-tolerance policy towards negligence in addressing public problems and highlighted that all democratic provisions exist to ensure timely and accessible services to citi-

The grievances primarily included pension-related concerns, inflated electricity bills, pond



restoration, urea black marketing, water scarcity, the Maiya Samman scheme, caste and income certificates, and serious health issues.

One notable case was that of Mohammad Shamim Jalil from Hindipiri, who received an exorbitant electricity bill of Rs 1.32 lakh. The minister spoke directly

with officials, ordering immediate rectification of his and other inflated bill complaints.

Regarding urea black marketing, Tirkey noted that the government is closely monitoring the issue. In Palamu, four shops have already been suspended for malpractice. She warned that licenses would be canceled if negli-

gence persists and said discussions with the Union Agriculture Minister and wholesalers would be held soon to ensure better urea supply. The public hearing saw active participation from several petitioners, including Lal Jhadi Devi. Santosh Jaiswal. Joshna Ekka, Naveen Kumar Singh, and

# Aarogyam Nursing College Celebrates Breastfeeding Week with Enthusiasm

**DB Reporter** 

Hazaribagh: Aarogyam Nursing College organized a grand event to celebrate Breastfeeding Week, highlighting the importance of maternal and child health. The program was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Ranjan Sharan, with esteemed guests including Preeti Jain, Dr. B.N. Prasad, Dr. Heeralal, and college administrator Jaya Singh. Faculty members Jyoti Tirkey, Preeti Agrawal, and Suman Kumari Sahu spoke in detail about the significance of breastfeeding. They emphasized that a mother's milk is the best natural nutrition for infants, providing



health.

feeding.

both nourishment and immunity against diseases.

Dr. Ranjan Sharan called breastfeeding "a life-saving nectar" for newborns, essential for their physical and mental development. He urged mothers to be aware and committed to breastfeeding.

College Director Harsh Ajmera stated, "Our mission is not just to provide quality education, but to build awareness about

Breastfeeding reflect our commitment to strengthening maternal and child health." Students from the GNM (2024-27), ANM (2024-26), and B.Sc. Nursing (2024-28)batches actively participated in the program. They took part in various awareness activities and shared their insights on the importance of breast-

# Historic Gift to Jamtara: Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari Lays Foundation for New Road

**DB** Reporter

Jamtara: In a landmark event marking a new chapter in Jamtara's development, Jharkhand Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari inaugurated the construction of a 2-kilometer road from DVC Pada to Shaharbeda on Thursday. The long-awaited project, fulfilling a decades-old demand, was welcomed with great enthusiasm by thousands of locals who gathered chanting slogans praising the minister and his work.

Addressing the crowd, Dr. Ansari expressed his heartfelt gratitude and highlighted the significance of the road as a lifeline for the region's progress and prosperity. He also criticized the previous



Raghubar government's plan to set up a waste plant near tribal villages, asserting his firm opposition and commitment to protecting tribal lands from becoming dumping grounds. The minister further announced the upcoming construction of Jharkhand's largest multispeciality sports complex in the area, aimed at boosting sports and

tourism, and bringing pride to the region.Dr. Ansari credited the people's trust and blessings for his successive electoral victories and pledged to dedicate all his efforts toward Jamtara's development. The program saw a vibrant presence of tribal communities, with music and cheers marking the celebratory atmosphere.

### Tree Plantation Drive Led by Superintendent of Police at Koderma Police Complex

**DB** Reporter

Koderma: On August 21, 2025. a tree plantation program was organized at the Police Centre, Chandwara premises under the leadership of Anudeep Singh, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Koderma, in collaboration with the Koderma District Marwari Association.

Around 1,800 fruit-bearing saplings were distributed across various police stations and outposts throughout the district, while 200 saplings were planted within the police centre premises. The event was attended by Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Sub-Divisional Police Officer Koderma, other police officials and personnel, as well as dignitaries from the Marwari Association including Honorary



President Ramratan Maharshi and Secretary Sandeep Kedia. During the program, the Superintendent of Police personally planted a sapling, emphasizing the importance of greenery and environmental protection. Addressing the attendees, he stressed that trees

are vital for life, providing clean air, shade, and maintaining ecological balance. He highlighted the urgent need for such initiatives amid rising pollution and climate change and encouraged everyone to plant and nurture at least one tree in their

#### Palamu Drunk Driving Tragedy: Mukhiya's Son Kills Youth, Sister Critical

**DB** Reporter

Medininagar: A tragic drunk driving incident in Palamu district has claimed the life of a young man and left his sister critically injured. The accident occurred on Wednesday evening near Mod under Nawabazar police station limits.

According to reports, a speeding Punch carallegedly driven by Vinod Vishwakarma, son of the Mukhiya of Tukbera village-collided head-on with a scooter carrying 22-year-old Tripurari Mehta and his 18-year-old sister Janvi Kumari. The



siblings were returning from Gulabchand College in Chhatarpur when the car, reportedly being driven on the wrong side and under the influence of alcohol, struck them with great force.

Tripurari died on the spot, while Janvi sustained severe injuries. She was first treated locally, then referred to Ranchi in critical condition. A breatha-



driver's blood alcohol content was 99%, pointing to reckless drunken driving.

The victims were residents of Jaynagara village in Garhwa district, currently living in Bairiya. The tragedy sparked public outrage, with locals demanding strict legal the action against accused.

#### 35-Year-Old Woman Dies by Suicide After Consuming Poison; Family Clash Erupts at Hospital

**DB Reporter** 

Medininagar: A heart-wrenching incident was reported from the Panki police station area of Palamu district on Thursday morning, where a 35-year-old woman allegedly took her own life by consuming poison under severe mental stress. The deceased has been identified as Mamta Devi (35), wife of Gopal Pathak, a resident of Uchara vil-

According to family members, Mamta Devi consumed poison early Thursday, following which her condition deteriorated rapidly. She was immediately rushed to Medinirai Medical College Hospital, but doctors



ral out of control until the hospital police outpost team, led by ASI Sushila Tiu and Neeraj Kumar Singh, along with constables Mahendra Kumar and Vikas Kumar, intervened and pacified both sides, bringing

the matter under control. The police have launched an investigation into the incident. Authorities are probing the circumstances that pushed Mamta Devi to take such an extreme

### The situation threatened to spi-VBU Sets Three Milestones in Undergraduate Admissions

**DB Reporter** 

Hazaribagh: Vinoba Bhave University (VBU) has set three significant records in the state of Jharkhand during the ongoing admission process for its newly launched four-year undergraduate programme. The university ensured a completely transparent, merit-based, and lobby-free admission process, establishing a new benchmark in higher education governance.

Under the strict directive of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chandra Bhushan Sharma, the admission process was executed without any irregularities or backdoor entries. Dr. Indrajit Kumar, Nodal Officer for the Chancellor Portal and Admissions Cell, confirmed that admissions were carried out solely based on merit and the government's reservadents have been admitted to VBU, the highest in the state, followed by Ranchi University with 33,009 and Sidho Kanhu Murmu University (Dumka) with 29,861. VBU also topped the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) among all state universities. Despite receiving fewer applications (67,028) than Ranchi University (68,774),

tion roster. A total of 40,992 stu- VBU secured the highest conversion rate at 61%, outperforming SKMU (55%) and Ranchi University (47%). Dr. Kumar credited the secure and automated admission software and acknowledged the technical contribution of Dipu Kumar. The university's achievement highlights its commitment to transparency, academic merit, and systemic integrity.

