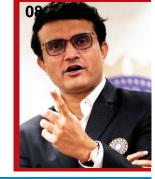


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Kodarma, Monday, 25, August 2025

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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 Aiit 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 capabili-

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 ideolo-

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 Ranchi and beyond 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



Farmers in Shibu Soren masks protest

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 Kankeon agricultural land claimed by tribal farmers. Officials say the land belongs to the state and the project is essential for enhancing healthcare infrastructure in In anticipation of these protests,

RIP leader and former Chie Minister Champai Soren has been vociferous in opposing the site. He argues that while he supports the hospital project in principle, it should be relocatedpreferably 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.

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

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



<u>Agency</u>

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," 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

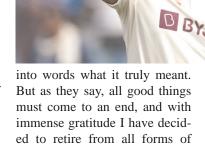
Agency

gy of the Congress.

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-yearold 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



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 fourthhighest 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 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.





Employee Strength Conclave Organized in Ramgarh Under JHAROTEF Banner; MLA Mamta Devi Attends

चारी शक्ति-समागम

DB Reporter

Ramgarh: On August 24, 2025. the Ramgarh district unit of the Jharkhand Officers, Teachers, and Employees Federation (JHAROTEF) organized the Karmachari Shakti Samagam (Employee Strength Conclave) Pensioners Bhawan, Ramgarh. The event focused on key employee demands and was

Ramgarh MLA Mamta Devi graced the occasion as the chief guest, while provincial coordinator Pankaj Kumar Singh, Dr. Mithilesh Kumar, State **Electricity Department President** Ashish Kumar, Organizing Secretary Sunil Nayak, Sachin

leaders.



The conclave emphasized three major demands out of JHAROTEF's 11-point charter: implementation of MACP

Kashyap were present as special

Progression) for teachers, increasing the retirement age to 62 years, and providing child education allowance to state employees on par with central government employees.

MLA Mamta Devi assured the gathering that she would raise their legitimate concerns in the

state assembly. "Your demands are justified, and I will bring them before the cabinet and the Chief Minister," she stated, adding emotionally, "Though I am a legislator, you are all like gurus to me. It will be my honor to serve you."

The event began with a ceremonial welcome of guests with saplings. District President Shyam Kishore Mahato presided over the session, and Dr. Sunil Kumar Kashyap conducted it effectively.

All participants pledged support for the upcoming grand employee rally in Morhabadi, Ranchi, on September 21, aiming for a 10,000-strong turnout from Ramgarh district alone.

Initiative to Prevent Diseases: Bleaching Powder Sprinkled in Wells under Leadership of Sudhir Manglesh

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



waterborne germs and infections. To counter this, the campaign aimed to ensure access to clean and safe drinking water for villagers and to prevent the spread of diseases. Speaking on the occasion, Sudhir Mahato, Manglesh urged villagers to maintain cleanliness

around their wells, prevent contaminated surface water from entering them, use boiled water as much as possible, and keep their homes and courtvards clean. Prominent local figures present during the campaign included Congress leaders Utam Ramghrit Mahato, Prem Munda, and Sumit Kumar.

Brown Sugar Peddlers Nabbed, TOP-1 In-Charge Indradev Paswan Leads Operation

DB Reporter

Medininagar (Palamu): In a major breakthrough against the illegal drug trade, police in Medininagar arrested two brown sugar peddlers following a swift operation led by TOP-1 In-Charge Sub-Inspector Indradev Paswan. The arrests were made on Sunday under the ongoing anti-narcotics drive being carried out on the instructions of senior police officials. According to sources, on 24th August, police received a tip-off that two youths riding a white Apache motorcycle (registration number JH03Y-5210) were entering the city via Shahpur Bridge carrying narcotics for sale. Acting on this intelligence, a special raiding team was constituted and deployed at Saddiq Chowk to intercept them.

At around 1:30 PM, the suspects were spotted approaching on the



motorcycle. On seeing the police, they attempted to flee but were swiftly apprehended. During the search, police recovered 16 grams of illegal brown sugar and two smartphones from their possession. The arrested youths have been identified as Rakesh Kumar alias Nepali and Rahul Kumar, both residents of Jailhata. During interrogation, they confessed to their involvement in drug peddling. Police also confirmed that both



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.

