

Defence Min Rajnath Singh honours Gaganyatris, terms Gaganyaan mission as testament to self-reliant India

Agency

New Delhi: In a moment of national pride, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday felicitated the Gaganyatris--Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, Group Captain P V Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, and Group Captain Angad Pratap at a grand ceremony in Delhi.

Lauding their exemplary temperament during rigorous training, Singh hailed them as the pride of India, embodying the nation's soaring ambitions in space exploration. "The temperament shown by all of you during the training was not only impressive in itself, but I would say excellent...I am really



feeling proud to welcome and congratulate the son of Mother India, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and his other colleagues, Group Captain P V Nair, Group Captain

Ajit Krishnan and Group Captain Angad Pratap. All the countrymen are proud of you all. And they are proud because you all have made the countrymen proud," he said.

Highlighting India's remarkable space journey, from lunar missions to Mars exploration, the minister underscored the Gaganyaan mission as a testament to a self-reliant India, standing tall among global space powers.

"Today, when we look towards India's space journey, we find that our contribution is not limited merely to sending satellites into space. Today, India has already marked its presence from the Moon to Mars. Today, India is fully prepared for missions like Gaganyaan as well. I do not see this merely as a technical achievement, but as a new chapter of self-reliant India, where we are standing with full

pride among the world's major space powers.," he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lauded India's space program, stating, "India's space program is not limited to laboratories and launch vehicles. It is a symbol of our national aspirations and global vision. India's vision is clear. We do not see space merely as a field of research but as the economy, security, energy, and future of humanity for tomorrow. In the coming times, space mining, deep space exploration, and planetary resources will change the direction of human civilisation."

Highlighting a personal connection, Singh added, "I come from

the Lucknow Parliamentary constituency, and Shubhanshu Shukla is from there. He is also our voter. Forty years ago, when Rakesh Sharma represented India in space, Shubhanshu Shukla was born shortly after. A dream was born with him--to one day see Earth from the sky. Today, forty years later, Shubhanshu's childhood dream has come true, and India has once again hoisted its flag in space." Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally announced the Gaganyaan Programme on August 15, 2018 setting India on the path to launch its own astronauts into space using indigenous capabilities.

BRIEF NEWS

After 'vote theft', BJP engaged in 'power theft'

New Delhi. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday alleged that after "vote theft", the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is now engaged in "power theft" by bringing a bill to "topple opposition governments within 30 days" and "destabilize democracy" by using arrest as a weapon. Kharge claimed that the bill containing provisions for the removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and Ministers takes away the right of the citizens to choose or remove their government and gives this power to institutions like the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He said, "This is like running a bulldozer on democracy." Kharge made this remark in his opening address at a meeting with the newly appointed presidents of the District Congress Committees (DCCs) of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh at Indira Bhawan here. He directed the district Congress chiefs to exercise special caution in forming booth and mandal committees and to ensure that the members of these committees remain loyal to the party and do not deviate from the ideology of the Congress.

Farmers in Shibu Soren masks protest RIMS-2 land acquisition; police use tear gas

DB Reporter

Ranchi: A tense atmosphere prevailed at the proposed RIMS-2 (Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, second campus) site in Nagdi, Kanke, as agitating farmers, many wearing masks of Dishom Guru Shibu Soren, entered the land despite prohibitory measures and deployed police personnel. On Sunday, amid strict surveillance and surrounded by barricades, farmers-alongside tribal men and women-accessed the RIMS-2 site via footpaths. Police responded by firing tear gas shells to disperse the protesters, though the crowd remained undeterred. Despite initial resistance, no further force was used. The farmers ploughed the fields and planted saplings in a symbolic act of resistance. Champa Kujur of the Sarna Prarthana Sabha, under whose leadership the "Khet Joto Abhiyan" (Plough the Fields Campaign) was organised, alleged police atrocities, decrying the land acquisition as oppressive towards Adivasi communities. Hundreds of villagers from



regions including Latehar, Lohardaga, Bijupada, Hatma, and Bedon joined the movement, calling for the protection of arable land.

The controversy centres on the state government's proposal to develop a second medical college campus for RIMS in Kanke on agricultural land claimed by tribal farmers. Officials say the land belongs to the state and the project is essential for enhancing healthcare infrastructure in Ranchi and beyond. BJP leader and former Chief Minister Champai Soren has been vociferous in opposing the site. He argues that while he supports the hospital project in principle, it should be relocated--preferably near the Smart City area--to prevent loss of fertile land. Soren has accused the gov-

ernment of bypassing both the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and the Chotanagpur Tenancy (CNT) Act without proper notification to landowners.

On August 10, Soren announced that tribals and supporters would plough the fields on August 24 in protest, asserting that the project should be moved and criticising the state government's alleged disregard for tribal land rights and cultural icons.

In anticipation of these protests, Ranchi police placed Champai Soren under house arrest on Sunday morning to prevent public disorder. Authorities formally cited law and order concerns for the precautionary detention.

Soren called the move undemocratic, emphasising that his objection was not to RIMS-2 per se but to its placement on tribal

land. He reiterated his demand that the project be shifted to state or low-yield government land elsewhere.

The BJP has denounced the arrest as authoritarian overreach, labelling it "outright dictatorship" by the state administration. In response, state Congress spokesperson Rakesh Sinha defended the action, arguing that administrative steps were warranted to preempt any disruptive activities. He accused the BJP of fomenting unrest under the guise of protesting development.

Additionally, the sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) of Sadar imposed prohibitory orders within a 200-metre radius of the RIMS-2 site under Section 163 of the BNSS. These restrictions banned gatherings, loudspeakers, public meetings, and even traditional weapons ahead of the protest.

The clash at Nagdi reflects broader tensions in Jharkhand between development ambitions and tribal rights. Land acquisition and protection of Adivasi land under the CNT Act remain sensitive and politically charged issues in the state.

BJP's goal is to serve the people through power: Babulal



DB Reporter

Ranchi: A meeting was held at the Jharkhand Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state office on Sunday under the chairmanship of state president Babulal Marandi for the Seva Pakhwada program to be organized by the party from September 17 to October 2. State office bearers, Frontal wing presidents, District Presidents, District Incharges and Seva Pakhwada State team attended the meeting. Babulal Marandi said on this occasion that the aim of BJP is to serve every person of the country. The political goal of the party is not the pleasure of power, but to serve the people through power. The party goes among the people and serves them through various organizational programs. Under this, the Seva Pakhwada will be cele-

brated from September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to October 2, the birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

He said that on one hand the Indi alliance is throttling democracy and democratic institutions, while on the other hand the BJP is strengthening democracy by increasing public participation through its service programs.

He said that Prime Minister Modi's tenure is full of service to villages and the poor. He has created a mountain of achievements in the country.

BJP's working president Dr. Ravindra Kumar Rai said that the hope and aspiration of the people of the country and the state is only BJP.