### Halwai Community to Organize Prabhat Pheri and **Blood Donation Camp in Ranchi on August 23**

**DB** Reporter

Ranchi: The Ranchi Nagar Madhyadeshiya Vaishya Vikas Samiti (Halwai community) held a meeting at Baba Ganinath Temple premises, Sarhul Nagar, Bariatu, to finalize preparations for its upcomAugust 23, 2025.

As per the resolution passed unanimously during the meeting, the event will commence with a puja ceremony at 7:00 AM, followed by a "Prabhat Pheri" (early morning proces-

ing community program on sion) starting at 9:00 AM from Kutchery Chowk. The procession will pass through Shaheed Chowk and the Municipal Corporation office, concluding at the Police Association Guest

A blood donation camp will

also be organized at the event venue from 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth, will grace the event as the Chief Guest, while Rajya Sabha MP Aditya Sahu will attend as the Guest of Honour.

### Congress Holds Protest Rally Against NTPC and Ritwik Company in Barkagaon

**DB** Reporter

Barkagaon: Congress leaders and workers organized a protest rally on Thursday against NTPC and Ritwik Company over alleged issues related to the Chatty Bariatu coal project. The rally began from the Plus Two High School in Barkagaon and proceeded through Guru Chatty Thana Mod to the main market square, raising slogans such as "Company Go Back."

The demonstration was led by senior Congress leader Bisheshwarnath Chaubey and Block Congress President Suresh Mahato. Protesters voiced their dissatisfaction with the operations of the Ritwik



Company and NTPC in the region, accusing them of ignoring local interests and causing disruption to the community.

Prominent leaders who participated in the protest included former Block Congress President Bisheshwarnath Chaubey, Block President Suresh Mahato, Gautam Kushwaha, Atish Chakravarty, Jagat Nandan Prasad Gupta, Shamsher Alam, West Mandal President

Dharmnath Mahato, East Mandal President Ramesh Bhokta, Central Mandal President Shyam Bhargav, along with Suresh Chaudhary, Padum Saw (Congress Dadi Kala Panchayat President), Chhote Khan, Kameshwar Singh, Sanjay Sahu, Anand Kumar, and Santosh Rana. Several other supporters and local residents also joined the rally in solidarity with the Congress protest.

# Presidential reference: CJI says judicial activism shouldn't become judicial terrorism

Judicial activism should not become judicial terrorism, Chief Justice of India B R Gavai said on Thursday during the Presidential reference hearing which raised constitutional questions on whether the court can impose timelines for Governors and the President to deal with Bills passed by state Assemblies.

The Chief Justice's remark came when Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told a Bench that elected people who have a lot of experience should never be undermined.

"We never said anything about the elected people. I have always said that judicial in governance as well as a

**New Delhi, Agency:** activism should never become judicial terrorism or judicial adventurism," the CJI told Mehta.

> The Bench also comprised Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar.

Mehta resumed his submissions by referring to various verdicts of the apex court on powers of the governor as the hearing entered its third consecutive day.

At the outset, the solicitor general said he is looking forward to senior advocate Kapil Sibal's submission on the Presidential reference as he has enormous experience in public life and has also been



Parliamentarian.

"Elected people belonging to whichever political party have to nowadays respond to voters directly. People now directly ask questions from

them. Unlike 20-25 years back when things were different, voters are aware and cannot be taken for a ride," Mehta said.

He said "withholding

assent" by the Governor is a jurisdiction. standalone and complete function of the constitutional functionary as provided under Article 200 of the Constitution.

On Wednesday, the top court said the Governor cannot send Bills to the President for consideration when presented to him for the second time after the state Assembly has cleared it.

The top court, while responding to the preliminary objections raised by the Tamil Nadu and Kerala governments on maintainability of the Presidential reference. has said it would exercise its advisory jurisdiction as it was Constitution, and lead to not sitting in the appellate

May, President Droupadi Murmu exercised powers under Article 143(1) to know from the top court whether judicial orders could impose timelines for the exercise of discretion by the President while dealing with Bills passed by Assemblies.

The Centre said in its written submission that imposing fixed timelines on Governors and the President to act on Bills passed by a Assembly would state amount to one organ of the government assuming powers not vested in it by the

### Very soon, someone from our own soil, in our own rocket will travel to space: Shukla

New Delhi, Agency: Excited after a successful mission to the International Space Station (ISS), Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla on Thursday hoped someone would very soon travel to space "from our own capsule, from our rocket, from our soil".

Addressing a press conference here, Group Captain Shukla said the first-hand experience from the ISS mission was invaluable and a

lot better than any training. He also said India looks "saare iahaan se achcha (better than the entire world)" even today -- words first used by Indian astronaut Rakesh Sharma after his space mission in 1984.On his Axiom-4 Mission, Shukla said the experience from the ISS mission would be very useful for India's own Gaganyaan mission, and he learnt a lot in the past year as part of his mission.

No matter how much training you have done, even after that, engines ignite, when they catch fire, I think it is a very different feeling.



I had not imagined how it would feel, and I was actually running behind the rocket for the first few seconds, and it took me some time to catch up to it. From that moment until the time we splashed down, the experience was unbelievable. It was so exciting and so amazing that I have really been struggling to find when you sit in the rocket and the words to convey it to you, so that you can live that experience through my words," he said.

### Put 'US-India relations back on track to counter China', Nikki Haley to Trump

New Delhi, Agency: The US' priority should be to reverse the "downward spiral" in ties with India, Republican leader Nikki Haley has said, stressing that New Delhi must be treated as a "prized free and democratic" partner.

The Indian-American leader's remarks in an opinion piece in the Newsweek magazine on Wednesday came amid strain in ties between the two countries following President Donald Trump slapping 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods.

Haley said that few objectives are more critical to the Trump administration's foreign policy goals of "outcompeting China and achieving peace through strength" than putting "US-India relations back on track". For this, she said, "India must be treated like the prized free and demo-



cratic partner that it is—not an adversary like China", which, she said has so far avoided sanctions for its Russian oil purchases, despite being one of Moscow's "largest customers".President Trump has doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of

Haley said if this disparity does not demand a closer look at US-India relations, the "realities of hard power should". She said Washington's "most urgent priority should be to reverse the downward spiral" in bilateral ties with New Delhi."Scuttling 25 years of momentum with the only country that can serve as a US administration.

counterweight to Chinese dominance in Asia would be a strategic disaster," she said.Haley stressed that India is vital to US efforts to shift supply chains from China, with the capacity to produce at scale in areas like textiles, phones, and solar panels.

She added that New Delhi's expanding defence ties with the US and allies make it a "crucial asset to the free world's security", and its growing role in West Asia, and strategic location along China's trade routes make it a key security and economic partner. Haley, the former Governor of South Carolina, was the US Ambassador to the United Nations under Trump's first presidential term, becoming the first Indian-American to be appointed to a cabinet-level post in the

### Suspected dinosaur-era fossils found during Contractor held for forging pond excavation in Jaisalmer; GSI probe ordered

New Delhi, Agency: Fossil-like remains, including a large bone-shaped structure and petrified wood, have been discovered during the excavation of a pond near a village in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district, raising the possibility of the site being linked to the prehistoric dinosaur era.

These unusual stone formations, resembling a large skeletal structure, were found in Megha village by locals while digging near the pond. Some of the pieces resemble fossilised wood, while others look like bones. Experts say fossilised wood is not uncommon in western Rajasthan, but the presence of bone-like formations makes this find unusual.

Fatehgarh Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the Tehsildar visited the site on Wednesday and inspected the remains. We have informed



higher authorities, and a team from the Geological Survey of India (GSI) is expected at the spot for scientific investigation. After a complete investigation, we will be able to confirm the age and type of fossil," Fatehgarh SDM Bharatraj Gurjar said on Thursday.