Har Ghar Nal-Jal Yojana became Dhan-Jal Yojana!

Hazaribagh's roads have become a city of wounds due to incomplete work, increasing budget and disorder: Manoj

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



left incomplete and the material is disappeared overnight. Manoj Gupta revealed that five years ago, contractors from Gujarat made huge profits by installing pipelines and meters in every house. Four meters were installed in many houses and pipelines were laid even where there were no houses. Under

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.

JMM Palamu Protests Against Central Bill on Disqualification of Legislators

DB Reporter

Medininagar: Palamu district unit of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) staged a protest at Chhah Muhan Chowk, Medininagar, burning an effigy of the BJP-led central government in opposition to a newly proposed bill. The legislation, introduced in Parliament on August 20. proposes that any elected public representative in iudicial custody for more than 30 days would automatically lose their position.

Leading the protest, JMM Central Committee Member and District Vice President Sannu Siddiqui condemned the bill as "unconstitutional and dangerous for democracy." He emphasized that the proposal undermines



the legal principle that an accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty and could arbitrarily strip elected representatives of their mandates. District Spokesperson Chandan Prakash Sinha alleged that the central government is misusing investigative agencies to target political opponents and that the bill could be

weaponized to remove opposition leaders from office by keeping them in custody beyond 30 days. Women's District President Sushila Mishra demanded immediate withdrawal of the bill. warning that JMM would escalate its protests across the state and educate the public about what she termed a direct attack on

democracy. 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.

"Your Capital, Our Land - Now We'll Share Equally": Tiger Jayaram Mahato

DB Reporter

Ramgarh: A Khatiyan Adhikar Sabha cum Milan Samaroh (Land Rights Meeting and Community Gathering) was organized on Sunday at Ambedkar Park, New Market, PTPS, Patratu 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 Patratu 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-



vide adequate basic facilities to affected communities, failing which, he warned, "Vacate our land." He emphasized that India's true essence lies in its villages, and that the land and livelihood of farmers must be protected. "If the capital is yours and the land is ours. it's time for equal partnership," he declared.

Citing rapid development in

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.

Kanke MLA Suresh Baitha Targets Former Chief Ministers Over Development Issues

By Mukesh Ranjan, DB Reporter

Ranchi: The political heat in Jharkhand intensified on Sunday as Kanke MLA Suresh Baitha launched a sharp attack against former Chief Ministers Babulal Marandi, Champai Soren, and Arjun Munda. Baitha accused them of being "chor-chor mausiyaat bhai" (partners in crime), branding the trio as antidevelopment forces obstructing government initiatives.



Baitha criticized the former leaders for their lack of action during their claiming they

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 is sincerely working on 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

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.

SP Steps In to Trace Missing Woman, Home Guard Jawan's Plea Gets Prompt Response

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-



sive searches by her family and relatives, she could not be located. Dharamraj immediately lodged a complaint at Chainpur police station on 14th August and later submitted an application to the SP for further help. Taking note of his plea, SP Rishma Rameshan promptly 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.

A Pall of Gloom Over Palamu: BJP Leader Arvind Singh's Son Passes Away Suddenly

leaders, party workers, and well-wishers visited the family to express condolences.

DB Reporter

Medininagar (Palamu): A wave of sorrow swept through Hamidganj with the sudden and untimely demise of Vikas Singh, fondly known as Vicky (25), the younger son of BJP Palamu District Vice President Arvind Singh.

According to family members, Vikas appeared completely healthy the previous evening. After having dinner with the family, he went to bed as usual. When he didn't wake up the next morning, efforts to rouse him failed. He was rushed to doctors declared him dead.

The heartbreaking news left the grief.

▶ A large number of political family and community in shock. Grief engulfed the Singh household as relatives and neighbors gathered to mourn the unexpected loss. Vikas, remembered as a kind-hearted and promising young man, had touched many lives. A large number of political leaders, party workers, and well-wishers visited the family to express condolences. Among them were BJP State General Secretary Manoj Singh, District President Amit Tiwari, Bipin Bihari Singh, Mangal Singh, Vijay Ojha, and many others.