INDIA bloc constituents in Bihar working unitedly, poll results will be fruitful: Rahul



Agency

ARARIA : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday asserted that all the INDIA bloc constituents in Bihar were working unitedly for the upcoming assembly polls and

that the results will be fruitful. Addressing a press conference in Araria with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav by his side, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said that the INDIA bloc will soon come out with a common manifesto for the polls,

due later this year. "The INDIA bloc will soon come out with a common manifesto for the Bihar assembly polls. All constituents of the opposition alliance are working unitedly, both ideologically and politically, and the results would be

fruitful," Gandhi said. Launching a scathing attack on the NDA government at the Centre, Gandhi alleged that the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the eastern state was "institutionalised attempt.

Cheteshwar Pujara announces retirement from all forms of cricket

Agency

New Delhi: Cheteshwar Pujara, one of the foremost Test specialists in the 21st century, has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. The 37-year-old took to social media on Sunday (August 24, 2025) morning to make his retirement announcement public.

"As a little boy from the small town of Rajkot, along with my parents, I set out to aim for the stars; and dreamt to be a part of the Indian cricket team. Little did I know then that this game would give me so much - invaluable opportunities, experiences, purpose, love, and above all a chance to represent my State and this great Nation," Pujara wrote in a statement.

"Wearing the Indian jersey, singing the anthem, and trying my best each time I stepped on the field - it's impossible to put



into words what it truly meant. But as they say, all good things must come to an end, and with immense gratitude I have decided to retire from all forms of Indian cricket."

Even though the 37-year-old last featured in a Test more than two years ago, Pujara was active on the domestic circuit. Saurashtra's Ranji Trophy quarterfinal loss against Gujarat in February turned out to be his last competitive

appearance in a First Class career spanning almost two decades.

Of the 278 First Class matches that he represented, Pujara revelled in a majority of the 103 Test matches he played for India. While knee injuries curtailed his limited overs career - he played the last of his five ODIs and the last of his 30 IPL matches in 2014, he emerged as Rahul Dravid's successor as India No. 3 in white flannels.

More than his tally of 7195 runs at 43.60, including 19 hundreds and 35 fifties, it was Pujara's uncanny ability to blunt opposition bowlers that came to the fore time and again. He was at his peak during India's maiden Test series triumph in Australia in 2018-19. Pujara not only scored 521 runs to emerge as the top-scorer of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy but also faced a whopping 1258 balls.

With him being considered as a Test specialist in international cricket, Pujara continued to contribute to Saurashtra's emergence as a domestic force to reckon with. His tally of 21301 First Class runs is the fourth-highest by an Indian batter. No Indian batter has scored more than Pujara's 18 double hundreds. He is also a member of a rare batters' club to have scored three triple hundreds.

Adani Power Limited receives "Change Maker Award" at Jharkhand CSR Conclave 2025

DB Reporter

Ranchi: Adani Power Limited has been awarded the "Change Maker Award" for outstanding CSR initiatives in Godda district. This honor was given during the two-day Jharkhand CSR Conclave 2025 held in Ranchi.

The award was presented by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram to Santosh Singh, CSR Head of Adani Power Limited. Representatives of various corporate groups, government officials and many eminent personalities from the social sector were present on this occasion. In this two day conclave many dignitaries



expressed their views and shared the initiatives being taken in the field of CSR. Adani Power Limited was given this honour especially for its impressive contribution in the areas of education, health, women empowerment, nutrition, Covid-19 vaccination in Godda.

On this achievement, representatives of Adani Power Limited said that this honor is the result of the cooperation and trust of the people of Godda. The company is committed to improving the living standards of the local communities in the future as well.



DB Reporter

Ramgarh: A special cleanliness and health safety campaign was conducted in Ichatu village, under Ichatu Panchayat of Dulmi Block on Sunday, following the directives of local MLA Mamta Devi. As part of the initiative, multiple wells in the village were treated with bleaching powder under the leadership of Dulmi Block 20-Point Programme Chairman, District Spokesperson, and Media Chairman Sudhir Manglesh. During the monsoon season, the water level in

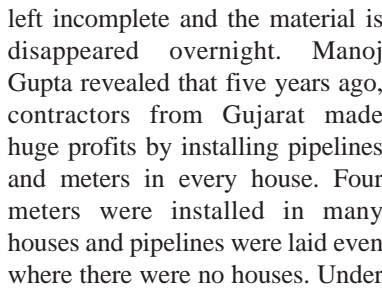


DB Reporter

have a prior criminal record. The raid was conducted under the leadership of Sadar Circle Officer Amardeep Singh Balhotra and TOP-1 In-Charge SI Indradev Paswan, along with constables Rakesh Kumar Singh, Rohit Kumar, Israr Ahmed, and Anchan Ram. Police have reiterated their commitment to intensify the crackdown against narcotics smugglers in Medininagar and nearby areas.

DB Reporter

Hazaribagh. Har Ghar Nal-Jal Yojana run by Jharkhand Infrastructure Development Company (JUSCO) has become a cause of trouble for the city dwellers instead of relief. This ambitious scheme started ten years ago at a cost of ₹ 400 crore has now crossed the budget of ₹ 500-600 crore. City's social activist Manoj Gupta says that "Listen to my voice, change the system," because the slow progress and disorder of this project has ruined both the roads and water supply system of Hazaribagh. Under the scheme, incomplete work is being done in different wards every day. At some places, the roads are not being repaired after digging, and at some places, even the fiber blocks installed by the Municipal Corporation are being uprooted. Local people allege that the work is



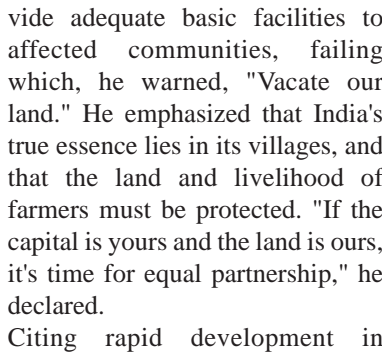
this scheme, water is to be supplied from Konar Dam located 65 km away, but there are many legal and technical issues in this, because the dam is located in another district. It is still uncertain whether the scheme will be completed or not. At present, Hazaribagh's water supply is from Chhadwa Dam, but no concrete plan has been made for its maintenance. The land acquired area has been occupied by land mafia. Incidents of occupation of many water sources including Gonda Dam have also increased. Experts believe that if these dams were deepened and preserved, then additional water supply to Hazaribagh city would have been possible. Manoj Gupta said that this scheme is being run for the benefit of contractors, not for the public. The Municipal Corporation and the Drinking Water Department are not getting any benefit from this.

DB Reporter

A large number of leaders and party workers participated in the demonstration, including senior district, youth, and student wing members. The gathering displayed strong opposition to the bill and pledged continued resistance if the government fails to reconsider its position.

DB Reporter

Ramgarh: A Khatiyani Adhikar Sabha cum Milan Samaroh (Land Rights Meeting and Community Gathering) was organized on Sunday at Ambedkar Park, New Market, PTPS, Patraru under the banner of Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha (JLKM), Ramgarh unit. The event was presided over by Block President Prayag Mahato and conducted by Youth Wing District President Manoranjan Mahato. The chief guest, JLKM Central President and Dumri MLA Tiger Jayaram Mahato, addressed the gathering and strongly raised concerns over the ongoing issues of displacement, unemployment, and lack of basic amenities in the Patraru region. He stated, "Women are not just nurturers but a powerful force—never underestimate them. Even if you don't vote for us, stand united when it comes to the issue of displacement." Mahato demanded that companies operating in the region must pro-



Nayemra village, he questioned why similar progress couldn't be made elsewhere. Mahato also criticized systemic apathy, saying the condition of displaced communities has worsened even after 70 years of independence. The event saw participation from thousands, including leaders at various levels, affected residents, and displaced families.

