



## BRIEF NEWS

### Yogi government's big decision in the interest of outsourcing workers

**Lucknow.** The Yogi government has taken a historic step to make outsourcing services in the state more transparent, secure and accountable. In the cabinet meeting led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a total of 15 proposals were approved on Tuesday, which also included approval for the formation of Uttar Pradesh Outsource Service Corporation Limited under Section-8 of the Companies Act-2013. This will be a public limited company, which will be operated as a non-profit institution. Through this, now the outsourcing agencies will not be selected directly by the departments, but the corporation will select the agency through a fair and transparent process through the Gem portal. Outsourced employees will be selected for three years. The honorarium of 16 to 20 thousand rupees per month has been fixed for the employees. Through this decision, the government will ensure that every employee gets his full rights and his future is secure. This decision will not only give better opportunities to lakhs of youth, but will also establish a new model of employment and good governance in the state. Giving information about the cabinet decisions, the state's Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna said that a large number of personnel were providing services through outsourcing agencies in various departments.

# CM Hemant vows to give Jharkhand a distinct identity in education

## DB Reporter

**Ranchi:** Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Tuesday handed over appointment letters to 975 newly appointed postgraduate trained teachers, assistant professors and laboratory assistants at the Appointment Letter Distribution-cum-Medha Samman Ceremony held at the Jharkhand Ministry.

On the occasion, he also launched the Chief Minister Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar Yojana and the Jharkhand e-Shiksha Mahotsav 2025, reaffirming his government's commitment to strengthening the education system. The Chief Minister said his government is determined to give Jharkhand a distinct identity in the field of



education. "We are working continuously to make government schools as resource-rich and modern as private ones. The positive results encourage us to take education to new heights," he said.

### Netarhat School to Open Doors for Girls

In a major announcement, CM

Soren declared that Netarhat Residential School will now be co-educational, with girls being enrolled for the first time. He also revealed plans to open three new schools on the lines of Netarhat, which is now affiliated with CBSE and offering English-medium education.

### Race for Admission in Schools of Excellence

Highlighting the growing trust in government institutions, Soren said that the Chief Minister's Schools of Excellence are witnessing high demand for admissions. "Children from private schools are now enrolling in our Schools of Excellence - proof that government schools can match the standards of private institutions," he added.

### Incentives and Scholarships for Students

The Chief Minister underlined several initiatives to support students: Board toppers received laptops, smartphones, and an honourarium of ₹3 lakh, while JAC board toppers were also given scooters.

100% scholarships are being offered for higher education abroad.

Under the Guruji Credit Card Scheme, students can avail up to ₹15 lakh in education loans without collateral.

Various scholarship amounts have been increased to ease the financial burden on students.

### Teachers and Schools Honoured

**At the ceremony, appointment letters were distributed symbolically to the new recruits:**

33 postgraduate trained teachers, 909 assistant professors (Maths and Science), 33 laboratory assistants. Additionally, students and schools excelling in board

examinations and competitive exams were honoured, including those trained under the Akanksha Coaching Scheme.

### Collective Effort for a Stronger Jharkhand

Soren called on citizens to contribute to the state's development: Every individual, in their own field, has a role to play in building a stronger, leading Jharkhand. Together, we can shape a brighter future."

The event was attended by ministers, senior officials, and dignitaries, including Minister Radhakrishna Kishore, Minister Sanjay Prasad Yadav, Minister Shilpi Neha Turkey, Rajya Sabha MP Mahua Maji, Additional Chief Secretary Avinash Kumar, and others.

## Jharkhand Cabinet forms displacement commission, clears 66 proposals

## DB Reporter

**Ranchi:** The Jharkhand government has approved the formation of the Jharkhand State Displacement and Rehabilitation Commission to ensure the rights and entitlements of displaced people.

The proposal was cleared in Tuesday's cabinet meeting, where the rules and responsibilities of the commission were also finalized. The issue of a Displacement Commission was also raised in the Monsoon Session of the Assembly. The commission will comprise a chairperson and two members. The chairperson must have at least 10 years of experience in matters related to rehabilitation.

Of the two members, one will be a retired administrative service officer and the other a retired district judge. The commission's maximum tenure will be three years. In total, the Cabinet approved 66



proposals. Among them, it was decided that the government residence allotted for life to former CM Shibu Soren (late) will now be allotted for life to his wife, Rupini Soren.

The Cabinet approved several proposals linked to arts and literature. These include the establishment of the Jharkhand State Lalit Kala Academy to promote fine arts, the Jharkhand Sahitya Academy, and the Jharkhand State Sangeet Natak Academy.

Approval was also granted for amendments to the Jharkhand

Tourism Development and Registration Act.

### 238 Crore for Rehabilitation of 35 Dams

The Cabinet sanctioned ₹238 crore for the rehabilitation of 35 dams in the state under phases one and two of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project.

Of this, 70 per cent will be funded by the World Bank, while 30 per cent will be borne by the state government. Additionally, administrative approval was given for ₹1,891.67 crore for the Punasi Reservoir Project.

## PM Modi slams Cong-RJD alliance for derogatory remarks against his mother at Bihar rally

## Agency

**New Delhi/Patna:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today came down heavily on the Congress-RJD alliance in Bihar, condemning the use of derogatory language against his late mother during their political rally recently in the poll-bound State.

Addressing a programme of Bihar State Jeevika Nidhi Credit Cooperative Society through video conferencing, Modi got emotional while speaking and said the abusive words used against his mother reflect the mentality of Congress and RJD. He accused them of nurturing the feeling of hatred against women. He minced no words as he said the remarks



against his mother were not merely a personal affront but an insult to every mother and sister in the country and that he was deeply hurt by the demeaning remark. Modi further said "the Indian land never tolerates humiliation of a mother and the Congress RJD should apologize to the women of the country and especially the 'Chhathi Maiya' (the famous deity of the internationally known Chhath festival of Bihar) and the 'Saptabhin' (social

offerings to exhibit respect to the Seven Sisters- the rivers of the Eastern region)." 'Mother is our entire world, mother is our pride. In this culturally rich land of Bihar, what happened a few days ago, I could never have imagined it. From the stage of RJD and Congress, my mother was abused. These abuses are not just an insult to my mother. They are an insult to the mothers, sisters, and daughters of this country, said the Prime Minister.