"Some of the structures have the appear-

ance of petrified wood, but there is also a large formation which looks skeletal. This combination suggests that the remains could be millions of years old, possibly belonging to the dinosaur era," archaeologist Parth Jagani

However, experts cautioned against drawing conclusions before scientific tests.

"These remains are visible on the surface rather than coming out from deep excavation. It is possible that they are not very ancient and may be only 50 to 100 years old. Only carbon dating and other methods of scientific analysis can determine their true age," said Professor Shyam Sunder Meena.

Officials said the suspected fossils were found embedded in stone ridges near the pond, a setting often associated with ancient sedimentary deposits.

### MoUs, receiving Rs 26.92 cr from BMC against bogus bills

New Delhi, Agency: A 50-year-old contractor has been arrested in connection with the Rs 65-crore Mithi river desilting scam for allegedly creating fake MoUs and receiving Rs 26.92 crore through bogus bills, an official said on Thursday.

One of the MoUs presented by the accused, Shershing Rathod, had the "signature" of a dead person, the official said.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the city police took Rathod into custody on Wednesday after his role in the alleged irregularities came to the fore.

Rathod, who was nabbed from Borivali in the western suburbs, will be produced before the court later in the day, the official said.

This is the third arrest in the alleged scam. Earlier, EOW had arrested middleman Ketan Kadam and Jai Joshi in connection with the case. Police said Rathod had obtained a contract from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in 2021-22 to remove silt from Mithi.He created memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with the land owners to dispose of the silt. However, the documents were found to be fake. Allegedly, he even created fake signatures to show a deceased person as a landlord, the official said. Besides, he signed an MoU with middleman Kadam to lease slit pusher machines and multipurpose amphibious pontoon machines of Matprop company and submitted the document to the BMC to bag the contract.Rathod also submitted a list of dumpers to the BMC, claiming that the vehicles were used to ferry silt from Mithi. However, he collected debris from various places and transported it, passing off the material as silt from the river, said the official, who probed the case. Despite not removing the sediment, the accused submitted fake bills and received Rs 29.62 crore from the BMC by fraud, the official said. Earlier, the agency had also questioned Bollywood actor Dino Morea and his brother over the Mithi desilting matter.

### Raj Thackeray meets Fadnavis amid alliance buzz with Uddhav-led Sena UBT

New Delhi, Agency: Maharashtra Navnirman president Raj Thackeray on Thursday met Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at the latter's official residence 'Varsha' in south Mumbai, prompting speculation in the state's political circles.

The meeting comes after the first joint electoral contest by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and Raj Thackeray's MNS in the BEST Employees' Cooperative Credit Society elections ended in a humiliating defeat on Wednesday, as the parties' joint panel failed to win any of the 21 seats in the

Talking to reporters, Thackeray said several cities in the state are witnessing slum redevelopment, leading to a tenfold rise in population density in some areas. As a result, residents are facing parking woes, with vehicles spilling onto city roads and causing traffic jams, he said.

Thackeray said he also made a presentation before Fadnavis during which the Mumbai Police Commissioner and Joint Commissioner of Police (traffic) were present.

He stressed the need to construct parking lots under playgrounds that could accommodate 500 to 1,000 vehicles. These



parking underground structures will also not impact the open spaces above them, he said.

On a pilot basis, he said, three such parking lots will be built – one in the island city and two in

the suburbs. He also underscored the need for colour-coded footpaths for parking and strict laws to rein in traffic offenders.

"Work has to be done on a war footing," he said. There have been talks

of a possible alliance between the Sena (UBT) and the MNS for the forthcoming local body polls in state, particularly r the Thackeray after the cousins shared a political stage last month on the issue of Marathi identity and "imposition" of the Hindi language in the

After the drubbing of the MNS-Sena (UBT) panel in the BEST credit society polls, Fadnavis on Wednesday accused the two parties of politicising the elections around the "Thackeray brand"."I think there was no need to politicise this kind of election, as it was just a

credit society poll.

### **Editorial**

#### Why is there no consensus on the Vice President?

There was no consensus between the ruling BJP-NDA and the opposition 'India' alliance for the post of Vice President of India . It has been expected that posts like President, Vice President and Lok Sabha Speaker should be decided with consensus. There should be no elections for them, because they are considered to be the 'common faces' of the ruling party and the opposition. They are constitutional heads for their posts, from whom both the ruling party and the opposition expect justice, but the irony of Indian democracy is that there was no consensus even on a 'national personality' like Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, as a result of which elections had to be held for the post of President. There is hardly any unanimous constitutional face, we do not care. The basic reason for this is that the dividing lines between the government and the opposition are not constitutional and ideological, but of hatred, irritation and annovance. Even now the main opposition party Congress has clearly said that there was no consensus on the Vice President because of BJP-RSS. BJP wants to run this country with 'lathitantra'. Congress will not let it happen. The person who has been chosen for the post of Vice President has been a volunteer of RSS. He has been a member and MP of Jan Sangh-BJP. He has also led the BJP in Tamil Nadu. He is a 'Sanghi' with full consciousness, so despite being in office, neutrality cannot be expected from him. The opposition 'India' has made Justice B. Sudarshan Reddy, a former Supreme Court judge and former Lokayukta of Goa, a constitutionalist and a nonpolitical person, its Vice Presidential candidate. This is also the constitutional right of the opposi-

Of course, the opposition may claim to be 'apolitical', but Reddy has been chosen on this basis, so that a situation of 'dilemma' is created for parties like TDP, YSR Congress and Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and ultimately they are forced to support the opposition candidate! This political calculation of the Congress failed, because the parties of Chandrababu Naidu, Jaganmohan Reddy and Chandrashekhar Rao have declared their support to BJP-NDA candidate CP Radhakrishnan. Radhakrishnan comes from the 'Kongu Vellalar' community of Tamil Nadu. Although he won the parliamentary election from Coimbatore seat in 1998, 1999, but he lost continuously in the Lok Sabha elections of 2004, 2014, 2019. Now the BJP's eyes are on the voters of Western Tamil Nadu or 'Kongu Patti', but in Tamil Nadu, Radhakrishnan is considered a calm, simple, gentle and less talkative leader, but 'CP' (his popular name) is not considered a charismatic leader. He is very close to Prime Minister Modi and this friendship is about 40 years old, but 'CP' is not considered to be the choice of RSS. However, he has been chosen. Apart from BJP, MPs of allied parties have also approved his name. Now it is almost certain that CP Radhakrishnan will become the Vice President of the country. The majority of MPs is something like this. There are a total of 782 MPs in both the houses of Parliament, so there is a majority of 392, which is also the winning figure. In 2022, Dhankhar got 528 votes and Margaret Alva of the opposition was reduced to 183. This time there are a total of 423 MPs in favor of BJP-NDA and 355 MPs of 'India' are said to be there.

## The responsibility of the new Delhi government is to save and build Delhi

On this 17th August, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while giving the gift of two big roads built at the cost of crores to Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region Project), said that in the coming days, Delhi will be made a development model. Even before this, to reduce the traffic pressure on Delhi, the Modi government built Eastern Peripheral Expressway, Western Peripheral Expressway, Delhi-Meerut Expressway and Delhi-Dehradun Expressway.

Manoj Kumar Mishra

Delhi Metro Rail has been built up to 295 kilometers in Delhi and NCR. In the fourth phase, 65 more kilometers will be added to it. The average number of people traveling by Delhi Metro every day is above 50 lakhs. This number also crosses 70 lakhs. After Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Rail Corridor, Delhi-Karnal and Delhi-Arwal corridors are going to be built. Along with making traffic smooth, these will also reduce pollution in this area.