> His passing has left an irreplaceable void not only in his family but also in the community.

Heartfelt prayers and sympathies Sadar Hospital, Medininagar, where continue to pour in for the bereaved family during this time of immense



First Biennial Convention of Postal Union GRC, Deoghar Division Held

DB Reporter

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 officebearers include Vice President Paramjeet, Assistant Secretary B.N. Patralekh, Treasurer Arun Kumar

Rahul Gandhi: Passion, Dedication, and Public Trust

DB Reporter

Jamtara: During the Vote Rights March, I had the privilege of spending considerable time with the esteemed Rahul Gandhi. Observing him up close was a deeply inspiring

lasting impression. Rahul Gandhi's relentless hard work, struggle, and commitment are truly unparalleled. He

experience that left a

tirelessly dedicates himself to serving the people, closely understanding their problems and striving to find solutions.

There is no sign of fatigue on his face; instead, a remarkable energy and passion shine through-sending a powerful message that true fulfillment lies in serving others. Leaders like him are a blessing to society,



they not only empathize with the people's pain but also channel all their strength to address it. Rahul Gandhi's

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

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

DB Reporter

Hazaribagh: On Sunday, Sadar MLA Pradeep Prasad took a strong stand against reckless biking by stopping and counseling youths riding at high speeds on the roads. He also engaged their family members to emphasize the importance of road safety.

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.

Sankalp Jain Waves the Flag of Success in JPSC; MP Manish Jaiswal Congratulates

DB Reporter

Hazaribagh: Sankalp Jain from K.D. Children Academy, Munka Bagicha, Kani Bazar, has achieved remarkable success in the recently declared Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) results, securing the 48th rank on his second attempt. His achievement adds to the impressive performance of youths from the Hazaribagh Lok Sabha constituency.



On Sunday, MP Manish Jaiswal honored

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.

Tata Steel Zoo to Train Keepers from 21 Eastern India Zoos

DB Reporter Jamshedpur : Tata Steel Zoological Park is pleased to announce the inauguration of a fourday Capacity Building Programme for Zoo Keepers of Eastern India, sponsored by the Steel Zoological unwavering commit-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 Centre Excellence, Jamshedpur. The inaugural session is set to take place on

Monday, August 25 at the workshop will feasenior officials from the Department, Forest Government Jharkhand, and representatives from the Tata Zoological 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-

10:00 AM, in the ture interactive sessions, esteemed presence of expert-led lectures, and practical demonstrations.

This initiative underscores Society. The programme ment to animal welfare, conservation, 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

One Dead, One Injured in Coal Mine Accident at Libra Outsourcing Patch



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.

MLA Manoj Kumar Yadav Donates Air-Conditioned Ambulance to Chouparan Hospital

DB Reporter

Chouparan: On Sunday, Barhi MLA Manoj Kumar Yadav gifted a state-of-the-art air-conditioned ambulance to the Community Hospital in Chouparan from his MLA fund. During the event, the MLA performed a traditional inauceremony, guration flagged off the ambulance, and officially handed it over to the hospital management for public use.



This initiative came after locals raised concerns about the shortage of ambulances in the area. Responding promptly, the MLA assured the community of swift action and fulfilled his promise by delivering the ambulance on Sunday.

Speaking at the event, Yadav highlighted the frequent accidents in the Danuwa Valley, where delays in emergency transport often resulted in loss of lives. He said the new ambulance will be a boon for the region, ensuring timely medical

assistance and saving lives during emergencies. The hospital administration and local residents praised the MLA's effort. The event was attended by Medical Officer Dr. Farhana Mahfuz, Dr. D.N. Thakur, Mukhiya Sangh President Birendra Rajak, former president Rajdev Yadav, BJP leaders Ram Swaroop Paswan, Sunil Singh, and several other community representatives.

DB Reporter

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 1,800 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.

Inaugurates Navodaya Vikas Football Tournament 2025

MLA Roshanlal Chaudhary



DB Reporter Badkagaon:

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 Gondlpura.

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

▶ After breaking open the door, they found her unconscious and rushed her to Sadar Hospital, where her condition remained critical.