**By Mukesh Ranjan, DB
Reporter**

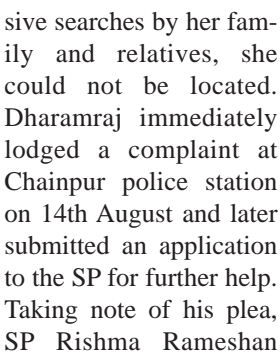
neglected the welfare of farmers, youth, the poor, and tribal communities. "When they were in power, no significant steps were taken for development. Now, as Jharkhand progresses, they have united solely to mislead the public," he said. Addressing the ongoing controversy over the land in Nagri proposed for the RIMS-2 Super Specialty Hospital, Baitha hailed the project as a transformative step for the state's

healthcare sector. He accused the opposition of using land protests as a pretext to block progress, emphasizing that those who failed to improve education, health, or employment during their tenure lack the moral right to claim they represent tribal welfare today. Urging the public to see through what he called opposition propaganda, Baitha said, "Villages, farmers, youth, and the poor are Jharkhand's true strength. The government

is sincerely working on education, health, roads, and jobs, while the opposition focuses on political posturing." He added that the RIMS-2 project at Nagri will not only provide thousands of jobs but also modern healthcare facilities, becoming a new identity for Jharkhand. Political analysts suggest Baitha's remarks may become a rallying slogan, signaling an escalation in the state's political rhetoric in the coming days.

DB Reporter

Medininagar (Palamu): In a case that highlights the responsiveness of the Palamu police, Superintendent of Police Rishma Rameshan has personally intervened to help a Home Guard jawan trace his missing wife. Home Guard Dharamraj Sahu, a resident of Katwal Khurd under Chainpur police station, reported that his wife Rinku Kumari alias Shivani has been missing since the night of 13th August. Despite exten-



promptly directed Chainpur Police Station In-Charge Shriram Sharma to personally look into the matter and ensure all possible efforts are made to trace the missing woman.

Dharamraj, who married Rinku in 2023, expressed his deep concern for her safety and urged that the numbers she was recently in touch with be traced to aid in locating her.

Police have assured him that they are pursuing all leads and will intensify their search until she is found.

First Biennial Convention of Postal Union GRC, Deoghar Division Held

A portrait of a man with dark hair, a full beard, and sunglasses, wearing a red jacket. He is looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees.

Ramgarh: The first biennial convention of the Bharatiya Dak Karmachari Mahasangh (BMS) Postal Union GRC, Deoghar Division, was held on Sunday at the Deoghar Head Post Office premises. The event was conducted in the interest of the nation, the department, and postal employees. During the convention, Ravi Kumar (Deoghar Head Post Office) was elected as President, and Sanjay Kumar Das (Jamtara Head Post Office) as Secretary. The event was inaugurated with the slogan "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" by Rangesh Kumar,



President, and Prabhat Ranjan, Secretary, of the Jharkhand Circle. Postal Inspector Rahul Kumar (Jamtara) attended as a departmental observer. Speaking at the event, Prabhat Ranjan emphasized that the BMS is the country's strongest employee organization, working not only for employee welfare but also in the interest of the postal department and its administration.

He reaffirmed the union's motto: "In the interest of the nation, we will work and demand fair compensation." The newly appointed leadership pledged to address employee issues and strengthen the organization. Key office-bearers include Vice President Paramjeet, Assistant Secretary B.N. Patralekh, Treasurer Arun Kumar Rai, and others.

"You Matter to Your Family More Than the World": Pradeep Prasad

dedication and sincerity
are bound to leave an
indelible mark on people's
hearts and pave the way
for a new dawn of change.

Addressing the youth, the MLA said, "You might be just one among many on the road, but to your family, you are the entire world." He urged them not to gamble with their lives by speeding and stressed



the need to ride slowly and safely. Prasad warned that speeding motorcycles pose dangers not only to riders but also to pedestrians and

other drivers. He instructed the administration to keep a close watch on reckless riders and take strict action when necessary.

Tata Steel Zoo to Train Keepers from 21 Eastern India Zoos

Sankalp at his Hazaribagh MP Service Office, presenting him with a bouquet and congratulating him on his bright future. Jaiswal emphasized that beyond establishing oneself as an officer, being a good human being with empathy for society is paramount.

Sankalp's father, businessman Abhay Kumar Jain, attended the event with pride. Social workers Narayan Gupta and Kumar Yadav, among other dignitaries, were also present.

A group of women and children are gathered in a rural setting. One woman is seated in a wheelchair, while others stand around her. A young child in a green shirt stands in the foreground. The women are dressed in traditional Indian attire, including sarees and saris. The background shows a simple, possibly mud-brick, structure.

Katras: A tragic accident occurred early Sunday morning in the Libra Outsourcing coal patch under East Basuria police jurisdiction, Baghmara subdivision. While cutting coal, the mine shaft collapsed, resulting in the death of Chotu Bhuiyan, a resident of Badkiboa Seven Number area. A woman was also injured in the incident and is currently undergoing treatment at SNMCH, Dhanbad. According to sources, the accident took place around 6 AM. The rescue operation and investigation are ongoing.

Jamshedpur : Tata Steel Zoological Park is pleased to announce the inauguration of a four-day Capacity Building Programme for Zoo Keepers of Eastern India, sponsored by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), Government of India. The programme will be held from August 25 to 28, 2025, with sessions scheduled at the NEC, Tata Steel Zoological Park, and the inaugural ceremony at the Centre for Excellence, Jamshedpur. The inaugural session is set to take place on

Monday, August 25 at 10:00 AM, in the esteemed presence of senior officials from the Forest Department, Government of Jharkhand, and representatives from the Tata Steel Zoological Society. The programme will bring together around 30 participants from 21 zoos across Eastern India, along with staff members of Tata Steel Zoological Park. Designed to strengthen the skills, knowledge, and motivation of zoo keepers—who are the frontline custodians of animal welfare—

the workshop will feature interactive sessions, expert-led lectures, and practical demonstrations. This initiative underscores Tata Steel Zoological Park's unwavering commitment to animal welfare, conservation, and capacity building within the zoo community, in close collaboration with the Central Zoo Authority.

Event Details:
Venue: Auditorium, Centre for Excellence, Jamshedpur
Date: August 25, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM onwards

Tree Plantation Drive Conducted at Chandwara Police Station

Koderma: As part of a district-wide environmental initiative, a tree plantation drive was organized on August 24, 2025, at Chandwara Police Station under the leadership of the Station House Officer. The event was in line with the distribution of 1,80,000 fruit-bearing saplings across various police stations and outposts in Koderma district, facilitated by Superintendent of Police Anudeep Singh (IPS). During the event, police personnel, along with members of the local

community, actively participated in planting saplings within the station premises. Saplings were also distributed among the public to promote community involvement in environmental protection. Addressing the gathering, the SHO emphasized the importance of trees in maintaining a clean and healthy environment. He highlighted that afforestation is a vital step in combating pollution and climate change. Trees not only provide oxygen and shade but also help in maintaining ecological balance.