In his speech, the Prime Minister mentioned efforts to clean the Yamuna and the poor getting permanent houses, etc. It is clear that since the BJP is ruling from the Centre to the Delhi Municipal Corporation, the Delhi government has ample opportunity to improve Delhi. Along with all this, there is a need to work afresh on the NCR project which collapsed soon after its construction in 1985. At the pace at which the population of Delhi and the capital of NCR is increasing, some tough decisions will have to be taken to save and build it.

The problem of Delhi is that Delhi does not have much of its own. Even the weather is dependent on the neighbouring states. Not only this, Delhi is also dependent on other states for the resources it needs. Delhi became the capital of the country in 1911, today its population is about 2.5 crore and the total population of NCR has become about 4.5 crore. The population of NCR is also basically the population of Delhi. Most of the people who live outside Delhi are still connected to Delhi. Most of them have their business or job in

After becoming the capital, 65

villages across the Yamuna were merged with Delhi in 1915. Since then, the area of ??Delhi has remained 1483 km. There is no possibility of it increasing in the near future. The governance system of Delhi kept changing from less powerful Vidhan Sabha, Municipal Corporation, Mahanagar Parishad till the Vidhan Sabha was formed in 1993. Even now Delhi is a Union Territory and the land and police are under the Central Government.

The responsibility of developing Delhi was given to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). Since 1959, DDA has been continuously making the master plan of Delhi and unauthorized colonies have been continuously coming up in Delhi. Today the situation has become such that due to these unauthorized constructions, Delhi has become less planned and more unplanned. In the politics of votes and money, the leaders of political parties have become allies of land mafia, police and corrupt government

To reduce the population pressure on Delhi and to support the DDA, which is now considered useless, a plan to create NCR under the Central Urban Development Ministry like DDA was made in 1962 but it was formed only in 1985. The Union Urban Development Minister was made its chairman and the Deputy Governor of Delhi, besides the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan were made its members. A senior IAS officer is its member secretary. Senior IAS officer Omesh Sehgal, who held positions ranging from SDM to Chief Secretary in Delhi, was also the member secretary of the board. While being the member secretary, he had said in a meeting in 1996 that the NCR plan had failed. The implementation of the plan started late. When the board was formed in 1985, work started in 1988 with the target population of 2001, by then the population had increased more than the plan. A one kilometre corridor was to be left between the cities of NCR and Delhi for greenery. That is, NCR was to be settled away from Delhi, but it settled close to Delhi.

Not only this, in a way, everyone in Delhi was given the freedom to do illegal construction everywhere. The plans that were already made are full of flaws. Flats were built for government employees of every category in the world's most expensive area, Connaught Place. Even if it is accepted that the government provides free housing to poor people on vacant land, it is beyond comprehension that each and every illegal Sainik farm house worth several crores of rupees belonging to the rich is not demolished. Not only this, if protection is sought from the court for this, then how can Delhi be saved from illegal

It has been taken for granted that the DDA failed to do its work. Neither did it plan properly, nor could it protect thousands of acres of land in Delhi. Despite many efforts, DDA officials are not even able to tell how much of their land is encroached and how much they have been able to free from encroachment. The condition of the NCR Planning Board is even worse than DDA. Now it is considered to be only on paper. At the time of its formation in 1985, apart from 1483 areas of Delhi, 13,413 areas of six districts of Haryana, 10,885 areas of

four districts of Uttar Pradesh and 4,493 areas of Rajasthan, i.e. 30,240 square kilometers were included in NCR. The plan was to send 20 lakh population to these areas in 2001. For this, facilities like Delhi should be provided in all these places. These were divided into four areas. Detailed plans were made for each area. health, Increasing education, employment opportunities in these areas as well as making transportation easy were the main objectives. Many offices of the central government were also to be shifted from Delhi. Some success was achieved in this but due to unplanned work, there was not much benefit. Apart from this, many cities of these states were also to be developed as magnet centers.

The population of Delhi at the time of the start of the scheme was already as much as was estimated in 2001. It is not that the entire exercise of the board has gone in vain. If the Delhi government takes proper initiative from the central government on this, then the target will be achieved. Every state of NCR needs concrete work on this scheme but Delhi needs it the most. Therefore, Delhi will have to take the lead. When Delhi is the priority of the Prime Minister, then this work can start easily. Only this will make Delhi beautiful and its future will be secure. Not only this, the Prime Minister has decided to provide every facility to the villages to stop migration from villages. The work of improving most of the cities of the country is going on at a fast pace. In such a situation, if the Prime Minister wants to make Delhi a model of development, then the Delhi government should take

### Agni-5: A historic leap in India's defence capability

Dr. Mayank Chaturvedi

There is an atmosphere of war and tension all over the world. The Russia-Ukraine war is not stopping, the China-Taiwan dispute is deepening and there is continuous conflict in the Middle East. At such a time, India has taken a big step towards strengthening its defence capability. On 20 August 2025, India successfully tested the long-

Agni-5 the from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha. This is not only a technical success, but also a clear indimilitary and strategic power. The biggest feature of the Agni-5 missile is its long-range capability, with a strike range of more than five thousand kilometres.

capable of carrying nuclear weapons. This missile, which flies on a three-stage solid fuel rocket motor, is equipped cation of India's growing with a modern navigation system and uses Multiple India's missile program is kilometers. Subsequently, Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) started in the 1980s with 4 were developed and technology. That is, it can the Integrated Guided each new version took hit multiple targets simultaneously. DRDO chief Dr. Sameer V Kamat says This missile has a that this test of Agni-5 strike range of more than takes India's strategic

not only a symbol of our scientific capability, but will also become a strong basis for India's security in the times to come. It is not new. This journey Missile Program (IGMDP). With this, the foundation of the Agni series was laid under the leadership of former series.

range ballistic missile 5000 kilometres and is power to a new level. It is President and India's great scientist Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Which started taking its concrete shape from 2002, when it started with Agni-1, which worth mentioning that had a range of 700-900 Agni-2, Agni-3 and Agni-Development India's capability a step ahead. Now Agni-5 is the most modern and long range weapon in that

### The responsibility of the new Delhi government is to save and build Delhi

Manoj Kumar Mishra

On this 17th August, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while giving the gift of two big roads built at the cost of crores to Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region Project), said that in the coming days, Delhi will be made a development model. Even before this, to reduce the traffic pressure on Delhi, the Modi government built Eastern Peripheral Expressway, Western Peripheral Delhi-Meerut Expressway, Expressway and Delhi-Dehradun Expressway. Delhi Metro Rail has been built up to 295 kilometers in Delhi and NCR. In the fourth phase, 65 more kilometers will be added to it. The average number of people traveling by Delhi Metro every day is above 50 lakhs. This number also crosses 70 lakhs. After Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Rail Corridor, Delhi-Karnal and Delhi-Arwal corridors are going to be built. Along with making traffic smooth, these will also reduce pollution in this area.

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need to work afresh on the NCR project which collapsed soon after its construction in 1985. At the pace at which the population of Delhi and the capital of NCR is increasing, some tough decisions will have to be taken to save and build it.

The problem of Delhi is that Delhi does not have much of its own. Even the weather is dependent on the neighbouring states. Not only this, Delhi is also dependent on other states for the resources it needs. Delhi became the capital of the country in 1911, today its population is about 2.5 crore and the total population of NCR has become about 4.5 crore. The population of NCR is also basically the population of Delhi. Most of the people who live outside Delhi are still connected to Delhi. Most of them have their business or job in Delhi.