## DGP holds meeting in view of Karma Puja and Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi

## DB Reporter

**Ranchi :** DGP Anurag Gupta held a review meeting on Tuesday at the auditorium of Jharkhand Police Headquarters regarding the upcoming festivals Karma Puja, Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi. In the meeting, the DGP gave several guidelines to the Zonal IG, DIG of the range and SP of the district regarding the security and law and order of the state.

DGP asked to take action against anti-social elements. He also instructed to ensure deployment of magistrates and adequate police



force at sensitive places to maintain law and order during the festivals.

### Instructions for using electronic surveillance equipment

DGP directed to use CCTV and other electronic surveillance equipment to strengthen the security system. DGP further said that there is

a need to keep special vigil in sensitive and hypersensitive areas by physically verifying the routes of the procession. Along with the processions, arrangements were made for aerial surveillance by magistrates, police force, QRT and drones. Instructions were given to keep a strict vigil on rumours and inflammatory posts spreading on social media. Also, emphasis was laid on establishing harmony between different communities by organizing peace committee meetings at the district and police station level.

## Ghatsila Assembly by-election: Special summary revision of voter list begins

## DB Reporter

**Ranchi:** Chief Electoral Officer K. Ravi Kumar has said that on the instructions of the Election Commission of India, special summary revision (SSR) of the voter list has been started in view of the by-election to be held in 45-Ghatsila (ST) assembly constituency. This revision is being done on the basis of the eligibility date of 1



July 2025.

In a meeting with representatives of recognized political parties at the Election House on Monday, he said that to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out of the

voter list and no ineligible person is included in it, all parties should ensure the appointment of Booth Level Agents (BLA-1 and BLA-2) at every polling station. Ravi Kumar informed

that those polling stations of Ghatsila assembly constituency have been adjusted where the number of voters was more than 1200. He informed that the publication of the draft voter list will be done on 2 September, the time for claims and objections has been kept from 2 to 17 September, the final publication of the voter list will be on 29 September.

## India launches 'Adi Vaani', first AI-powered translator for tribal languages

## Agency

**New Delhi:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs on Monday launched the beta version of 'Adi Vaani', the country's first artificial intelligence-powered translator for tribal languages, aimed at preserving indigenous heritage and improving access to education, healthcare and governance.

The platform, developed by a consortium led by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, will initially support Santali, Bhili, Mundari and Gondri, with Kui and Garo under development. The serv-



ice is live on a government portal portal <https://adivaani.tribal.gov.in> with a mobile version expected shortly.

Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey, who unveiled the initiative in New Delhi, said the tool would help bridge communication gaps for remote communities and empower tribal youth.

Vibhu Nayar, secretary of the tribal affairs ministry, described the project as a low-cost innovation, developed at roughly one-tenth the cost

of commercial alternatives, using linguistic data collected by state Tribal Research Institutes. He added that the platform features a feedback system to ensure continuous improvement through community participation.

According to the ministry, 'Adi Vaani' will enable real-time translation between Hindi, English and tribal languages, digitize folklore and oral traditions, and provide subtitled advisories, including health messages and prime minis-

terial speeches.

By digitizing and preserving tribal linguistic heritage, Adi Vaani aligns with national missions such as Digital India, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, PM JANMAN, Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan.

The ministry expects the platform to empower more than 20 lakh tribal change leaders and contribute to building an inclusive, knowledge-driven Viksit Bharat by 2047.





# Karma Festival Symbolizes Nature, Culture, and Faith: Sudhir Manglesh

patients suffering from many serious diseases do not have sufficient financial resources for treatment, while the state government is running Ayushman Yojana for such people.

He directed to get Aadhar seeding and e-KYC done for all ration card holders. The Deputy Commissioner directed the CS and MOIC to work in target mode to speed up this work. Along with this, he ordered the District Planning Officer and the Civil Surgeon to monitor this work and provide a progress report daily.

protection," he said.

**Why Karma is Celebrated:**

He explained that Karam Devta is believed to protect society, relieve hardships, and strengthen the sacred bond between brothers and sisters. Therefore, Karma is not just a festival of devotion, but also one of familial love and cultural identity.

# Karma Festival is a Grand Celebration of Nature and Heritage: Dr. Sunil Kashyap

students and faculty, bringing the region's cultural legacy to life. The event was attended by university officials including Finance & Accounts Officer Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Controller of Examinations Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar, Management Committee Member Ajay Kumar, department heads, faculty members, and hundreds of students. The program concluded with the distribution of traditional Akari-Batari prasad.

## Lunar Eclipse on September 7 to Bring Mixed Effects for Zodiac Signs: Astrologer Mithlesh Tiwari

### Beneficial Effects for Some Signs:

**Aries (Mesh):** The eclipse falls in the 11th house, the house of gains. Unexpected financial benefits, career advancement, and family wellness are on the horizon.

► **Taurus (Vrishabh):** Though mixed in effect, the eclipse in the 10th house (career) may bring professional growth. Health and paternal care are areas of concern.

► **Gemini (Mithun):** The eclipse in the 9th house may remove delays and bring success in pending tasks. Financial gains are possible, but health should not be ignored.

► **Leo (Singh):** The eclipse in the 7th house may affect marital and business partnerships. Exercise patience and control over emotions.

fied. Markacho officials and the fire brigade arrived promptly and managed to control the fire after intense efforts. Local residents estimate the loss at around one crore rupees. No casualties were reported. The cause of the fire is under investigation.





# M P Manish Jaiswal Lays Foundation Stone for ₹1.3 Crore School Upgradation Project in Vishnugarh

**DB Reporter**  
**Vishnugarh:** Hazaribagh MP Manish Jaiswal on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for a major school upgradation project at Rajkiyakrit Uchch Vidyalaya in Uchchaghana, under Jobar Panchayat of Vishnugarh block. The project, costing ₹1.3 crore, is funded under the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) by the Hazaribagh Zila Parishad.