DB Reporter

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

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

Chandigarh, Agency: 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 also emerged in the party. It by Jashan Jawanda. While comprises members who the Jashan's group has were expelled from the 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 reconcilia-

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 pick presidential announced. There are differ- Bhupinder Singh expelled tion as last year's rebel, ent factions within the three members of the party. things," he added.

NSUI, even before the gharwapsi 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

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 Organis ation 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

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 the hand over ongoing Dharmasthala case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), alleging that the probe so far has been compromised.

Bommai 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 linked to complainant Chin nayya

"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 institu-

Bommai 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.

Bommai reiterated that those complaint or evidence, effectively must be held accountable.

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

New Delhi, Agency: A plaint alleging years of harassment has emerged from Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 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

shocking case of dowry abuse, stating that her sister's marriage with Vipin Bhati, 28, was solemnised in December 2016 without any dowry being excha nged. However, over time, Nikki's husband and inlaws 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 her hair. The second video to Fortis hospital, from shows her limping down the where she was referred to stairs after being set ablaze. Safdarjung. She succumbed Kanchan lodged a com- 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

"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 mem-

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 | Random Forays | The 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.

told this writer.

Co-founder of the

Fishing Cat Project, Tiasa

Adhya, told this writer: "I

can confirm from 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: ed the first record of the 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 constitutFC 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,

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 incor-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 attains 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 Řadňa, 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, Mahadev wore that Rudraksha garland and also 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

pink color is considered a symbol of gentleness and mutual understanding. Phulera has great importance while worshiping 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

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

lkshak: Swadeshi Sentine 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)

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 indigenization 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-theart 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 frigates, seven anti-submarine shallow 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

water vessels, four next generation offshore 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.)

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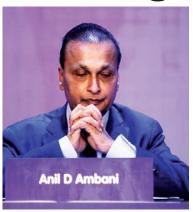
After SBI, Bank of India tags RCom, Anil Ambani as fraud

After the State Bank of India, Bank of India has classified the loan account of insolvent Reliance Communications as fraudulent and named its former director, tycoon Anil Ambani, citing alleged fund diversion in 2016, according to a regulatory filing.

State-owned Bank of India granted a Rs 700 crore loan in August 2016 to Reliance Communications for its ongoing capital and operational expenditure and repayment of existing liabilities. Half of the sanctioned amount disbursed in October 2016 was invested in a fixed deposit, which was not permitted as per the sanction letter, according to the bank's letter that RCom dis-

New Delhi , Agency: August 22 received a letter from Bank of India dated August 8 stating the bank's decision "to classify the loan accounts of the company, Anil Dhirajlal Ambani (promoter and erstwhile director of the company), and Manjari Ashok Kacker (erstwhile director of the company), as Fraud".

Previously, State Bank of India (SBI) had done the same in June this year, alleging misappropriation of bankadded that pure-play Indian BPO service providers are well-positioned as challengers to global incumbents. Their leaner cost structures and a shift toward outcomebased engagement models have enabled more efficient service delivery, contributing closed in a stock exchange to their growing market funds by entering into trans-RCom said that it has on actions that violated the



terms of the loans.

Following a complaint by SBI, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Saturday searched premises linked to Reliance Commu nications and Ambani's residence. CBI said it has registered a complaint after the State Bank of India claimed a loss of Rs 2,929.05 crore, resulting from the alleged misappropriation

sibling of Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani.

Anil Ambani's spokesperson, in a statement, "strongly denied all allegations and charges" and said he "will duly defend himself".

The complaint filed by SBI pertains to matters dating back more than 10 years. At the relevant time, Ambani was a non-executive director of the company, with no involvement in the day-today management," spokesperson said.

"It is pertinent to note that SBI, by its own order, has already withdrawn proceedings against five other non-executive directors. Despite this, Ambani has been selectively singled out."

Reliance Communications Reliance Communications subsidiary Reliance Telecom and regulated institutions for Professional.

and Ambani, the younger Ltd too has received a letter five years. from Bank of India conveying the lender's decision to classify the loan accounts of the company, Grace Thomas (erstwhile director of RTL and present director of the company) and certain other persons as 'Fraud'.