After becoming the capital, 65 villages across the Yamuna were merged with Delhi in 1915. Since then, the area of ??Delhi has remained 1483 km. There is no possibility of it increasing in the near future. The governance system of Delhi kept changing from less powerful Vidhan Sabha, Municipal Corporation, Mahanagar Parishad till the Vidhan Sabha was formed in 1993. Even now Delhi is a Union Territory and the land and police are under the Central Government.

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To reduce the population pressure on Delhi and to support the DDA, which is now considered useless, a plan to create NCR under the Central Urban Development Ministry like DDA was made in 1962 but it was formed only in 1985. The Union Urban Development Minister was made its chairman and the Deputy Governor of Delhi, besides the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan were made its members. A senior IAS officer is its member secretary. Senior IAS officer Omesh Sehgal, who held positions ranging from SDM to Chief Secretary in Delhi, was also the member secretary of the board. While being the member secretary, he had said in a meeting in 1996 that the NCR plan had failed. The implementation of the plan started late. encroachment. The condition of the When the board was formed in 1985, work started in 1988 with the target population of 2001, by then the population had increased more than the plan. A one kilometre corridor was to be left between the cities of NCR and Delhi for greenery. That is, NCR was to be settled away from Delhi, but it settled close to Delhi.

Not only this, in a way, everyone in Delhi was given the freedom to do illegal construction everywhere. The plans that were already made are full of flaws. Flats were built for government employees of every category in the world's most expensive area, Connaught Place. Even if it is accepted that the government provides free housing to poor people on vacant land, it is beyond comprehension that each and every illegal Sainik farm house worth several crores of rupees belonging to the rich is not demolished. Not only this, if protection is sought from the court for this, then how can Delhi be saved from illegal constructions.

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### Rapido in the dock even as bike taxis return to Bengaluru roads

two months, but not without the biggest player in the space facing scrutiny over its trade practices.

India's Central Consumer Protection Authority has imposed a fine of 10 lakh on Rapido, or Roppen Transportation Services Pvt. Ltd., for misleading ads and unfair trade practices, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs said on Thursday. Additionally, the bike taxi operator has been told to reimburse customers who used the company's 'Auto in 5 minutes or Get ?50' offer but did not receive the promised compensation.

According to the data from the National Consumer Helpline, complaints against Rapido surged to 1,224 between June 2024 and July 2025, compared to 575 complaints in the previous 14 months. That prompted an investigation.

ads—'Auto in 5 minutes or Get 50' and 'Guaranteed Auto'- were false main claims or conceal material

**New Delhi, Agency:**Bike taxis and misleading. The disclaimers returned to Bengaluru roads after associated with these campaigns were displayed in extremely small and unreadable font. The promised 50 benefit was not actual currency but "Rapido Coins" worth "up to 50", which could only be used for bike rides and expired within seven days. Even then, the assurance was offered by individual drivers, not Rapido itself-an attempt to shift liability away from the company.

Such restrictions materially reduced the value of the offer and effectively compelled consumers to use another service from Rapido within an unreasonably short time," the consumer affairs ministry said in a statement.

The CCPA has ordered Rapido to discontinue the misleading advertisements immediately.

What Are The Rules According to the 'Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading The CCPA found that Rapido's Advertisements and Endorsements 2022', disclaimers cannot contradict



information. The CCPA said Rapido's ads violated these requirements by omitting key limitations without equal prominence.

Rapido operates in over 120 cities and ran the misleading campaign for 548 days in multiple regional languages. Many consumer complaints relate to service deficiencies, non-

refunds, overcharging and failure to provide promised services, with most grievances remaining unresolved despite being shared with the

The CCPA urged consumers to be cautious about ads making "guaran-

realme P4 Series Unleashed: Flagship Dual-Chipsets, AI

Camera and Big Battery to Dominate Sub-20k Segment in 2025

misleading ads can call the National Consumer Helpline at 1915 or use the NCH app or website to file complaints.

Bike Taxis Are Back

Meanwhile, bike taxi services resumed in Bengaluru after two months, after the Karnataka High Court called the state government's rationale behind the ban as "thin" and "legally untenable".

Bike taxis are not a luxury but a necessity, especially for last-mile mobility, Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru said in court. Such two-wheeled public transport is opera-tional in 13 other states and recog-nised as a legal and vital form of urban mobility.

The Karnataka High Court also rejected the state government's claim that bike taxis are barred under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1987. "Lack of regulation cannot justify a blanket ban that deprives people of their 'Right to Livelihood' under 19(1)(G)."

### **India overtakes China in smartphone** exports to US, research shows



New Delhi, Agency:India has overtaken China in smartphone exports to the US, according to a new report, thus underscoring the growing manufacturing heft of the world's fourth largest economy.

In April-June 2025, India accounted for 44 per cent of smartphone shipments to the US as against 13 per cent in the yearago period, according to Canalys Research.

Over the same time, China's share of smartphone exports to the US fell to 25 per cent from 61

"As a result of schemes like largest phone maker globally.

Make in India and productionlinked incentive schemes, India is now moving at a new pace in those industrial sectors in which it was never even considered a key manufacturer before," the government said in a statement.

India's mobile phone manufacturing industry has grown from ?18,900 crore in FY15 to ?5,45,000 crore in FY25, according to the India Cellular & Electronics Association. At the same time, mobile phone exports have crossed the ?2 lakh crore mark-making India the second

#### RANCHI, Agency: realme, the most popular smartphone brand among Indian youth, today unveiled its highly anticipated realme P4 Series with the launch of the realme P4 Pro and realme P4. Engineered with flagshiplevel innovations, the series is positioned as the uncompromising all-rounder, bringing dual-chip powered performance, pro-grade imaging, cinematic disand all-day plays, endurance into the hands of millions of young users.

With breakthroughs like the dedicated Hyper Vision AI Chip, the Snapdragon 7 Gen 4 processor, dual 50MP AI cameras, 144Hz HyperGlow AMOLED display, and 7000mAh Titan Battery, the realme P4 Series redefines what users can expect in this price segment, positioning itself as the best dual-chip smart-



phone under 20,000 and technology, but about who 15,000 respectively.

occasion, Francis Wong, Chief Marketing Officer, realme India said, "The realme P4 Series marks our bold return to the ecommerce battlefield. The P4 Pro and P4 don't just definition of a true flag- compete-they surpass ship is changing. It's no every rival and it is indeed lution upscaling, longer about who has the best smartphone visual enhancement.

has the vision to share it. Commenting on the realme is proud to pioneer the mass adoption of Dual-Chip architecture, a technology once reserved for flagships. Designed exclusively for India, the under 20K." Advanced Dual-Chip Architecture Flagship-Level Performance

For the first time under 30,000, the realme P4 Series introduces dualchip architecture, offering flagship-level performance and visuals to a wider audience. The realme P4 Pro combines the Snapdragon 7 Gen 4 with the dedicated Hyper Vision AI chipset codeveloped Pixelworks. This architecture delivers unmatched performance for multitasking, high-end gaming, and AI-driven applica-While tions. Snapdragon 7 Gen 4 handles the heavy lifting of CPU and GPU-intensive tasks, the Hyper Vision AI Chip focuses on real-time frame generation, AI resolution upscaling,

### Oben Electric Marks 50th Showroom Milestone with Major Expansions Across India

an R&D-driven homegrown across 15 states and 37 electric motorcycle manu- cities. This rapid expansion facturer, has achieved a significant milestone by inau- market demand for the Rorr gurating its 50th showroom EZ and the newly launched and service center in Rorr EZ Sigma, Oben Visakhapatnam, Andhra Electric's next-generation Pradesh. This expansion commuter underlines the company's designed for modern Indian ambitious vision of crossing riders. The Rorr EZ Sigma 150 showrooms and service builds on the success of the centers nationwide by the Rorr EZ by offering end of this financial year.