During the ceremony, MP Jaiswal unveiled the foundation plaque and formally inaugurated the project by breaking a coconut, following traditional rituals. He was warmly welcomed by students and local residents with drumbeats, garlands, and enthusiastic cheers.



Addressing the gathering, the MP highlighted the effective use of DMFT funds in driving development across the region. He outlined that the project includes renovation of all classrooms, demolition and reconstruction of boundary walls, installation of toilets and drinking water facilities, and complete painting of the school premises.

Jaiswal expressed confidence that the improved infrastructure would provide a better learning environment for students and significantly uplift the educational standards in the area. He emphasized that such initiatives are vital for strengthening rural education and ensuring long-term benefits for future generations.

# Grand Karma Festival Celebrated in Kodarma; Barhi MLA Participates

**DB Reporter**  
**Kodarma:** The Karma Festival was grandly celebrated at Baradiha village ground in Bhondo Panchayat, Chandwara block, organized by the Ghatwar-Ghatwal Adivasi Mahasabha. Barhi MLA Manoj Yadav was the chief guest, along with district councillor Renu Kumari and several key leaders including Ghatwar-Ghatwal provincial president

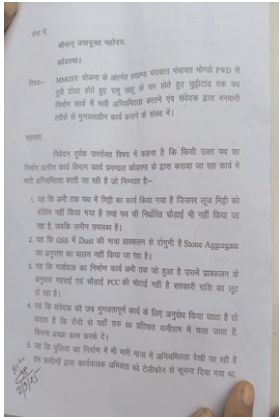


Kashi Nath Singh. The guests were warmly welcomed with traditional rituals including tilak and mala ceremony. District

Singh and deputy secretary Vinod Singh. In his address, MLA Manoj Yadav praised the event and urged the government to include the Ghatwar-Ghatwal community in the Scheduled Tribes list, recognizing them as protectors of forests and nature. Leaders emphasized preserving traditions, strengthening the organization, and environmental protection.

# Villagers Allege Irregularities in MMGSY Road Construction in Bhondo Panchayat

**DB Reporter**  
**Chandwara (Kodarma):** Villagers of Bhondo Panchayat under Chandwara block have raised serious concerns over alleged irregularities in the MMGSY road construction project carried out by the PWD. The villagers have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner for a thorough investigation. According to the locals, the contractor working on



the road from Turi Tola via Ramu Saw's house to Ghutti Tand is performing

substandard work. They claim the road lacks proper soil rolling, the width is below standard, dust quantity in the GSB layer is doubled, and the stone aggregate ratio is incorrect. Additionally, the culvert and embankment constructions do not meet the approved depth, width, and PCC thickness. When villagers raised quality concerns, the contractor reportedly threat-

ened them, admitting that 60% commission goes to Ranchi, questioning how better work could be done. Villagers fear misuse of public funds and have urged the Deputy Commissioner to conduct a high-level inquiry to ensure quality construction. Several locals, including Kaleswar Saw, Suresh Saw, Mahesh Saw, and others, were present during the complaint.

# Over 500 Ponds to be Constructed in Dhanbad; Target to Plant 5-10 Lakh Trees



**DB Reporter**  
**Dhanbad:** In a major initiative for water conservation, over 500 ponds, each spanning 2 to 3 acres, will be constructed along roadsides across Dhanbad this year. Ponds will also be developed near Jal Minar to ensure adequate water supply during summers, easing water scarcity for residents. Aditya Ranjan, District Magistrate and Collector, announced this

during the Environment Festival at New Town Hall on International Clean Air Day. He emphasized the district administration's focus on water and environmental conservation, with a goal to plant 5 to 10 lakh trees. He called for community involvement to reduce plastic use, manage electronic waste, and protect groundwater and ponds. Forest Divisional Officer highlighted environmen-

tal protection as both a challenge and opportunity, urging public awareness. Municipal Commissioner Ravi Raj Sharma shared that Dhanbad has seen a 54% drop in PM10 and significant improvement in air quality over five years. The event also featured competitions on environmental themes and awards for notable contributions to greenery in the district.

# Cancer patient got immediate assistance of 50 thousand and big relief of 15 lakhs: Dr. Irfan



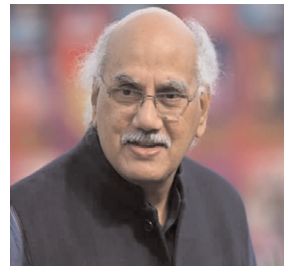
**DB Reporter**  
**Ranchi.** On the instructions of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, a big relief has been provided to cancer patient Mohammad Aziz, a resident of Doranda, Ranchi. He has been given immediate financial assistance of Rs 50 thousand, while the Health Department will give an amount of 15 lakhs for his complete

treatment. Dr. Irfan Ansari, Health Minister of Jharkhand Government, issued a press release on Tuesday and gave this information. He said that he has got deep satisfaction by helping the patient and his family in this difficult time. The Jharkhand government is determined to reach out to every poor and needy and make

complete arrangements for their treatment. We are grateful to Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who took such a sensitive decision for the poor and the needy. The Health Minister said that if the effort made by him proves to be a boon for someone, then he will never back down from working in public interest.

# Chancellor Santosh Choubey's New Story Collection 'Gareebnawaaz' to Be Launched on September 4 in Delhi

**DB Reporter**  
**Hazaribagh:** Renowned poet, storyteller, and Chancellor of AISECT University, Santosh Choubey, is set to launch his latest short story collection 'Gareebnawaaz' on September 4 at the Sahitya Akademi auditorium in Delhi. The event, jointly organized by Vanmali Srijan Peeth and Rajkamal Prakashan Group, will also include a panel discussion on the book. The university's registrar, Dr. Munish Govind, shared the details, announcing that senior writer Janaki Prasad Sharma will preside over the event. Choubey will also conduct a live reading from his new collec-



tion. The welcome address will be delivered by poet Leeladhar Mandloi, President of Vanmali Srijan Peeth. A panel discussion will feature noted literary figures including critic-editors Akhilesh and Vinod Tiwari, storyteller Alpana Mishra, and writer Ashutosh. The session will be moderated by young writer Pranjal Dhar, while Ashok Maheshwari of Rajkamal Prakashan will give the vote of thanks.