MLA Roshanlal Chaudhary Inaugurates Navodaya Vikas Football Tournament 2025



Badkagaon: The Navodaya Vikas Football Tournament 2025 kicked off on Sunday at the Navodaya Vikas Youth Playground in Chaperwa Sandh, Sanda Panchayat. A total of 32 teams are participating, with the opening match played between Little Star Youth Club Bartua and Toofan Youth Club Gondlipura. MLA Roshanlal Chaudhary inaugurated the tournament as the chief guest by meeting players and officially

kicking off the match. The organizing committee welcomed him and other dignitaries with garlands and floral bouquets. Speaking at the event, Chaudhary said such tournaments are bringing a sports revolution in the region, increasing enthusiasm for football. He thanked the organizers and promised to revamp the playground before the 2026 tournament, ensuring better facilities for players. He urged players to maintain sportsmanship during the matches.

District Welfare Officer of Koderma Passes Away During Treatment in Ranchi

Koderma: Sheetal Usha Kiran Kandil, 57, originally from Hazaribagh and serving as the District Welfare Officer in Koderma, passed away on Sunday while

undergoing treatment in Ranchi. She had assumed office on August 8, 2025.

On Saturday, Kandil was found unconscious at her rented residence in Dudhimatee under Koderma police jurisdiction. Her driver, Shankar Kumar, discovered her unresponsive after she failed to answer calls and did not leave the house. After breaking open

the door, they found her unconscious and rushed her to Sadar Hospital, where her condition remained critical. She was later referred to RIMS, Ranchi for advanced treatment, where she succumbed on Sunday.

Her sudden demise has shocked the district administration and local community.

As PU polls draw closer, parties battle factionalism

Chandigarh, Agency: While all parties have started campaigning for the Panjab University Campus Students Council (PUCSC) elections, there are major split lines drawn in all the major parties, and it remains to be seen whether the parties will be able to work together or there will be fights in between them.

Police have also confirmed that they are on alert as there is a possibility of violence between factions of the same party, rather than violence between two parties which was seen sometimes in the previous years.

The most visible divide is in Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), where a new faction, ABVP Front has also emerged in the party. It comprises members who were expelled from the

ABVP in March this year, after a fight broke out in their office in Sector 15.

The original ABVP has distanced itself from the ABVP Front party and a legal notice was also sent to the front group to change their name. A senior member of the ABVP said, "As of now it is unlikely that the two groups will unite and ultimately they will cut into each other's vote share depending on which seats they contest. There is also a visible gap in the Students Organisation of Panjab University (SOPU).

Two groups have emerged, both claiming to be the original party, with one group led by Balraj Singh Sidhu and the other by Jashan Jawanda. While the Jashan's group has already declared Abhishek



Dagar for the general secretary seat, the Balraj's group is likely to field a candidate only for the presidential seat. Both parties will still continue to claim they are from SOPU, leading to confusion among students. In the National Students Union of India (NSUI) camp, there seems to be some reconciliation as last year's rebel,

Anurag Dalal who won the president post by fighting as an independent candidate is now back with the NSUI party. While it was all smiles when NSUI launched their manifesto last week, party officials said that the situation might change when the presidential pick is announced. There are different factions within the

NSUI, even before the ghar-wapsi of Anurag and each faction would want their candidate to be at the front.

Even Association of Students for Alternative Politics (ASAP) has at least three hopefuls eyeing for the presidential seat from the Punjab's ruling party's student wing. When the party launched their poster at the Students Centre this week, each of these hopefuls joined the rally separately with their student groups, a show of strength to see who drew the most crowd. There might be some dissatisfied members when the president pick is announced. Panjab Unive rsity Stude nts Union (PUSU) had presented a unified face till .

recently, when president Bhupinder Singh expelled three members of the party.

Singh said that the three had joined PUSU from another party with a "my way or the highway" attitude which is what led to their ouster. Meanwhile, the three have now uploaded a video claiming that they don't recognise the authority of Singh as PUSU president and instead they have removed him from the party. A situation similar to SOPU is likely to develop from this. Students Organisa tion of India (SOI) is among some of the few parties which have kept their house in order. Election incharge of SOI Harkamal Singh Bhuregill said they are giving importance to members of the party who have been working with them for many years. "The whole party supports individual members for even small things," he added.

Bommaï seeks NIA probe into Dharmasthala case, accuses Karna taka govt of shielding conspiracy

Karnataka, Agency: Former Chief Minister and BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday pressed the state government to hand over the ongoing Dharmasthala case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), alleging that the probe so far has been compromised.

Bommaï said that unless the investigation is transferred, the public might assume that the Congress government itself is complicit. "To expose the real conspiracy, those named by Chinnayya must be arrested and interrogated. Otherwise, people will think the state government is part of it. To avoid such doubts, the case must go to the NIA," Bommai posted on X.

The former CM strongly criticised the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for what he described as a flawed approach from the start. According to him, the SIT jumped into the case without first assessing the credibility of the complaint or evidence, effectively

"digging in darkness." He alleged the very purpose of forming the SIT was to malign the reputation of Dharmasthala and create suspicion around the revered institution.

Bommaï further charged that competent officers within the SIT were not allowed to act independently. He claimed that when media reports about the excavations drew public outrage, the government "lost moral courage" and altered the probe's direction in the face of BJP's protests. "Only now has the real investigation begun," he added, crediting pressure from the opposition and public anger for forcing the government to change course.

He also accused the Congress government he called a "smear campaign" against Dharmasthala. Empha sising that only a central agency like the NIA could bring out the truth.

Bommaï reiterated that those linked to complainant Chin nayya must be held accountable.

'Hit her in head, threw acid': Noida woman's sister shares ordeal over 35 lakh dowry demand

New Delhi, Agency: A shocking case of dowry harassment has emerged from Noida, Uttar Pradesh, where a 28-year-old woman, Nikki, was allegedly set on fire by her husband and in-laws after they demanded " ₹35 lakh" from her family.

Nikki's sister, Kanchan, shared disturbing details, stating that her sibling had been subjected to continuous harassment for dowry since her marriage in 2016, despite no such demands being raised at the time of the wedding.

Two harrowing videos of the incident have surfaced online. In one clip, a man and a woman are seen assaulting Nikki and dragging her out of the house by her hair. The second video shows her limping down the stairs after being set ablaze. Kanchan lodged a com-

plaint alleging years of abuse, stating that her sister's marriage with Vipin Bhati, 28, was solemnised in December 2016 without any dowry being exchanged. However, over time, Nikki's husband and in-laws allegedly began pressuring her to bring ₹35 lakh from her family home. When this demand went unmet, the harassment is said to have escalated into violence.