Under banking laws, once added that pure-play Indian BPO service providers are well-positioned as challengers to global incumbents. Their leaner cost structures and a shift toward outcomebased engagement models have enabled more efficient service delivery, contributing to their growing market an account is declared fraudulent, it must be referred to enforcement agencies for criminal action, and the borrower is barred from accessby in the latest filing said its ing fresh finance from banks overseen by a Resolution

Bank of India, in the letter disclosed in the Reliance Communications filing, said RCom had turned NPA on June 30, 2017, with an outstanding of Rs 724.78 crore.

"The Bank has been following up with the borrowers and guarantors for repayment of dues; however, they have failed and neglected to make repayment of the dues.'

Reliance Communications had in April disclosed that its total debt stood at Rs 40,400 crore in March.

Following unpaid loans, the company was admitted for insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings. RCom is being managed under the supervision of a Committee of Creditors, led by SBI and

999 units of Mahindra BE 6 Batman Edition booked in wink of an eye

New Delhi , Agency: Unveiled on the eve of India's 79th Independence Day, the Mahindra BE 6 Batman Edition created history on Saturday when bookings opened at 11:00 AM, with all 999 units, according to the carmaker, sold out in just 135

Originally conceived as a 300unit collector's edition, the automaker said unprecedented demand led Mahindra to expand allocations to 999 units, which still vanished in just over two

Customers confirmed their bookings by paying the booking amount of Rs 21,000. Deliveries will begin on September 20.

This milestone comes as part of Mahindra's electric origin SUV lineup, a showcase of India's world-class EV design and technology. It also reflects the company's Unlimit India vision -- pushing boundaries to create globalfirst innovations that inspire pride, passion and progress," the carmaker said.

On August 14, Mahindra, in ic figures in popular culture.



collaboration with Warner Bros. Discovery Global Consumer Products (WBDGCP), introduced the BE 6 Batman Edition -- a limited-run electric SUV.

Admired by children and adults alike, Batman represents intelligence, skill, and technical savvy. The Batman Edition of the BE 6 taps into this enduring legacy, offering fans a tangible way to connect with one of the most icon-

Piramal Finance partners with BLS E-Services to boost credit access in rural, semi-urban India

Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Piramal Finance has partnered with BLS E-Services, a digital service provider, to enhance access to formal credit for individuals and MSMEs across rural and semiurban India.

Through this collaboration, customers in Tier 2, 3, and 4 locations will be able to access a range of financial products--including home loans, unsecured business loans, used car loans, and personal loans-via BLS E-Services' trusted network of more than 144,000 touchpoints natio nwide. Jairam Sridharan, Managing Director, Piramal Finance Ltd, said, "Our partnership with BLS E-Services allows us to tap into their strong nationwide network across regions and open new financial oppor-

New Delhi, Agency: tunities. We're excited to take this initiative forward, support more families and small businesses in achieving their goals, and contribute meaningfully to the economic growth Bharat." Through this partnership, we aim to serve the masses and cater to the financial needs of underserved MSMEs. The objective is also to empower village entrepreneurs by providing them with access to finance, ultimately creating a more financially inclusive society nationwide. We're expanding our business model to reach the most remote and underserved areas, driving financial inclusion in line with the paperwork, government's inclusivity goals," said Shikhar Agga rwal, Chairman, BLS E-Services Ltd.

Piramal Finance will leverage the 'phygital'



model and the local presence of BLS E-Services centres. This partnership will help new borrowers and marginalised groups, promote financial inclusion, and drive steady growth in credit provision. Customers can conveniently submit loan applications at nearby centres with minimal enhancing access to financial services.

With this partnership, we aim to reach over 1 million of the unserved rural population by 2030, added Aggarwal.