# Karma Mahotsav Celebrated in Shivadih with Cultural Fervor and Environmental Pledge

**DB Reporter**  
**Barkagaon:** The vibrant spirit of Jharkhand's folk culture came alive at Shivadih playground during the Karma Mahotsav, celebrated with the dual purpose of preserving nature and promoting cultural heritage. The event featured a lively Jhumar dance competition, where women and young girls performed traditional songs focused on education and alcohol



awareness, accompanied by rhythmic beats of mandar and nagada. The festival was inaugurated by MLA Roshan Lal Chaudhary, who

emphasized that Karam Parab is a vital symbol of cultural identity, unity, and heritage. He stated that such events connect the youth to their roots

and reaffirm commitment to Jharkhand's rich traditions. Artists dressed in yellow-red sarees and traditional dhotis energized the event. Shivadih won first place in the competition, followed by Sandh and Upar Tola Shivadih. The event saw participation from local leaders, including Zila Parishad member Sunita Devi and several former and current Panchayat representatives.

# Minister Shilpi Neha Tirkey Reviews Development Projects at 'DISHA' Meeting

**DB Reporter**  
**Ranchi:** Jharkhand Agriculture Minister Shilpi Neha Tirkey attended the Ranchi District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting on Tuesday, where she reviewed the progress of various development projects and discussed strategies to expedite them. During the meeting, the minister emphasized the need for a comprehensive review of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), highlighting discrepancies between sanctioned targets and completed



units. She proposed forming task forces at the block level to assess the ground realities of implementation. Tirkey also called for an increase in the financial assistance under PMAY from the current

₹1.20 lakh and urged BJP MPs to take up the matter with the central government. She pointed out that rural residents are increasingly favoring the state-run 'Abua Awas Yojana' over PMAY.

mitted. Additionally, villagers in Jugra's Pakwa area selected land for the construction of a new building for the upgraded high school, though FRA approval is still pending. A detailed list of required infrastructure is being prepared for submission to the DC and MLA to initiate further development work.

# Comprehensive Development of Barkagaon Is Our Goal: MLA Roshan Lal Chaudhary

**DB Reporter**  
**Barkagaon:** Villagers displaced by NTPC projects and resettled in areas such as Pandanwa Tand, Pakwa, Jharna, Arahara (TP-5), Dumriyatand, Chakrawar, Badkagada, Simratari, and Upper & Middle Dadi near Chechal Gate No. 4 continue to suffer from lack of basic amenities.



Concerned about this, dozens of villagers, led by Chepkala

Panchayat Mukhiya and AJSU Party Central Secretary Aniket Nayak, submitted a memorandum to Barkagaon MLA Roshan Lal Chaudhary on Friday, demanding urgent provision of electricity, water, education, healthcare, and roads in these resettled villages. Taking swift action, MLA Chaudhary raised the matter with

Hazaribagh Deputy Commissioner Shashi Prakash Singh. Following this, a seven-member team led by trainee IAS officer Anand Sharma visited the villages along with Aniket Nayak and conducted thorough inspections. A site was selected for a new school building in Chechal, and documents under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) were sub-



on Tuesday. Maneshinde told the court that Jarange has filed a fresh application, seeking permission to continue the protest at Azad Maidan but no order has been passed yet. The court said the activist and his supporters cannot occupy Azad Maidan illegally in anticipation of an order on his application. "Ask them to vacate by 3 pm or else we will take all steps as per law. We will impose exemplary costs or we will initiate contempt action. We want complete normalcy by 3 pm, or else we will go out on the streets ourselves," the bench warned.



Editorial

Mother's greatness:  
The world's most  
incomparable gift



Ishtiaq Ahmed  
(DDC,  
Hazaribagh)

**Hazaribagh:** Trying to describe the greatness of a mother in words will always be incomplete. Mother is that relation which sustains the existence of a human being from the first breath of life to the last moment. It is also said that God has given the most beautiful form of his mercy in the form of "mother". This is the reason why the Prophet of Islam said that heaven lies under the feet of the moth-

er. Mother is the real foundation of family and society. She sacrifices her dreams for the happiness of her children. She raises her children without caring about her own comfort. Despite the fatigue of the day and losing sleep at night, she remains busy fulfilling their every need. The truth is that mother's lap is the first school where a child learns the lessons of love, sacrifice and patience.

Every relationship in the world is associated with some selfishness or expectation, but mother's relationship is completely selfless and honest. She is the first one to blame herself for her child's failure and is the happiest when he succeeds. A mother's prayer comes from the heart and touches the sky. This is the reason why even the greatest philosophers, writers and poets cannot repay their mother's favor.

Unfortunately, in today's times, incidents like forgetting the sacrifices of mothers and abandoning them in old age homes are increasing. This is a sign of our social and moral degradation. If we want to give our society a better and brighter future, then we must truly accept the place of a mother and her greatness.

In the end it is enough to say that mother is the only person in the world we can substitute with another person. Respecting and serving our mother and earning her blessings are not only our moral responsibility but also a guarantee of our success in this world and the hereafter.

All the love of the world on one side and mother's love on the other; mother's love will always prevail.

# India should move ahead with Swadeshi

To take advantage of this opportunity, we must further strengthen domestic capabilities. The government has already taken important steps, with the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, the recently launched National Manufacturing Mission, and amendments to regulations to prevent trade fraud. These measures, along with India's renegotiation within ASEAN free trade agreements (FTAs) and renewed engagement with the EU, reflect a willingness to align trade policy with the national interest. But much more needs to be done. The CIEU study rightly recommends that India should double public investment in research and development to 2 per cent of GDP, a necessary step if we are to close the innovation gap in semiconductors, clean energy, and next-generation technologies...