According to a copy of the FIR reviewed by HT, Kanchan said: "On August 21 at about 5:30pm, Vipin, along with his mother Daya, father Satyaveer, and brother Rohit, poured an inflammable substance on my sister and set her ablaze, causing her death. I rushed her to Fortis hospital, from where she was referred to Safdarjung. She succumbed to her injuries on the way."



Kanchan also alleged that the in-laws wanted Nikki out of the way so that Vipin could remarry. "They slapped me. I was injured... unconscious the entire day."

"They hit her in her neck and head and threw acid on her. Our kids were also in the same house. I couldn't do anything. They tortured me as well," said a weeping Kanchan while holding her sister's son.

Confirming the incident,

ADCP Greater Noida Sudhir Kumar said: "We received information from Fortis Hospital on the night of August 21 about a woman admitted with severe burn injuries. She was later referred to Delhi but died en route. An autopsy was conducted, and the body has been handed over to the family."

Police said an FIR has been filed under Section 103 (murder), Section 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), and Section 61(2) (criminal conspiracy) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Vipin has been arrested, while efforts are under way to trace his absconding family members.

Investigators are also probing whether Nikki was subjected to prolonged dowry harassment prior to her death.

Motorists rush to clear dues as 50% rebate on traffic fines begins. 4.18 crore collected on the first day

Bengaluru, Agency: In a bid to ease the burden on motorists and encourage them to clear long-pending traffic violations, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has rolled out a special rebate scheme offering a 50% concession on outstanding fines. The limited-time offer, valid from August 23 to September 12, allows vehicle owners to settle their challans by paying only half the penalty amount.

According to a press note, the response on the opening day of the scheme was massive. On August 23, as many as 1,48,747 cases were settled, bringing in a total of ₹4,18,20,500 in collec-



tions across the city.

Motorists can make payments through multiple convenient channels, including the Karnataka

State Police (KSP) app, the BTP ASTraM app, the Karnataka One and Bangalore One portals, or by visiting traffic police stations and

the Traffic Management Centre with their vehicle registration details.

This isn't the first time the city police has introduced such a concession. Back in 2023, a similar 50% rebate drive saw citizens clear over two lakh cases, with collections

exceeding ₹5.6 crore. Officials expect a strong response this year too, given the encouraging turnout on the very first day.

The BTP has urged vehicle owners with pending dues to use this opportunity to regularize their challans before the deadline, noting that such large-scale concessions are rare.

Random Forays | The hilarious view from above



New Delhi, Agency: The constant hilarity of life's goings-on is totally lost on us. So embroiled are we in the struggles, machinations, pulls, pressures, expectations and above all, in the never-ending-ness of the attempted fulfilment of our unclear roles, that we are seldom able to see the funny side of it. A cartoonist, a satirist, a witty smart-alec, a comic, a humour author: these are the ones who necessarily or otherwise must look upon life as an entertaining show. The rest of us have to grin and bear it or we can simply keep grimacing our way through the futility of it all.

Take the present scenario, for instance. If it weren't for wars, conflicts, oafs in the saddle, epidemics, climate change, pathetic political discourses, strained personal relationships, frenzied lifestyles and unhealthy habits, we would have noticed the funniness of our situation. Admittedly, that's a long list and a terrible one at that, but if we were to raise our necks above this pollution, like giant ostriches might have done, we would probably guffaw at the comedy show of the world. A view from the ceiling of the world might then have shown us teeming humans, scurrying about, feeling self important and often bumping against each other, figuratively if not actually.

Spiritual thought has it that the lord created this world for His entertainment, and he is clearly enjoying this tragi-comic drama, but the rest of us are verily in the thick of things, trying to remain sane.

Wildbuzz | An amazing find for Haryana

New Delhi, Agency: It is with more than a modicum of despair that we must temper the news of a sensational discovery. An adult specimen of the Fishing cat (FC) was rescued from the Ambala-Haridwar highway near Mullana on Friday morning at around 5.15 am. The cat had been hit by a vehicle and was paralysed.

The specimen was rescued by the Haryana wildlife department and the NGO, Vande Matram Dal, after a call was placed to the police emergency helpline 112 by a passerby. The road-hit cat constitut-

ed the first record of the FC for Haryana. There are, otherwise, no records of this species from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh, and just the bare minimum from Punjab. The species has been declared as "vulnerable" by the IUCN.

All too often, wild creatures crossing the densening mesh of highways and roads get struck by vehicles resulting in fatalities and wounds. Dozens of FCs die in roadkills in West Bengal and 300 are estimated to have perished in the last decade in Sri Lanka. But that apart,



small cat specialists were elated at the Mullana find.

"I have never come across a FC in all my years of work. It is good news as it adds to the Small Cats

group in the north," associate professor Rajiv Kalsi, who has camera-trapped small cats at the Kalesar National Park and found the rare Leopard cat there,

told this writer.

Co-founder of the Fishing Cat Project, Tiasa Adhya, told this writer: "I can confirm from the Mullana photographs that it is indeed a FC. However, news carried in the media in May 2025 that three kittens of the FC were found in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab was incorrect. Dr Shomita Mukherjee, a leading small cat specialist, confirmed from photographs that the Hoshiar pur kittens were of the Jungle cat, which sport white cheeks as an identification mark," Adhya told this writer.

Editorial

Patrolling the political streets

Someone will come again in the image of politics , every era needs history to be written again. Two personal resolutions brought the past of politics and the future of politics in the atmosphere of Himachal Assembly. Nahan MLA Ajay Solanki sought the respect of former Chief Minister Dr. YS Parmar on the craft of politics, while former minister Vipin Singh Parmar measured the stature of students in the entire politics. The student union elections have been a flowing river of youth energy, so many leaders rose from this platform and made a name for themselves in the state. Whether student union elections should be held or not, the debate on this should be more in the courtyard of parents than in politics. One should ask that teacher whether there should be political patrolling to pass time in the campus. Of course, the enthusiasm of sloganeering of the student union was very useful in the politics of Himachal and a long lane of introduction has become famous by emerging from student politics. There is also no doubt that only those are worshipped who have come out of the rivers of politics. Behind the faces of BJP, the student community has always erected such mirrors where the reflections of many leaders are seen. This is the reason that in the local body elections, the youth have started seeing their name, identity and position in politics, but the greenery spread across the lake also invites the talent that wants to become a successful citizen, businessman, professional or salaried person in the aim of education. Therefore, some such resolutions should also come where the common man gets the Mecca of success, the degree gets the destination and hard work gets the path. Such a resolution should have come in the assembly long ago that at least half a dozen IT parks, half a dozen transport nagars, one film city, investment centers in every city and business centers in every village should be built in the entire state. If the MLAs take the resolution, then every youth will be able to get employment in the nature of a tourist state here. A resolution will have to be taken to declare Himachal as an 'environmental state' and also to ensure that no Chief Minister has to search for the state's rights in the applications of the Forest Ministry for a single bigha of land for progress or rehabilitation. Believe it or not, the and Environment Protection Act have tied politics where economic, social and territorial rights have become zero.