expanded Visakhapatnam and Guntur everyday commuting, mak-(Andhra Pradesh), Ranchi ing it a key growth driver for (Jharkhand), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Aligarh footprint. Speaking on the and Unnao (Uttar Pradesh), milestone, Ms. Madhumita

Ranchi: Oben Electric, strengthening its presence is being propelled by strong motorcycle enhanced performance, The company has recent- advanced technology, and into greater practicality for Oben Electric's nationwide and Palakkad (Kerala), Agrawal, Founder & CEO,



Oben Electric, said:

"Our 50th dealership marks a strong step towards Oben Electric's vision of making electric mobility accessible across India. Andhra Pradesh, with its focus on fostering clean vehicle control units. This mobility, is an important capability ensures consistent market for us, and with our new Visakhapatnam showroom we are proud to contribute to this progress. With in-house manufacturing, high-performance products, and a deep focus on customer experience, we are committed to setting new benchmarks for electric motorcycle ownership in showroom backed by dedi-India and beyond."Oben cated service centers and

Indian EV companies with complete vertical integration, designing and manufacturing all critical EV components in-house, including high-performance LFP batteries, motors, chargers, and quality, durability, and performance optimized for India's diverse riding conditions.With

Visakhapatnam showroom launch, Oben Electric moves closer to its mission of building a 150+ outlet strong national network by this financial year, with every Electric is among the few robust customer support.

### China weighs yuan-backed stablecoins in push back against US dollar in global trade

considering allowing the usage of time to boost wider adoption of its currency globally, according to people familiar with the matter said, in what can be seen as a major reversal of its stance towards digital assets.

The State Council—China's cabinet—will review and possibly approve a roadmap later this month for the greater usage of the currency globally, including catching up with a US push on stablecoins, the people

The plan is expected to include targets for usage of the Chinese currency in the global markets and outline the responsibilities of domestic the financial system. regulators, they said, adding that the roadmap will also include guidelines

for risk prevention.

**New Delhi, Agency:**China is also expected to meet for a study session as early as end of August, focusyuan-backed stablecoins for the first ing on yuan internationalisation and stablecoins, which are gaining momentum worldwide, one of the people cited above said.

In that meeting, senior leaders are likely to deliver remarks to set the tone for stablecoins and define the boundaries of its application and development in business, this person said.

China's plan for the usage of stablecoins, if approved, would mark a major shift in its approach towards digital assets. Beijing banned cryptocurrency trading and mining in 2021 over concerns on stability of

China has long aspired for the yuan to achieve global currency status, akin to the US dollar or euro, The country's senior leadership is reflecting its weight as the world's



tight capital controls and its trilliondollar annual trade surplus have ket such as Hong Kong. worked against that aim.

a key hurdle to the development of stablecoins as well, market participants have said. Stablecoins are a type of cryptocurrency designed to maintain a constant value. They are usually pegged to a fiat currency such as the US dollar and are commonly used by crypto traders to move funds between tokens. The yuan's share as a global payment currency fell to 2.88% in June, its lowest in two years, according to payment platform SWIFT. In contrast, the US dollar commanded a 47.19% market share.

the border, with a few connect the sources.

second-biggest economy. But its schemes permitting capital to be deployed in some key offshore mar-

In the US, President Donald Those restrictions are likely to be Trump backed stablecoins days after his inauguration in January and is establishing a regulatory framework that helps legitimise

dollar-pegged cryptocurrencies.

Their underlying blockchain technology enables instant, borderless and round-the-clock transfer of funds at low cost, giving stablecoins the potential to disrupt traditional daily money moves and cross-border payment systems.

Financial innovation—specifically stablecoins—is viewed as a promising tool for yuan internationalisation amid the growing China places strong capital con- influence of US dollar-linked cryptrols to manage flows in and out of tocurrencies in global finance, said

**New Delhi:**Diabetes is one of the most common causes of preventable blindness worldwide. On the occasion of World Senior Citizens' Day, let's draw attention to what every senior should know to protect their vision. Elderly people are especially vulnerable since the longer diabetes is present, the more likely seri-

ous eye problems are to develop.

High blood sugar levels can
damage tiny blood vessels in the eyes, giving rise to conditions that gradually impair vision and may not show obvious preliminary symptoms.

To seniors, vision protection means more than good eyesight; it means independence, mobility, and quality of life. This is why it is so important to know how diabetes affects the eyes and what can be done to protect them.

### Common eye problems caused by diabetes

Diabetic retinopathy - damage to the retina attributable to leaky or blocked blood vessels.

Diabetic macular oedema swelling of the central area of the retina leading to blurry or distorted vision.

Cataracts – diabetes increases the development and progression of cataracts.

Glaucoma increased



intraocular pressure that can damage the optic nerve.

These conditions may not be felt in the form of pain or perceived loss of sight, which is why regular eye tests are very important for diabetic seniors.

Expert advice: regular visits can really save your vision!

Dr. Samina Zamindar, MS, DO (Ophth), CPQIH (adv), CMD -Zamindar Microsurgical Eye Bangalore said: Centre, "Diabetes can make you blind; one out of three diabetic patients develops retinal damage. An

treat it. Also, this is a sign that similar damage has started in other organs of your body, hence strict control of your diabetes, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia conditions. If you wait till your central vision gets annual eye check-up is a must to affected, you might be late in detect this damage early and preventing damage to your retina

due to diabetes."

How seniors can protect their eyes from diabetes damage

Schedule annual eye exams: A dilated eye exam once a year can detect early changes before vision is affected.

Control blood sugar: Keep HbA1c within target range to prevent vessel damage.

Control blood pressure and cholesterol: High blood pressure and cholesterol harm the eyes and hasten the onset of compli-

Maintain a balanced diet: Eat plenty of greens, include foods high in omega-3 fatty acids, and limit sugar intake.

Stop smoking: The sooner one stops, the faster one can witness favourable results in eye disease.

Alert your doctor about any symptom: from blurred vision to floaters and even difficulties seeing at night, do not let any of the above go unattended.

Your sight can be saved from diabetes through early detection and care. By bringing their blood sugar under control and having annual eye checkups, seniors can greatly reduce their risk of becoming blind. If treated on time, most eye-related issues due to diabetes can be controlled, and vision can be preserved.



### Can artificial nails cause psoriasis? Doctor explains the nail damage link

New Delhi: The relationship between damage from artificial nails and the development of psoriatic lesions is related to a well-known dermatological principle called the Koebner phenomenon.

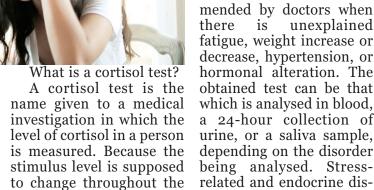
Originally described in 1872, the Koebner phenomenon describes the formation of lesions due to micro-trauma to the skin. Whether the result of poor application, excessive filing of the nail bed, or even the removal of artificial nails/extensions with an aggressive technique, it leads to physical micro-trauma. This injury can kick-start the inflammatory process in a genetically susceptible individual that rekindles a dormant psoriatic pathway. The nail matrix is a very vascular and immunologically active area of the body and provides a favourable area for psoriatic inflammation to plan.

### Cortisol hormone test: Meaning, types, price, normal range, timing and home test guide

New Delhi: Have you heard of the stress hormone? It is called cortisol. As an essential hormone, cortisol is made by the adrenal glands sitting atop the kidneys. It is called the stress hormone because cortisol levels rise in response to stress.