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke in clear terms from the ramparts of the Red Fort: The time has come to embrace swadeshi. What began with 'Make in India', evolved into the call for Aatmanirbhar Bharat, is now moving towards a deeper and holistic idea of ??swadeshi. It is not just a slogan. It is a civilisational imperative. It is true that India cannot ignore China, but it cannot rely on it either. Our trade deficit with Beijing crosses \$100 billion every year. Currently, more than two-thirds of our solar modules, more than 70 per cent of our pharmaceutical ingredients and billions of dollars worth of electronics come from across the border. These are not just numbers, these are vulnerabilities. Every container ship coming from Chinese ports is a reminder of our dependence on China. It is in this context that Prime Minister Modi's upcoming visit to China for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit must be seen. His presence there is not a concession, but a statement. India will negotiate, but from a position of clarity and trust. Negotiation does not mean dependence. Negotiation does not mean dilution of national interests. The message is simple: India seeks cooperation as much as possible, but will never com-

promise its economic sovereignty. Recent studies, including the Strategic Imperative for China Studies in India's Geo-Economic Framework prepared by the Council for International Economic Understanding (CIU), underscore this threat.

These studies shed light on how China's state-dominated model—industrial overcapacity, dumping, subsidies and financial engineering—distorts markets and threatens India's manufacturing base. These studies also point to our dangerous dependence on Chinese inputs in pharmaceuticals, electronics and clean energy, and warn that access to such critical commodities can easily be weaponised in times of crisis. These findings make one thing very clear: India cannot adopt a reactive approach, it must adopt a proactive doctrine based on swadeshi. Unlike the Chinese approach, swadeshi is not imperialist. It does not seek to dominate others through debt or coercion. Our swadeshi is based on the principle of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' (the world is one family). Our approach is of self-reliance at home and fair, collaborative partnerships abroad. It is about producing in India not just for ourselves but also for the world, which strengthens resilience and dignity. Globally, the situation is changing. The weaponisation of tariffs, which became evi-

dent in Trump's first term and has now become an integral part of global trade, has forced governments and businesses to rethink their supply chains. Across sectors, companies are looking for alternatives to China. While many call it 'China plus one', India must pursue a bigger idea: Bharat plus many. India has the scale, talent and civilisational ethos to become a trusted hub of manufacturing, technology and services. To leverage this opportunity, we must further strengthen domestic capabilities. The government has already taken significant steps, with the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, the recently launched National Manufacturing Mission, and amendments to rules to prevent trade fraud. These measures, along with India's renegotiation within ASEAN free trade agreements (FTAs) and renewed engagement with the EU, reflect a willingness to align trade policy with national interest. But more needs to be done. The CIEU study rightly recommends that India should double public investment in research and development to 2 per cent of GDP, an essential step if we are to close the innovation gap in semiconductors, clean energy and next-generation technologies. It also calls for a dedicated China Economic Risk Monitoring Unit within the government—an institutional mechanism to

anticipate risks, monitor Chinese practices and inform proactive policymaking. Both are urgent and necessary.

At the same time, swadeshi calls for principle-based partnerships. Whether through the Quad, ASEAN, Africa or Latin America, India must work with like-minded countries to build a genuine multipolar economic order. This is how India can move from the periphery of the 'plus 1' to the centre of the 'many'. When PM Modi travelled to China for the SCO summit, he carried more than just India's negotiating mandate. He carried India's message: our swadeshi is not limited, it is comprehensive. It strengthens our economy, empowers our people, and contributes to a more equitable world order. In an era when trade has become a weapon and supply chains have become battlefields, India's stance must be firm – we will negotiate, but always on our terms. The world does not need another China. The world needs an India, an India that is rooted in swadeshi and follows the path of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam'. Swadeshi is a slogan that was given during the freedom struggle. With this weapon, we can become self-reliant. This will strengthen India and all the people and communities of this country. Therefore, we should pledge to adopt Swadeshi and become self-reliant.

# Why shouldn't Hindi be the national language?

*Along with Hindi and English, there should be knowledge of regional or local languages. For this, the Himachal government has taken a commendable initiative that the last Saturday of the month is Bag Free Day. On this day, students will talk in the local language of their respective regions. On this day, it is mandatory for teachers to communicate with all students in the local language for half an hour...*

Kavita Sisodia

According to Sanatan Dharma, there are 84 lakh species of living beings. All of them must have some dialect or language. Only the creator of the universe can know this deep secret. We can only tell about the language of some living beings. What I mean to say is that everyone has their own language. In our country Bharatvarsh, Sanskrit is said to be the oldest and the mother of other languages, but language is a flowing stream, no one could bind it. Therefore, changes kept happening in it according to time. During the rule of the Mughals, Urdu or Persian language tried to establish its supremacy. Then during the rule of the British, English language became dominant and spread. In India, Sanskrit reached modern Hindi after passing through many stages. Along with this, regional and local languages ??also kept flourishing. In short, there was a three-language controversy in India. In 19th century British India, there was a controversy about whether Hindi or Urdu should be chosen as the national language. During the inde-

pendence movement, religious and political leaders, social reformers, writers and intellectuals supported Hindi and demanded its status as the national language.

India is a country in which about four hundred languages ??and more than three hundred dialects are spoken in twenty nine states and seven union territories. According to the linguistic survey census data report of 2001, 6661 mother tongues are recorded. The question arises that there should be a language which people of the whole country can understand and speak. At one time when our means of transport were not developed, we used to manage with our local mother tongue, but in today's global era, when we go from one state to another for job, business, pilgrimage etc., then the problem of language arises. When a traveler from North India goes to South India, he is neither able to say anything nor understand anything. To solve this problem, a language should be taught compulsorily for the whole country which we can speak and understand in any corner of India. For this, Hindi is the only language which 55 percent of the

population of India knows as their mother tongue or as their second language. Along with this, Hindi is the third most spoken language in the world. Therefore, Hindi is the only language that is capable of becoming the national language. But the matter of concern is that Hindi is opposed in South India, which is absolutely wrong. Hindi should be respected all over India and it should get the status of national language. Similarly, we also need a language that is recognized all over the world. For this, English has been chosen as the international language, because after the Industrial Revolution, the British Empire expanded globally, due to which English became a business and administrative language in colonial countries. In the modern era, commerce, science, technology, diplomacy, arts and formal education all contributed to making English the first global language. English is widely used in the Internet, international organizations and software development.