Hartalika Mahavrat is the foundation of married life in Sanatan since Satya Yuga



Dr. Anand Singh Rana
Hartalika Mahavrat in Sanatan Dharma is a grand festival of love, dedication, purity, attainment of husband and long life, family harmony, and the unique power of strength. In the present context, the relevance of this fast has increased further from the point of view of family enlightenment and social harmony. Hartalika Vrat is one of the great fasts of Hindus which inspires to achieve the most difficult goals. As a result, fortunate Gauri ji attains Mahadev.Hartalika Teej fast is observed every year on the third day of Shukla Paksha of Bhadrapada month. On this day, women observe the waterless fast of Hartalika Teej for the long life and good health of their husbands. Married women and unmarried girls also observe the fast of Hartalika Teej. Hartalika Teej has great importance in Hinduism. According to religious beliefs, it was by observing Hartalika Teej fast that Goddess Parvati got Lord Shiva as her husband. By worshipping Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati on Hartalika Teej with rituals, married women get unbroken good fortune and the problems faced by girls in marriage are removed. Along with this, a good groom is also found due to the effect of this fast.Hartalika Teej is a holy and emotional festival, which is considered a symbol of the divine union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. In today's time, many men are also keeping this fast with their wives and making the spirit of this festival stronger. This is the reason that this fast has become a symbol of women's

power, faith and unbreakable love.Before the Hartalika Vrat Poojan Katha, its background must be known, so that the purpose of this fast can be clarified. Shiva-Shakti is the symbol of the eternity of love in the entire universe. The immortal love of Sati and Shiva is a symbol of the culmination of love by becoming Ardhanarishwar. The ideal love of Shiva-Shakti is a guide for the future generation. This is the story of Shivaratri of Krishna Chaturdashi, when Radhaji, overwhelmed by love, told Lord Krishna that there can be no greater lover than you in the world! Then Shri Krishna said no Radha! There can be no greater lover than Mahadev in this entire universe and saying this, Shri Krishna started crying and he started telling Radha, Shri Krishna said that Radha, everyone kept changing their form and taking new forms, kept doing Raas Leela by taking different forms but Mahadev never left his Sati (Uma). Dear Radha, when Sati entered the fire at Daksh's place, then Mahadev roamed around for centuries embracing her body and mourned continuously for one year, those tears became Rudraksha, then Mahadev wore that Rudraksha garland and also wore Rudraksha on his entire body.Mahadev did not even spare the "ashes" and covered his entire body with ashes. Sati's vehicle tiger (lion) also gave up his life. Then Mahadev wore the skin of Sati's vehicle which we know as Baghambar. Even today Mahakal has wrapped Sati's ashes around his body. Mahadev was in the unfathomable depths of love. Then all the gods got worried and prayed to me. Then I (Lord Vishnu) cut Sati into 52 pieces with Sudarshan Chakra, which became the great Shakti Peeth.Mahadev took out the bones of Sati from those pieces and wore them around his neck and is wearing them even today.

After that Mahadev became a Yogi. For this purpose, Sati reincarnated as Parvati to get Mahadev. Mahadev accepted her only when I assured her.The story of Hartalika Teej Vrat is that once on Mount Kailash, Mother Parvati asked Lord Shiva what virtue she had got, due to which she could get Shiva as her husband. On this, Lord Shiva reminded her of her own penance. Mother Parvati had accepted Shiva as her husband in her mind since childhood and with this resolve, she did rigorous penance for 12 years. She lived in the forest, ate leaves of trees, gave up food and endured the hardships of every season. Seeing her penance, her father, Himalaya Raj, became worried. At the same time, Sage Narad brought a proposal of marriage for Lord Vishnu, which Himavan (Himalay Raj) accepted. When Parvati ji was told this, she became very sad and shared her thoughts with her friends.She said that she had already accepted Lord Shiva as her husband, so she would not marry anyone else. Hearing this, the friends quietly took her and hid her in a cave. There, Parvati ji made a Shivalinga from clay in Hasta Nakshatra on Bhadrapada Shukla Tritiya and worshipped Shiva and stayed awake the whole night. Pleased with her devotion, Shiva appeared and accepted her as his wife. Since then, this fast became popular in Sanatan and became the necklace of women.There is provision of fruits, flowers, camphor, ghee, lamp, sweets, betel nut, betel leaf, batasha, ghee, kumkum, puja-kalash, dry coconut, shami leaf, dhatura, honey, gulal, panchamrit, Kalava, perfume, sandalwood, manjari, akshat, Gangajal, durva, janeu, belpatra, clothes and banana leaf as worship material. Red color is the favorite of Goddess Parvati, which is a symbol of love and power. Green color indicates

greenery and prosperity, while pink color is considered a symbol of gentleness and mutual understanding. Phulera has great importance while worshipping on Hartalika Teej. During worship, Phulera is tied on Lord Shiva in place of water stream. Phulera is made from five types of flowers. The 5 flower garlands tied in Phulera symbolize the five daughters of Lord Shankar (Jaya, Vishhara, Shamilbari, Dev and Dotali).As per the worship method of Hartalika Teej, married women should wake up early in the morning, take a bath and wear new clothes. Then light a lamp in the temple or place of worship at home. Offer incense and lamps to all the gods and goddesses and take a vow to fast. After this, worship Maa Parvati, Lord Shiva and Lord Ganesha with rituals. Recite the Hartalika Teej Vrat Katha and perform aarti of all the gods and goddesses. Offer makeup items to Maa Parvati and pray for unbroken good fortune.Victims of cultural Marxism, wandering in the failed love stories of Laila-Majnu, Shiri-Farhad and Romeo-Juliet, not only the men and women of India but the world will have to understand love and marriage from the eternal point of view, only then love will be successful. If love is physical then it will definitely fail but if it is spiritual then it will remain immortal, the love of Sati and Shiva is the best example of this. Shiva-Shakti is the symbol of eternity of love in the entire universe. The immortal love of Sati and Shiva becomes Ardhanarishwar and is successful in the form of marriage ceremony. The ideal love and marriage of Shiva-Shakti is a guide for the future generation and Hartalika Vrat is a witness to it.

(The author is a professor of history and Vice President of History Compilation Committee, Mahakoshal Province.)

Ikshak: Swadeshi Sentinel of Security of Waterways

- Yogesh Kumar Goyal

Another milestone was added towards strengthening the growing strategic capabilities and maritime dominance of the Indian Navy when the most modern survey vessel (SVL) 'Ikshak' built with indigenous technology was officially handed over to the Navy. 'Ikshak' means 'guide' and this name in itself is symbolic because the main objective of this ship is to provide guidance by accurately surveying sea routes, shipping channels and deep sea areas. This ship is an important achievement for the Indian Navy not only from a strategic point of view but also from the point of view of technological and industrial self-reliance. Designed by the Warship Design Bureau for the Indian Navy, this ship has been built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Kolkata.

It is the 802nd ship and 113th warship built by GRSE. Earlier, two ships of this class 'INS Sandhyak' and 'INS Nirdeshak' were handed over to the Navy in December 2023 and October 2024 respectively. 'Ikshak' is the third ship in this series of four ships, while the fourth ship is likely to join the Navy by next year.The foundation of 'Ikshak' was laid on 6 August 2021 and it was launched on 26 November 2022. From construction to delivery, more than 80 percent indigenous equipment and material has been used in this ship. This figure is important in itself as it

shows that India is now capable of building important maritime platforms with indigenous resources instead of foreign dependence. According to the Ministry of Defense, the delivery of 'Ikshak' is a solid proof towards the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign. A large number of Indian industry, MSMEs and local suppliers actively contributed to the construction of this ship, which not only strengthened indigenousization in defense production but also gave a boost to the country's industrial ecosystem.'Ikshak' has a displacement of about 3400 tonnes and its total length is 110 meters.