Apart from dealing with stress, cortisol is responsible for the regulation of critical activities in balance, and metabolism. unable to stabilise itself cle when stressed physically or emotionally.Corisol is a steroid hormone. When or too low, huge health well-being.

the body. It includes blood problems can arise. Excess concentration, cortisol may induce weight blood pressure, energy gain, high blood pressure, anxiety, and sleep distur-In case cortisol action is bance, whereas low cortiimpaired, the body is sol can cause fatigue, musweakness, hypotension. Hence, cortisol levels must be kept in balance to ensure health, cortisol levels are too high hormonal balance, and



day, the test, therefore, is

used by physicians to

judge whether the adrenal

well. The cortisol test may indicate if the body is producing an overabundance of hormone (which may point toward Cushing's syndrome) or too little hormone (which may point toward Addison's disease or adrenal insufficiency).

The test is often recommended by doctors when there is unexplained fatigue, weight increase or decrease, hypertension, or hormonal alteration. The obtained test can be that urine, or a saliva sample, depending on the disorder being analysed. Stressrelated and endocrine disorders can be identified early by cortisol tests, as they are widely used in difglands are functioning ferential diagnosis.

# Diabetes: Types, symptoms, causes, tests, treatment and prevention

New Delhi:Diabetes is a age organs over time. The struggles to process blood sugar, or glucose. Normally, your body transports blood sugar into your cells, where it is converted into energy, using the hormone insulin. However, this process malfunctions in people with dia-

Sugar accumulates in the blood as a result, which over time can damage your heart, kidneys, eyes, and nerves.

This article is reviewed by Dr Ashok Kumar Jhingan, Senior Director, Centre for Diabetes, Thyroid, Obesity & Endocrinology, BLK-MAX Super Speciality Hospital.]

What is diabetes? Diabetes is a chronic health condition where the body either does not make enough insulin or cannot use it effectively. This causes high

blood sugar, which can dam-

disease in which your body main types are Type 1, Type 2, and Gestational Diabetes.

Types of diabetes Type 1 diabetes: Children or young adults are usually the first to develop type 1 diabetes. It has nothing to do with lifestyle or diet. It is an autoimmune disease in which the body's defence mechanism unintentionally targets the pancreatic cells that produce insulin. Insulin must be taken daily for people with Type 1 diabetes to survive.

Type 2 diabetes: Although it typically affects adults, more children are developing type 2 diabetes as well. connected to lifestyle factors such as having a family history, being overweight, or not exercising. Healthy eating, exercise, and occasionally medicine or insulin can help manage it.

Gestational diabetes: The



mother's body may have trouble using insulin due to hormones from the placenta. usually disappears once the baby is born. However, there may be a greater chance of Type 2 diabetes in the future for both mother and child.

Diabetes prevalence in

According ICMR?INDIAB study, about 11.4% of India's population now has diabetes—this translates to over 100 million people. Urban prevalence stands at 17.2%, while rural areas are catching up at 9.4%.

A comprehensive meta? analysis (covering 19722019) showed that diabetes rates jumped from 3.3% to 19.0% in urban areas, and from 2.4% to 15.0% in rural

National NCD survey data also reveal that urban diabetes prevalence is over 14.3%, compared to 6.9% in rural regions. A broader global context: India hosts around 212 million diabetics—more than any other country.

Urban vs Rural Divide Historically, urban areas had around twice the diabetes rates of rural areas.

But over time, lifestyle changes and urban influences are making the rural-urban gap narrower. Rural diabetes went from 2-3% decades ago to nearly 15% now-cities are not that far ahead anymore.

Why diabetes is rising in young people

Type Diabetes Younger Adults

A study (STRiDE?I) in southern India reported a steep increase in Type 2 diabetes among younger people: from 4.5% to 7.8% over ten years. Older adults rose from 28.4% to 34% in the same period.

Even more striking, the rate of increase was much higher among the youth— 120% rise in new cases, compared to 150% in older adults; relatively, that's a bigger jump in the younger group.

Risk factors? More families have a diabetic history, weight gain, less activity, and more sedentary routines—all pushing youth into early diabetes.

#### Type 1 Diabetes in Children

In Ranchi, cases of Type 1 diabetes among children under 14 have climbed from single digits to 12-15 cases annually now.

### Puneri Paltan's Aslam proud to represent Maharashtra at PKL U Mumba's Sunil Kumar keen to bring trophy back to Mumbai

NewDelhi, Agency: Maharashtra has long been known as a hotbed for Kabaddi and will have the second-most representation in Season 12 of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL). Carrying forward the state's rich heritage in the sport are U Mumba and Puneri Paltan — both former PKL champions.

The commencement of Season 12 will see the return of this classic Maharashtrian rivalry. Traditionally, both sides have been regular contenders at the business end of the tournament, and as always, expectations are high to go one better this season. The latest chapter of this rivalry will unfold on September 18 in Jaipur at historic Sawai Mansingh Indoor Stadium — the same venue that hosted the league's 1000th match in 2024. The clash will feature PKL's most successful captain, Sunil Kumar of U Mumba, against star raider Aslam Inamdar who leads Puneri Paltan. Inamdar guided Puneri Paltan to the season



10 trophy, becoming the first Maharashtrian captain to win PKL.Further heightening the contest is the presence of Kabaddi legend Ajay Thakur as coach of Puneri Paltan, while U Mumba is guided by head coach Anil Chaprana, who will be rejoining the side as the top boss after a season as the assistant coach.Back from injury and eager to make his mark, Puneri Paltan skipper Aslam Inamdar said: "Being born and raised in Maharashtra, it was always my dream to represent the state in players—is a matter of Kabaddi. Playing for Puneri immense pride. We have

Paltan and becoming champions has been one of the proudest moments of my career. To once again stand on such a big stage in the PKL and represent where I come from is a very special feeling for me."Looking ahead to the season, U

Mumba captain Sunil shared: Kumar "Maharashtra has always been a powerhouse of Kabaddi, and this shows how big the sport truly is here. For me, to lead U Mumba—a team with such

prepared with full focus and determination, and our goal this season is to go beyond the playoffs and bring the

trophy back to Mumbai."

U Mumba's head coach
Anil Chaprana added: "It is a matter of great pride for me to return as head coach of U Mumba. This team has entrusted me with responsibility once again, and that fills me with excitement and determination. My focus is on instilling discipline, fearlessness, and a never-give-up attitude in the players so they give their best in every match. With hard work and commitment, I am confident we will make the fans proud."Puneri Paltan head coach Ajay Thakur expressed: "Transitioning from being a player to taking on a full-time coaching role is both a challenge and a privilege. Having played Kabaddi for many years, I now want to use that experience to bring out the best in this new generation of players. Coaching a big team from Maharashtra is a proud moment for me, and I am committed to helping the players perform to their fullest potential."

#### World Boxing will require sex testing for fighters wishing to compete in women's division before world championships

NewDelhi, Agency: The governing body for Olympic-style boxing will require sex testing for all fighters wishing to compete in the women's division at its world championships next month. World Boxing already had announced its plan to require competitors to undergo a polymerase chain reaction test or an equivalent genetic screening test to determine their sex at birth. The rules will be implemented ahead of the World Boxing Championships in Liverpool, England, in early September, the organisation announced on Wednesday. The tests identify the presence or absence of Y chromosome genetic material as the indicator of biological sex."World Boxing respects the dignity of all individuals and is keen to ensure it is as inclusive as possible,' World Boxing president Boris Van Der Vorst said. "Yet in a combat sport like boxing, we have a duty of care to deliver safety and competitiveness fairness, which are the key principles that have guided the development and creation of this policy."Paris Olympic champion Imane Khelif of Algeria declined to enter a World Boxing tournament in the Netherlands in June, shortly after the governing



body initially announced its plans to introduce sex testing. Van Der Vorst later apologised for specifically naming Khelif, who initially planned to fight in the tournament, while outlining World Boxing's future testing plans. Khelif and fellow gold medalist Lin Yu-ting from Taiwan excelled in Paris under a harsh spotlight of widespread scrutiny and misconception about their sex. 26-yearold Khelif has repeatedly said she was born a woman, and she has competed at all levels of women's amateur boxing for nearly a decade.Chromosome testing was common in Olympic sports during the 20th century but was largely abandoned in the 1990s because of numerous ambiguities that couldn't be easily resolved by the tests, collectively known as differences in sex development.