English is the most widely spoken language in the world, so it was made the international language.

Therefore, English language is also compulsory. Along with Hindi and English, one should also have knowledge of regional or local languages. For this, the Himachal government has taken a commendable initiative that the last Saturday of the month is Bag Free Day. On this day, students will talk in the local language of their respective regions. On this day, it has been made compulsory for teachers to communicate with all students in the local language for half an hour. This is a very good effort because nowadays parents consider it their pride to talk to their children in Hindi or English instead of their own language, due to which we are forgetting the language of our ancestors. There have been many Prime Ministers or great men of our country who were experts in many languages ??and could speak and understand the language of the country they visited. Along with this, we should respect our mother tongue without feeling inferior about it and the coming generation should talk to their elders in their own language at home because there are many precious words, proverbs and idioms in the language of our ancestors which we should learn and by using them we can become a skilled speaker and enrich our language. Sanskrit is the

mother of all languages ??which gives us the knowledge of the vast ocean of our Sanatan Dharma and Hindi is our sister which makes us emotional by simplifying Sanskrit.

English is our adopted sister who introduces us to the latest technical education and makes us known in the world. Our mother tongue reminds us of the love of our grandmothers and parents. Urdu language gives a velvety feeling of culture to those who are interested in Shayari. Even today, even in the Parliament, applause is received for the verses of famous Urdu poets. Urdu ghazals sometimes take a dip in the cool pond of Mushairas of an Anjuman in the wilderness of sadness. Therefore, all languages should be respected and if possible, we should learn as many languages as we can. Nowadays, many new words from other languages are being added to every language, due to which the language has become simple and understandable. Therefore, instead of getting into the language controversy, we should learn the national language Hindi and the international language English and those who are interested in their mother tongue and Shayari should not hesitate in learning the velvety language Urdu or other languages.





# Rollout of next-gen GST reforms will help small businesses: Nirmala Sitharaman

**New Delhi, Agency:** The upcoming next-generation Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms will further simplify tax processes and reduce compliance burdens, particularly for small businesses, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday.

The Finance Minister was speaking at the 120th Foundation Day Celebrations of City Union Bank in Chennai.

"The Prime Minister has recently announced the creation of a task force for next-generation reforms with a clear mandate to simplify regulations, lower compliance costs, and build a more enabling ecosystem for startups, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs. Complementing this is the planned rollout of the next generation of GST reforms with a council meeting



tomorrow and the day after," Sitharaman said, adding that in the coming months, there will be further reduction in compliance burden, making it easier for small businesses to thrive.

The 56th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council will be held on September 3-4, according to an official memo-

random.

According to government sources, the Central Government proposes to eliminate the 12 per cent and 28 per cent GST rates, retaining only 5 per cent and 18 per cent GST rates.

The announcement for the GST council meeting was made days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced during his

Independence Day Speech that people were going to get a very big gift on Diwali and the government had embarked on a "big reform of GST".

Sitharaman said that over the past 11 years, more than 56 crore Jan Dhan accounts have been opened, with a total deposit balance of Rs 2.68 lakh crore. Of these accounts, 67 per cent were opened in rural or semi-urban areas, and women hold 56 percent, she added.

"A bank account is not just a passbook; it is a passport to opportunity, enabling access to credit, savings, insurance and dignity," she added, according to a post on X by Sitharaman's office.

The minister said that India's scheduled commercial banks have recorded massive improvement in their

asset quality and as a result, NPAs have come down.

"Macro stress test results show that the Scheduled Commercial Banks' aggregate capital levels will continue to remain above the regulatory minimum," the post added. Bank deposits with Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) recorded a year-on-year growth of 11.3 per cent as of June-end 2025, slightly lower than the 11.7 per cent growth (net of merger) seen a year earlier, according to the latest quarterly data released by the Reserve Bank of India last Friday.

The surge was primarily driven by a strong rise in term deposits, which grew 13.5 per cent year-on-year, significantly outpacing the modest 5.4 per cent growth in savings deposits.

# ICFAI Business School Equips Students with Bloomberg, SAP Labs



**Hyderabad, Agency:**ICFAI Business School (IBS) has always believed that the best way to prepare future managers is by giving them not just academic knowledge, but also practical exposure to the real-world tools that global businesses rely on. Staying true to this vision, ICFAI Business School (IBS) has equipped all its nine campuses with two advanced learning facilities that place its students ahead of the curve -- the Bloomberg Lab and the SAP Lab. Together, they bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry practice, offering students the confidence and skills to thrive in competitive corporate environments.

Bloomberg labs bring global finance into the classroom

In today's fast-paced business environment, access to real-time data and insights is critical. To prepare students for this reality, ICFAI Business School (IBS) provides Bloomberg Terminals to students across all campuses.

# Design Linked Incentive scheme being expanded with focus on 25 products: Ashwini Vaishnaw

**New Delhi, Agency:** The Union government has expanded its Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme to strengthen India's presence in the global semiconductor industry, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told media at SEMICON India 2025 on Tuesday. The move focuses on 25 identified semiconductor products that must be designed, developed, and produced entirely in India.

"Basically, 25 products have been identified, and the complete design, the IP rights, and most importantly, the export and production of all the 25 chips must be from India. With this thinking, the Design Linked Incentive scheme is being expanded. There will be a



focus on these 25 products," Vaishnaw said. The minister emphasised that the plan aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guidance to establish a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem, rather than pursuing isolated projects. "The Prime Minister has always guided us that the entire ecosystem has to be developed from top to bottom, only then is long-term growth possible and sustainable. Thus, we have heavily focused on the ecosystem around semiconductors," he added. Explaining the importance of this expansion, Vaishnaw highlighted that semiconductors are as critical as steel in modern industries, powering everything.

# Hero Realty unveils Phase-3 of housing project in Mohali



**New Delhi, Agency:** Hero Realty has announced the launch of Phase-3 of its housing project 'Hero Homes' in Mohali's Sector 88. The Phase-3 of the project features 172 spacious 4.5 BHK residences located in two towers along with two clubhouses. Prices for the units start at Rs 3.15 crore.