Trend and Progress of Banking in India for FY 2023-24 notes a steady rise in credit growth beyond metro areas. Rural India's share of outstanding bank credit increased from 6.7 per cent in 2019 to 7.8 per cent in 2024, while semiurban areas grew from 10.5 per cent to 13.8 per cent. Private banks are also expanding their rural footprint--44 per cent of all new branches opened in FY24 were in rural and semi-

Centre injects Rs 211 crore into Indian space sector under 'fund of funds for startups' scheme: Goyal

Union Government under the 'fund of funds for startups' (FFS) scheme has made an investment support of Rs 211 crore, boosting the Indian space sector, said Union Minister Piyush Goyal

The Commerce and Industry Minister wrote in a X post, "Boosting Bharat's Space Sector. With the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) Scheme under @StartupIndia initiative, our government is fuelling bold ideas by backing homegrown innovators in the field of space tech with critical resources. This is propelling cutting-edge technologies

New Delhi, Agency: The and making India a rising space power globally. Guided by PM @Narendra Modi ji's vision, our focus is on innovation, selfreliance & youth-driven entrepreneurship to leverage space not only for exploration, but also for transformation," Goyal added in the X post. In a seperate post, Goyal added that India's startups are now taking new flights of selfreliance in the world of space as

> "The #StartupIndia initiative, launched under the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister NarendraModi, along with various policy reforms, has encour-



aged young entrepreneurs," the post added.

Goyal further added that as a result, startups like Ethereal X are not only contributing to space achievements but are also establishing India as a symbol of selfreliance and innovation on the global stage.

Under the Startup India initiative, the Government is implementing three flagship Schemes, namely, Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) to support startups at various stages of their business cycle. India (SIDBI), which provides capital to Securities and Exchange Board of

(SEBI)-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), which in turn invest in startups.

Indian BPO export growth outpaces IT services, trend to sustain in FY2026: Report

New Delhi, Agency: Indian BPO services' export growth has outpaced that of IT services over consecutive years and is expected to maintain this momentum in the Financial Year 2026 (estimated), according to a report by Kotak Institutional Equities.

The report noted that the trend is being driven by a heightened focus on cost optimisation among global clients, leading to increased outsourcing of business processes and a shift toward offshore delivery models.

The BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) sector involves a company hiring an external third-party service provider to perform specific business functions, such as customer service, technical support, accounting, or human resourcesmarket is likely to report a CAGR of 3.9 per cent over CY 2024-29E to USD 268 billion by CY2029E.

Telecom cos, OEMs must collaborate with global players for tech growth: Broadband India Forum President

New Delhi, Agency: Indian telecom operators and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) must collaborate with the global players to drive technological progress and deliver greater benefits to public, said TVRamachandran, President, Broadband India Forum.

Speaking on the role of emerging technologies in expanding connectivity to ANI, the Broadband India Forum President underscored the importance of being "technology agnostic" and leveraging multiple platforms to bridge the digital divide.

"It has to be technology agnostic. All technologies have to play to complete the loop. Even today, millions do not have connectivity because they are in remote, difficultto-reach areas by terrestrial technology. So terrestrial technology has done a wonderful job, but it can only go this far. What you need is the interplay of other technologies, which come in, like satellite communications.. Wi-Fi is important, Fibre has to be there," he said.

"So we need to have that approach. They (telecom players) are playing the role of



incumbents, and that's typical the over Incumbents will not allow any new players coming in, any

new technologies coming in. tor, the Indian National Space They think it is disruptive, no, it is something, the pie is growing larger. By allowing other technologies, every technology will prosper. It will grow and Telcos must realise that," Ramachandran

In June, BIF conveyed to the government in a letter that the telecos are attempting to block the entry of nextgeneration satellite services into India.

In July, Elon Musk-owned satellite communication firm Starlink received clearance from the Indian space regulaPromotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).

Starlink is the third company to receive approval for satellite communication (satcom) services from the Department of Telecom, following OneWeb and Reliance

Recently, Airtel and Jio have partnered with Starlink to bring the latter's highspeed satellite internet services to their customers in India. Starlink will utilise Airtel and Jio's extensive dealer network to sell and promote its servic-

Furthermore, andran stated that the association is eager to support the government in developing a semiconductor ecosystem in the country.

"They (semiconductors) are the lifeline of communication and many other activities... We are very happy to see that. Broadband India Forum wants to contribute to that sector and is thinking of taking up work in that area on policy-making and understanding. So we will be doing our small bit to that also," he added.