### Salima Tete to lead Indian women's hockey team at Asia Cup in Hangzhou

New Delhi, Agency : Seasoned mid-fielder Salima Tete was on Thursday retained as captain of a 20-member Indian women's hockey team for the Asia Cup to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 5 to 14. The tournament assumes added significance as the winner will secure a direct berth in the 2026 FIH Women's Hockey World Cup.India has been drawn in Pool B, where it will face Japan, Thailand and Singapore. The team will open its campaign against Thailand on September 5, followed by a clash with Japan on September 6.

India will play their final poolstage match against Singapore on September 8."We are excited about the squad we have selected for the women's Asia Cup in step in any of the matches." Every Hangzhou," Chief Harendra Singh said in a press fitness, and tactical execution. release issued by Hockey India. The players are motivated to rise The 27-year-old Salima has been an integral part of the team for a while after being appointed captain last year."The group has been training with great intensity, and we have tried to strike the right balance between experienced campaigners and young talent,"



Singh said."Our focus will be on playing an aggressive and disciplined brand of hockey, and we believe this team has the capability to compete strongly against the best in Asia," he added. Emphasising the stakes, Singh said the side cannot afford a mis-Coach match will test our composure, to the occasion, and we are confident of delivering performances that make India proud."The squad features a balanced mix of youth and experience with goalkeepers Bansari Solanki and Bichu Devi Kharibam providing depth under the post.

### **England announces squad for ICC Women's Cricket** World Cup 2025; Nat Sciver-Brunt to lead

New Delhi, Agency: London [UK], August 21 England Thursday announced a 15member squad for the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, scheduled to be held in India from September 30 to November, as per the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) website. The tournament will mark the first ICC event under the leadership of Head Coach Charlotte Edwards and cap-Nat Sciver-Brunt.Sciver-Brunt takes over captaincy duties from Heather Knight, who has also been named in the squad as she continues her comeback from injury. Sarah Glenn and Danni Wyatt-Hodge return to the ODI squad having missed out against India this summer. Glenn is among four specialist spinners selected and one of six players who Squad regulars Tammy delight at the squad Cup is one of the biggest



Amy Jones, Charlie Dean ing the prestige of repreand Linsey Smith retain their place as England aim to replicate their 2017 herowill be featuring in their ics. Head Coach Charlotte maiden ODI World Cup. Edwards expressed her your country in a World

senting the country in a World Cup and the challenge of competing in India. "Being selected to play for

honours in sport and I'm delighted for all the players named in the squad," Edwards said."Like all global tournaments, it will be a huge challenge, but we want to go as far as we possibly can in India, and I believe that if we play our best cricket, we can compete with anyone," she added. "Conditions mean we have gone for the extra spinner, and we're lucky to be able to have such depth in this department. It's fantastic to welcome Sarah Glenn back. That does mean there's no room for Kate Cross, Maia Bouchier or Alice Davidson-Richards, which will be disappointing for them," she further stated."It's also great to have Danni back in the squad, she's been in good form in domestic cricket and she'll bring dynamism and depth to our batting, alongside Heather, who we are absolutely delighted to be able to select. She'll be a huge asset

### Rahane steps down as Mumbai captain ahead of Ranji Trophy

India

New Delhi, Agency: batter in the team. The batter Ranji season begins on Rahane on October 15 and Mumbai Thursday stepped down will be up against Jammu from his position as and Kashmir in their open-Mumbai captain ahead of ing game."Captaining and upcoming Ranji winning the champi-Trophy season, saying it is onships with the Mumbai the right time to groom a team has been an absolute new leader.The 37-year- honour," Rahane wrote on old, who has amassed his 'X' account."With the 14,000 runs in 201 first- new domestic season class matches, however, ahead, I believe it is the will continue to play as a right time to groom a new



leader, and hence, I have decided not to continue in the captaincy role. I remain fully committed to giving my best as a player,

and will continue my journey with MCA to help us win more trophies, looking forward to the season," he added.Under his captaincy, Mumbai clinched the Ranji Trophy title in the 2023-24 season with a victory over Vidarbha in the final.

He also guided the team to triumph in the Irani Cup 2024–25, overcoming the Rest of India (ROI) side.

#### Coco Gauff splits with coach Matt Daly, teams up with MacMilan ahead of US Open 2025

New Delhi, Agency : Ahead of the US Open 2025, two-time Grand Slam winner Coco Gauff decided to part ways with her coach Matt Daly. The world No. 3 split with Daly, a grip expert whom she brought on board late last year, replacing him with biomechanica specialist Covin McMilen mechanics specialist Gavin MacMilan, according to Olympics.com.MacMilan



was seen practising with Gauff - who has yet to address the change herself - on Wednesday (20 August) at the US Open in New York. Her long-time coach, Jean-Christophe Faurel, stays with the team.MacMilan is widely credited in the industry for rectifying Aryna Sabalenka's serve. Sabalenka is currently the world's top-ranked player. Gauff has had double-fault issues as of late and is counting on MacMilan to work his magic the way he did with Sabalenka.

### India teams, athletes won't play Pakistan in bilaterals, will compete in multinational events featuring Pak

New Delhi, Agency: imum" period of five years, The Indian Government has reformed a policy to deal with Pakistan in sports events and declared that the Indian athletes and teams will be allowed to participate in "international events that also have teams or players from Pakistan. However, India will continue to refrain from participating in competitions in Pakistan and will not participate in any bilateral competition. Along with this, it is also declared that the visa policy will be "sim-plified" for sportspersons, team officials, technical per-sonnel, and office-bearers of International Sports

Governing Bodies for a "max-

confirmed a source in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) on Thursday.This development comes amid the ongoing outrage over the Indian cricket team facing Pakistan in the upcoming Asia Cup, which will take place on September 14 in Dubai. The outrage over India facing their arch-rival in the tournament stems from the anger against the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, in which 26 tourists were killed on April 22 by Pakistansponsored terrorists.India responded with Operation Sindoor on May 7 to avenge the attack and dismantle the



terror infrastructure across the Line of Control and deep- response, the strained relaer inside Pakistan. In the

aftermath India's tionship between the two

neighbouring nations further taking into account India's slumped. The MYAS cleared rise as a credible venue to that India won't play Pakistan in bilateral events and said, "India's approach to sports events involving Pakistan reflects its overall policy in dealing with that country. In so far as bilateral sports events in each other's countries are concerned, Indian teams will not be participating in competitions in Pakistan. Nor will we permit Pakistani teams to play in India. With regard to international and multilateral events, in India or abroad, we are guided by the practices of international sports bodies and the interest of our sportspersons."While

host top-tier international events, individual athletes and teams of the nations will be able to compete against Pakistan in multinational tournaments hosted by India. "It is also relevant to take into account India's emergence as a credible venue to host international sports events. Accordingly, Indian teams and individual players will take part in international events that also have teams or players from Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistani players and teams will be able to participate in such multilateral events hosted by India," MYAS said.