Hero Realty CEO Rohit Kishore stated, "Hero Homes Mohali Phase-3 is more than just a residential offering, it's a thoughtfully crafted ecosystem where nature, wellness, and community living come together."

# We would like to work with India for semiconductor growth in the world: Tokyo Electron

**New Delhi, Agency:**India is set to become one of the most important semiconductor destinations in the world, according to Fumihiko "Ray" Kaminaga, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Tokyo Electron Limited. Speaking to media at the Semicon India 2025 on Tuesday, Kaminaga said the country's growing pool of talent and government support make it a strong investment choice for the chip-making industry.

While Kaminaga did not provide specific figures for upcoming investments, he made it clear that the company views India as part of its long-term strategy. "Yes, it's a good opportunity, subsidized by the government for the design center and design technologies. We would like to work together for the semiconductor growth in the world. I don't have the numbers. But I'm sure that we will do the



investment," he told media.

Regarding partnerships or joint ventures in India, Kaminaga stated that the company is not currently exploring joint ventures but remains open to collaboration. "Possibility, but we do provide the solution by ourselves. But we are working with our customers and the local suppliers as well. But we don't have an idea today to have a joint venture in India yet," he clarified. Kaminaga explained that Tokyo Electron has already laid a foundation in India with offices and service stations.

# Powering Bharat: Flipkart deepens supply chain footprint across country

**including Varanasi, Patna, Manesar, Ranchi, Ghaziabad, Agra and Agartala**

**Ranchi:** India's home-grown e-commerce giant Flipkart has announced a major expansion of its pan-India supply chain ahead of its flagship festive sale, The Big Billion Days. The company has added new fulfilment centres (FCs), regional distribution hubs (RDCs), and last-mile facilities in key states including Uttar Pradesh (Varanasi, Agra, Ghaziabad), Bihar (Patna), Haryana (Manesar), Jharkhand (Ranchi) and Tripura (Agartala).

The expansion spans 35 lakh sq. ft., covering over 21,000 pincodes across India. Flipkart's infrastructure now includes 100+ fulfilment centres nationwide, supporting faster deliveries, a wider product assortment, and millions of festive orders.

Varanasi FC: Spread across 2 lakh sq. ft., creating 3,600 jobs. Patna FC: 4.5 lakh sq. ft., serving 1,000+ pincodes and generating 1,100 jobs. Manesar RDC: India's largest state-of-the-art facility on 140 acres, providing 10,000+ employment opportunities.

Agartala FC: First grocery fulfilment centre in Northeast India, handling 5,000 orders per day. Flipkart has also launched 400 micro-fulfilment centres and dark stores across 19 cities under the Flipkart Minutes network, enabling faster delivery of essentials and festive products.

# Jharkhand's Gig Work Law Not Aligned With Other States' Laws, Diverges From Labour Code Passed By The Centre: IAMAI

**Ranchi :** In a letter to the Department of Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development, Government of Jharkhand, the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has highlighted several structural concerns about the recently passed Jharkhand Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2025 (Bill). As per IAMAI, the Bill, once enacted in its current form, could jeopardise innovation, reduce earning opportunities for Jharkhand's gig workers, and hinder platform-based businesses vital to the state's growth. One of the key concerns raised by IAMAI is the exclusion of platform companies from the current structure of the Welfare Board that is to be formed as per the Bill. Without collective representation from all sections of the gig ecosystem, including industry, the board's decision-making risks being both incomplete and disconnected from market realities.

# Tata Digital Leads Charge in Democratizing Credit on ONDC Network

**Ranchi :** Tata Digital is rapidly emerging as one of the frontrunners in the movement to democratize credit access in India through its early and impactful adoption of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). As one of the first and largest buyer platforms for financial services on ONDC, Tata Digital has already facilitated over a million applications in personal loans within the last 3 months, contributing the largest share of applications, users and disbursals on the ONDC Network.

This significant early traction is a direct result of Tata Digital's extensive scale, consumer trust, and broad reach and aligns seamlessly with ONDC's core vision of creating an open, interoperable, and inclusive framework for digital services. At the heart of this effort is Tata Digital's robust loan marketplace, hosted on Tata Neu, which now features 14 lending partners, including two that were integrated via ONDC Network. This multi-lender setup ensures greater flexibility, competitive pricing, and customized loan options for both salaried and self-employed individuals, including those who are new to credit.

"Our participation on the ONDC network signals Tata Digital's commitment to supporting India's digital public infrastructure and democratizing access to financial products," said Gaurav Hazrati, President, Financial Services, Tata Digital. "Our loan marketplace on Tata Neu now features 14 lenders across varied product categories. We've seen a strong uptake particularly in gold loans, reflecting the platform's adaptability to shifting market preferences and evolving consumer needs."

Vibhor Jain, Acting CEO and COO at ONDC said, "ONDC Network is transforming how credit is accessed and delivered in India. With a single and seamless integration, fintechs can instantly connect with a wide network of lending partners, and vice versa; while consumers gain transparent access to multiple loan options without having to approach each lender individually. By leveraging the power of derived data — this open and interoperable network makes it possible to responsibly underwrite and extend credit to unserved and under-served segments, driving true financial inclusion at scale."

# S. N. Pradhan appointed Global CEO & Chief Mentor of CyberPeace

**Ranchi:** CyberPeace has appointed Shri S. N. Pradhan, IPS (Retd.), former DG of NDRF and NCB, as its Global CEO & Chief Mentor, effective 1 September 2025. The move aims to strengthen global cyber safety, resilience, research, diplomacy, and peacebuilding. In his new role, Pradhan will lead CyberPeace's worldwide strategy, partnerships, and impact programs, while mentoring the next generation of cyber leaders across governments, industry, academia, and civil society. A veteran police officer, he brings decades of experience in crisis management, technology-driven policing, disaster response, counter-threat operations, and institution building, having served in senior leadership positions including Director General and Joint Secretary in central organizations. Commenting on his appointment, Pradhan said, "Cyber harm respects no borders. I am honoured to join CyberPeace to scale a mission that unites nations, regulators, platforms, and communities around trust and safety." CyberPeace Founder Vineet Kumar said Pradhan's combination of strategic clarity and opera-









BCCI announces release of IEOI for Team India sponsorship rights, blocks online gaming, betting, gambling, tobacco brands from bidding

**Mumbai, Agency :** The Board of Control for Cricket in India on Tuesday announced the release of the Invitation for Expression of Interest for National Team Lead Sponsor Rights.