TikTok layoff in London office: Hundreds lose their job as AI replaces human moderators

New Delhi:TikTok, one of the popular short-format video sharing platforms from China, which gained popularity worldwide (but is banned in India now along with other Chinese apps), has informed employees based in the UK- London trust and safety division, about the potential job losses, according to a Financial Times report. The email was sent to them on Friday (August 22) stating that moderation and quality assurance work may no longer be handled in London. The decision comes shortly after the Online Safety Act took effect, raising concerns about reduced human involvement in monitoring harmful and illegal con-

The company currently employs over 2,500 people in the UK, but "several hundred" roles are likely to be cut both in the UK and across South and Southeast Asia. A town-hall meeting was held with affected employees to discuss the company's next steps.

Online safety act and its impact The timing of the layoffs comes just weeks after the Online Safety Act 2023 came into force. The law requires platforms like TikTok, Facebook, YouTube and X to protect children online, remove illegal content and regulate harmful material.



However, the Act has been controversial. Over 468,000 people signed a petition seeking its repeal, claiming the rules encourage over-censorship and restrict free speech. Critics have also opposed strict age verification checks, which require users to upload personal data to access adult content. Despite objections, the UK government and regulator Ofcom are pushing ahead with the rollout.

TikTok's AI-driven moderation

TikTok says the move is part of a global reorganisation to strengthen efficiency through AI. The email to staff cited "technological advances, such as the enhancement of large language models" as a reason for shifting moderation work away from London.

The platform is also introducing machine learning tools for "age assurance," inferring user age from online activity patterns. However, regulators have yet to approve these tools. Experts warn that over-reliance on AI moderation could pose risks, including reduced accuracy, cultural insensitivity, and failure to detect harmful content in local contexts. Human moderators, critics argue, remain crucial for ensuring safety, fairness, and contextaware content evaluation.

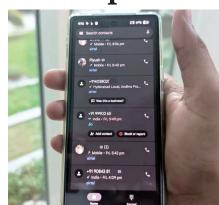
Calling screen looks different suddenly? Here's what's happening with Android smartphones

New Delhi:If you're an Android user in India and have noticed that your calling screen looks different, there's no need to worry. This is due to a new user interface update from Google's Phone app. The update incorporates Material 3 Expressive elements, giving the app a fresh

The new interface brings several changes to the app and calling screen:

Contacts: Your favorite and recent contacts are now merged into a single tab. Favorite contacts appear in a carousel at the top, while recent conversations are placed in a container below. The keypad, previously a floating button, has been moved to a separate tab at the bottom. Contacts have also been moved to a new navigation bar at the top, and you can still access them from the three-dot menu.

Incoming Calls: The incoming call screen has been updated to prevent accidental actions. To answer or decline a call, you now have to swipe horizontally instead of swiping vertically. This



change aims to reduce accidental call answers or declines that often happen when taking your phone out of your pocket. You can change this setting back to a tap if you prefer.

In-Call Buttons: The buttons on the call screen now have rounded corners, and the end-call button is larger for better visibili-

Google is also working on another update that will allow full-screen images to appear on the incoming call screen, though this feature is still in the testing phase. This feature is called contact card and is currently available for beta testers.

Generate Gemini AI videos for free: Google makes service available to all for limited time

New Delhi:If you've ever wanted to try generative AI video but were put off by high subscription fees, now is your chance to do so for free. Google has announced that its generative AI video tool, Veo 3, will be available to all users at no cost for a limited time.

The offer, announced by Google CEO Sundar Pichai, is valid until 10 a.m. on Monday. The tool, which was first introduced at Google I/O 2025 in May, was previously only available to paid users. To ensure a smooth experience for everyone, Google has set up "a load of TPUs" to provide uninterrupted access to free users.

Pichai's post stated that Veo 3 is free for everyone this weekend, and users can create AI videos based on their imagination directly through the Gemini app. The official Google handle also confirmed the offer, noting that after 10 p.m. on Sunday, August 24, the tool will once again be exclusive-



ly for Gemini Pro users. What is Veo 3?