This size makes it the largest survey vessel of its class. This ship provides the stability and capability required to carry out advanced hydrographic and oceanographic research tasks. The structure of this ship is built using modern integrated construction technology, which ensures strength and durability. It has been designed following the classification rules of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). 'Ikshak' is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment, including data acquisition and processing system to collect high quality data of sea depths and sediments and analyze them digitally, autonomous water vehicle capable of conducting detailed survey and monitoring in deep water without human pilot, remotely operated vehicle helpful in real time monitoring and survey even in difficult water

areas, long range positioning system DGPS to increase the accuracy of marine mapping, digital side-scan sonar helpful in preparing detailed digital images of sea floor structure and obstructions. Through these equipment, 'Ikshak' can conduct extensive survey of ports, coastal areas and deep sea routes. It will play a decisive role in determining shipping channels and sea routes. Additionally, the ship will also collect oceanographic and geophysical data for defence and civilian purposes.Ikshak is powered by two marine diesel engines. It can attain speeds of over 18 knots (about 33 kmph). It is fitted with fixed-pitch propellers as well as bow and stern thrusters, which provide it with great stability and precise manoeuvring capability even at low speeds. This feature is extremely useful during survey missions which require working at slow and steady speeds. Though the primary purpose of Ikshak is hydrographic survey and mapping of navigational channels, the vessel is capable of performing multi-faceted roles. It can act as a hospital ship for delivering relief material, providing medical facilities and rescue operations during natural calamities, is capable of participating in military operations on a limited scale.

The vessel is also capable of carrying and supporting the operation of a helicopter. Thus, Ikshak is not only a survey vessel but a multi-purpose platform

that can meet the diverse requirements of the Indian Navy. 'Ikshak' is the first SVL (Survey Vessel Large) ship of the Indian Navy, in which special accommodation facilities have been provided for women officers and sailors. This step is a big change towards gender equality and inclusiveness in the Navy. It also sends a message that the Navy is now serious and committed to the increasing role and contribution of women officers.The Indian Ocean region is very important in the strategic politics of the world. A large part of the world passes through this region through maritime trade routes. In such a situation, accurate information of shipping channels and safe monitoring of sea routes is essential for any nation. The presence of an advanced survey vessel like 'Ikshak' will increase India's maritime surveillance and survey capabilities manifold. This will not only strengthen the operational capability of the Navy but will also promote commercial shipping and maritime security. The relationship between Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers and the Indian Navy is more than 64 years old. In 1961, GRSE handed over the first indigenous warship 'INS Ajay' to the Indian Navy.

Since then, the shipyard has delivered 75 warships to the Navy. Ikshak is the latest example of this long-term partnership. Currently, GRSE is building 14 more warships for the Navy, including two P-17A advanced guided missile

frigates, seven anti-submarine shallow water vessels, four next generation off-shore patrol vessels and another SVL.The achievement of Ikshak is a significant step towards self-reliance in India's defence production. It is India's strategic priority to utilize the capabilities of indigenous industries by reducing dependence on foreign technology and imports. More than 80 per cent of this ship is built with indigenous technology and equipment, which shows that India is now capable of designing and building large maritime platforms.Overall, the induction of Ikshak into the Indian Navy fleet is not just an addition of another ship but it is a living example of India's strategic, industrial and technological progress. This ship will take the Navy's survey capability in the Indian Ocean Region to an unprecedented level, as well as play an important role in commercial shipping and disaster relief operations. 'Ikshak's' indigenous construction, advanced technological capabilities, special provisions for women officers and multi-faceted use make it a matter of pride not only for the Indian Navy but for the entire nation. In the years to come, this ship will prove to be helpful in taking the Indian Navy's maritime power, self-reliance and global reputation to new heights.

(The author is an independent commentator.)



Indian football federation staring at FIFA suspension

New Delhi, Agency: Indian football is heading for a big disaster and the country may be suspended by the sport's highest governing body FIFA. The delay in implementation of the new constitution of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the sudden halt in the restart of the football season have irked the top bosses of both FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation. The AFC has already said that they are keeping a keen eye on the proceedings.

The constitution issue has been in court since 2022 and despite many assurances to FIFA officials the new constitution has not been adopted by the AIFF.

Besides, a Supreme Court directive that stopped the AIFF from taking decisions in April led to a total halt of discussions between them and the Football Sports Development Limi



ted (FSDL) regarding the Masters Rights Agreement (MRA), which is coming to an end in December.

The Supreme Court has given time to the AIFF and FSDL till August 28 to thrash out an agreement so that the leagues are held.

But another delay in the implementation of the constitution could hurt India. An AFC source told The media that India may get suspended.

"The delay in implemen-

complete shutdown of football operations is not helping anyone. As things stand today, I would not be surprised that FIFA takes a tough stance and suspends AIFF. They suspended them in 2022 for third party interference," said an AFC official from Kuala Lumpur.

FIFA had banned AIFF on August 16, 2022, "due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes". In May that year, the Supreme Court

had removed Praful Patel as the AIFF president and appointed a three-member committee of administrators.

The suspension had almost cost India the hosting rights of the 2022 U-17 Women's World Cup. However, after the committee of administrators was dissolved, FIFA lifted the suspension, paving the way for U-17 World Cup to be held in the country.

If the AIFF gets suspended, Indian teams' participation in all major club and country tournaments will get affected.

The senior men's team is set to play Singapore in the third round of Asian Cup qualifiers. The women's team has already qualified for the 2026 Asian Cup. Indian Super League teams FC Goa and Mohun Bagan Super Giants are set to play in the Asian Champions League Two.

'Little Master' Sunil Gavaskar thanks MCA for life-size statue at new cricket museum

Mumbai, Agency: Legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar on Saturday expressed gratitude to the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) after the unveiling of his life-size statue at the entrance of the newly inaugurated MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum at Wankhede Stadium.

"I am at a loss for words because I am overwhelmed by this unique honour. It doesn't happen to everybody that there is a statue just outside the museum, where there is going to be so much football. I can't thank the Mumbai Cricket Association enough for this wonderful gesture. Mumbai Cricket Association is like my mother. It held my hand when I was beginning with cricket. It has been a blessing to be able to play for Mumbai. I never dreamed that it would come to this," Gavaskar told reporters.

Spanning over 8,000 sq. ft., the museum is a tribute to Mumbai's unparalleled contribution to Indian and global cricket. The inauguration was attended by dignitaries, cricketing legends, administrators, and members of the city's cricket fraternity. From September 22, 2025, it will open to the public through online bookings, with ticket details and slots



to be announced shortly.