Veo 3 is an AI video generation tool that can create short, realistic videos based on a user's text prompts. It can produce a range of con-

storyboards. Users simply need to type a command describing their idea, and the tool will generate a short video.

tent, from animated shorts India, which generates to cinematic sequences and videos at a faster rate. and PerplexityAI

Android and iOS users can access it through the Gemini app. Google claims that Veo 3 is the most advanced AI video genera-Google has also rolled tion model available, and it out the Veo 3 Fast model in is a direct competitor to tools like OpenAI's Sora.ai

Motorola Edge 60 Fusion gets major price cut, now thousands cheaper

announced a significant price drop for its mid-range smartphone, the Edge 60 Fusion. This year's release is now available for thousands of rupees less than its initial price. In addition to the reduced price, customers can also take advantage of bank discounts and a no-cost EMI offer. The phone, which features a robust 5500mAh battery and a 50MP camera, can be purchased on the e-commerce website, Flipkart.

Motorola Edge 60 Fusion

The Motorola Edge 60 Fusion comes in two variants: 8GB RAM + 256GB storage and 12GB RAM + 256GB storage. The price of the base

New Delhi:Motorola has model has been cut by Rs 3,000, bringing its cost down to Rs 22,999. There's also a 5 per cent cashback offer and an exchange bonus of up to Rs 22,350, making it even more affordable if you trade in an old phone.Motorola Edge 60 Fusion features

Display: The phone features a 6.67-inch pOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate and 1.5K resolution. The display is protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 7i and includes features like Smart Water Touch 3.0 and an anti-fingerprint coat-

Design: It has a 3D curved design with a premium vegan leather finish on the back.

Processor & Performance: It runs on a Mediatek Dimensity





7400 processor, paired with up to 12GB of RAM and 256GB of internal storage.

Battery: The phone is equipped with a powerful 5,500mAh battery that supports 68W Turbo Fast Charging.

Software: It operates on Hello UI, based on Android 15, and includes AI features powered by Google Gemini.

Cameras: The rear camera setup consists of a 50MP main lens and a 13MP secondary camera. For selfies and video calls, there's a 32MP front-facing camera.

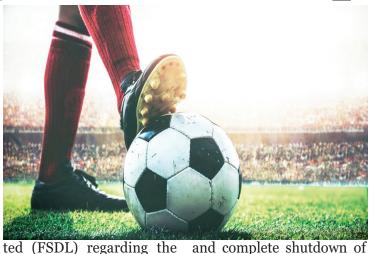
Other Features: The device also includes Dolby Atmos audio and IP68 and IP69 ratings, ensuring it is highly resistant to dust and water.

Indian football federation staring at FIFA suspension

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 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

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 tation of the constitution year, the Supreme Court League Two.



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.

undue influence from third

parties, which constitutes a

serious violation of the

FIFA had banned AIFF

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. on August 16, 2022, "due to An AFC source told The media that India may get suspended.

The delay in implemen- FIFA Statutes". In May that

the AIFF president and appointed a three-member committee of administra-The suspension had

had removed Praful Patel as

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

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

Mumbai, Agency: Lege ndary 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 footfall. 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 Gavaskarm 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

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 2022. Ganguly's move to the journey. While this is his first for- Pretoria Capitals also aligns with mal 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 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.

Saudi Arabia in a friendly Saintagainst Paris 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 2023 for scoring eight goals earned the team a trophy as The superstar footballer in a 1-0 win over Al-Ettifaq. and delivering two assists. they won the first Arab scored his first goal in He notched his first goal Ronaldo netted 35 goals in Club Champions Cup during a draw against Al- the 2023-24 season, setting Fateh and fired his first a new goal-scoring record hat-trick for the club in a 4- in the Saudi Pro League, o win over Al Wehad.

Pro League Player of the back in 2019. Month award for February

surpassing Abderrazak He also won the Saudi Hamdallah's count of 34

Two of these goals

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.



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.

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

New Delhi, Agency: unite sport and enterprise, 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

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 Nikhil Raksha 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 Commerce and Industry who joined be SPORTSCOM's leadership team and President, Jalaj Dani, Vivek Singh, Joint MD,

ProCam, and Udit Sheth, MD, as Inflexion Point Ventures, TransStadia. Jalaj Dani, SPORTSCOM, President, 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

SucSEED 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 Director, Cosco India, Rajesh Kharbanda, MD, Freewill Sports, and Shiv Prakash the country's next growth 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 Found ation, Nutra Supplements, and T10 Sports as Prime

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 engine.