At the grand entrance, visitors are greeted by the statue of Sharad Pawar and Gavaskar symbolising the enduring spirit of Mumbai cricket and its illustrious champions who have inspired generations. Inside, the museum houses physical memorabilia, interactive exhibits, and advanced digital experiences.

Specially curated sections highlight India's cricketing stalwarts, women's cricket achievements, World Cup triumphs, administrators and their contributions, and MCA's member clubs.

Sourav Ganguly appointed head coach of Pretoria Capitals for SA20 2025-26 season

New Delhi, Agency: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the head coach of the Pretoria Capitals ahead of the upcoming SA20 season, which kicks off on December 26. Ganguly replaces former England batter Jonathan Trott at the helm, marking his first-ever stint as a head coach in franchise cricket, as per ESPNcricinfo.

The Capitals will be hoping that Ganguly's appointment brings a change in fortune. After topping the group stage in the inaugural season of the SA20, the franchise fell short in the final against Sunrisers Eastern Cape. However, their performance has dipped in recent years, finishing fifth in both the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons, missing out on the playoffs on both occasions.

This new chapter adds another dimension to Ganguly's cricketing journey. While this is his first formal role as a head coach, the former Indian skipper brings plenty of leadership experience to the table. Between 2015 and 2019, he served as the president of the Cricket Association of Bengal. After that, he became the mentor of the Delhi Capitals in the 2019



Indian Premier League (IPL) season. Soon after, Ganguly took over as the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), a position he held until 2022. Ganguly's move to the Pretoria Capitals also aligns with his role as Director of Cricket at JSW, the co-owners of both Delhi Capitals and Pretoria Capitals. His appointment signals JSW's intent to strengthen its SA20 project, and Ganguly will be deeply involved in shaping the team's future.

Cristiano Ronaldo completes 100 goals for Al Nassr

Hong Kong, Agency: Star Al Nassr striker Cristiano Ronaldo completed 100 goals for Al Nassr during the final of the Saudi Super Cup against Al Ahli in Hong Kong, which his club lost by 3-5 on penalties after the match ended on a 2-2 draw after regular time.

One of the finest footballers to ever grace the game and one of the biggest goal-scorers in world football history, Cristiano joined the Saudi giants back in 2023, becoming the world's highest-paid athlete in the process, as per Olympics.com. Now, he is the only player in football history to score 100 goals for four different clubs.

The superstar footballer scored his first goal in Saudi Arabia in a friendly against Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) for a team which featured players from Al Nassr and rivals Al Hilal, as per Olympics.com. He made his Saudi Pro



League debut with Al Nassr in a 1-0 win over Al-Ettifaq. He notched his first goal during a draw against Al-Fateh and fired his first hat-trick for the club in a 4-0 win over Al Wehad.

He also won the Saudi Pro League Player of the Month award for February

2023 for scoring eight goals and delivering two assists. Ronaldo netted 35 goals in the 2023-24 season, setting a new goal-scoring record in the Saudi Pro League, surpassing Abderrazak Hamdallah's count of 34 back in 2019.

Two of these goals

earned the team a trophy as they won the first Arab Club Champions Cup against arch-rivals Al Hilal.

So far in the Saudi Pro League, he has netted 74 goals in 77 appearances, and overall, his goal count has gone up to 100 in 113 matches.

Cheteshwar Pujara retires from all forms of cricket

New Delhi, Agency: Cheteshwar Pujara, one of India's finest Test batters, called time on his illustrious career on Sunday.

The 37-year-old made the announcement on social media, having played the last of 103 Tests in 2023.

"As a little boy from the small town of Rajkot, along with my parents, I set out to aim for the stars; and dreamt to be a part of the Indian cricket team. Little did I know then that this game would give me so much - invaluable opportunities, experiences, purpose, love, and above all a chance to represent my state and this great nation.

"Wearing the Indian jersey, singing the anthem, and trying my best each time I stepped on the field - it's impossible to put into words what it truly meant. But as they say, all good things must come to an end, and with immense gratitude I have decided to retire from all forms of Indian cricket," said Pujara in a heartfelt note.



SPORTSCOM Conclave to energize India's sports startup ecosystem; MoS Raksha Khadse to address gathering

New Delhi, Agency: India's sporting ambitions are set for a fresh boost with the launch of the first-ever SPORTSCOM 'Giving Wings to Dreams' Conclave. The platform is dedicated to nurturing startups that are driving innovations across the country.

Taking place on August 25, in New Delhi, the conclave will bring together over 200 stakeholders from across the sporting ecosystem--including federations, corporates, innovators, entrepreneurs, and investors.

As a first-of-its-kind initiative, SPORTSCOM aims to

unite sport and enterprise, spotlighting breakthrough ideas and sustainable business models that can accelerate India's journey towards becoming a global sporting hub, as per a release from SPORTSCOM conclave.

Leading the initiative are some of the top voices of Indian sports, including Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, Shobhit Jain, Joint Secretary (Development), Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Sanjiv, Joint Secretary at the Department for Promotion of



Industries and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry who will be joined by SPORTSCOM's leadership team and President, Jalaj Dani, Vivek Singh, Joint MD,

ProCam, and Udit Sheth, MD, TransStadia. Jalaj Dani, President, SPORTSCOM, said, "The Giving Wings to Dreams Conclave is a pioneering step towards building a strong and sustainable sports startup ecosystem in India. By bringing together government, investors, and industry leaders, we aim to create the environment for ideas to flourish into impactful enterprises that contribute to India's sporting growth story. One of the key highlights of the conclave will be a live startup pitch session, where shortlisted ventures will showcase their ideas before leading investors such

as Inflexion Point Ventures, SurSEED Indovation, Marwah Sports, Real Time Angel Fund, and Lead Invest.

To further strengthen the startup pipeline, incubation support will be extended by premier institutions, including IIT Madras, AIC IIT Delhi, and the Amity Innovation and Incubation Centre--ensuring promising ventures get both funding and mentorship to scale. Lending further industry heft are stalwarts from Indian sporting brands, including Neeraj Jain, Director, Cosco India, Rajesh Kharbanda, MD, Freewill Sports, and Shiv Prakash Singh, MD, Shiv Naresh, who

has been associated in the sports kitting business for decades. The initiative has also drawn strong corporate backing, with Dani Sports Foundation, Nivia, and Cosco India as Platinum Partners, and Jetsynthesys, Procam International, Transtadia Education & Research Foundation, Nutra Supplements, and T10 Sports as Prime Partners.

As India steps up its bids for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, the Youth Olympics, and the 2036 Olympic Games, this Conclave aims to put the spotlight on sports startups as the country's next growth engine.



Asia Cup trophy displayed in Chandigarh

New Delhi, Agency: Hockey Chandigarh hosted the tour of the 2025 Asia Cup trophy in the city today. MP Malvinder Singh Kang and actor Jimmy Shergill attended the event. As many as eight teams will be in action during the Asia Cup in Rajgir (Bihar) from August 29 to September 7.

Meanwhile, during the ceremony, Kang once again demanded Bharat Ratna for the legendary hockey player Balbir Singh (Senior). "Icons like Balbir Singh are the rarest of talents, which our country possessed. His contributions to Indian hockey are unmatched and he should be awarded the biggest honour," said Kang.