In a statement, BCCI said, "The Board of Control for Cricket in India ("BCCI") invites bids from reputed entities for acquiring the National Team Lead Sponsor Rights. Accordingly, the BCCI is issuing an Invitation for Expression of Interest for National Team Lead Sponsor Rights ("IEOI"), which provides the detailed terms and conditions governing the submission and evaluation of bids. The IEOI will be made available on receipt of payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs 5,00,000 (Indian Rupees

Five Lakh Only) plus any applicable Goods and Services Tax."

The bidders may note the following timelines with respect to the IEOI:

- Date of release of IEOI: September 2, 2025
- Last date to purchase the IEOI: September 12, 2025
- Date of submission of bid Documents: September 16, 2025

Bidders are requested to email the details of payment made for the purchase of the IEOI to sponsorship@bcci.tv. It is clarified that the IEOI documents shall be shared only upon the confirmation of payment of the non-refundable IEOI fee. Any bidder wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the IEOI. However, only those satisfying the eligibility requirements set out in the IEOI and subject to



the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid. It is clarified that merely purchasing the IEOI does not entitle any person to bid.

BCCI reserves the right to cancel or amend the IEOI process at any stage in any manner without providing any reason. The parties ineligible to bid are those engaged in online

gaming, betting, gambling services or similar services in India or across the world.

"Bidder, including any of its Group companies: (i) should not be engaged in online money gaming, betting or gambling services or similar services in India or anywhere in the world; (ii) should not provide any online money gaming, bet-

ting or gambling services or similar services to any Person in India; and (iii) should not have any investment or ownership interest in any Person engaged in betting or gambling services in India. To clarify, a bidder, including any of its Group companies, engaged in any activities/business that is prohibited under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 is not permitted to submit a bid." Also, the bidder, including any of its group companies "should not be directly or indirectly engaged in the business of crypto trading or crypto exchange, crypto token or any business of a similar nature"

"A bidder operating or engaged in multiple brand/product categories, one of which falls under

Manchester City announce Donnarumma's arrival on five-year deal after Ederson's exit



**Manchester, Agency :** More than two hours after announcing the exit of Ederson, Manchester City confirmed the arrival of Gianluigi Donnarumma from Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday. Manchester City released a statement to announce the arrival of the towering Italian goalkeeper, which read, "Manchester City are pleased to confirm the signing of Gianluigi Donnarumma from Paris Saint-Germain, subject to international clearance."

The 26-year-old has penned a five-year contract that will keep him at the Etihad Stadium until the summer of 2030. At 6ft 5ins, Donnarumma arrives in Manchester with a wealth of experience. He began his career with the Serie A powerhouse AC Milan. He rose through the club's academy and made his senior debut as a 16-year-old.

He made 250 appearances in total for Milan and played a pivotal role in their 2016 Italian Super Coppa title-winning run. He moved to France in the summer of 2021, joined Paris Saint-Germain and spent four seasons with them. During his time at Parc des Princes, he was fundamental in PSG claiming a quartet of Ligue One crowns, two Coupe de France successes, as well as a hat-trick of Trophee des Champions titles, along with a maiden UEFA Champions League trophy last season.

"To have signed for Manchester City is such a special and proud moment for me. I am joining a squad packed with world-class talent and a team led by the one of the greatest managers in the history of football in Pep Guardiola. This is a club every player in world football would love to join," Donnarumma said in a statement released by the club.

Prime Volleyball League unveils Season 4 schedule



**Hyderabad, Agency:**With exactly one month to go, the Prime Volleyball League released the fixtures for Season 4 on Tuesday, which will run from October 2 to October 26.

The season begins with the host team, the Calicut Heroes, the champions of Season 3, taking on the Hyderabad Black Hawks on opening night and will conclude with the finals on October 26.

This season features a 10-team line-up with the addition of the Goa Guardians, making it the biggest edition yet. Teams will be divided into two pools of five each. A total of 38 matches will be played, comprising 35 in the league stage. Each team will play four matches against teams in their own pool and three against teams from the opposing pool.

Here is why former India spinner Ashwin didn't feaure in SA20 2026 player auction list

**New Delhi, Agency :** Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who has been heavily linked with different overseas franchise leagues following his retirement from the Indian Premier League (IPL), was a notable absentee in the player auction list of SA20 2026.

Recently, Ashwin spilled the beans on his plans, saying that he could play two to three leagues in a year and is available to take up a coaching role for a franchise as well.

There were speculations that Ashwin could enter the SA20 2026 auction, considering players retired from Indian cricket being eligible to participate in the overseas league. However, to everyone's surprise, the 38-year-old's name was nowhere to be found on the SA20 player auction list.

Intially, there were specu-



lations about BCCI's earlier one-year-long "cooling-off" requirement still being in place. The policy was proposed in 2023, and Ambati Rayudu had to withdraw from the Major League Cricket (MLC) after retiring from the IPL. Various reports suggest

that the policy was withdrawn after players expressed their dissatisfaction. According to Wisden, Ashwin's absence isn't linked to any restriction but stems from his interest in participating in the ILT20 auction pool, as the tournament will be held around the same time as the SA20. While South Africa's T20 tournament begins in Decemeber and runs for a month, ILT20 will kick off on January 11 next year. With half of the tournament overlapping, Ashwin opted to compete in ILT20.

Last year, Ashwin announced his retirement from Test cricket in the middle of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia. The veteran all-rounder sent shockwaves through the cricketing fraternity by announcing his retirement from international cricket following the draw in the third Test at Brisbane.

Ederson leaves Manchester City after eight years to join Fenerbahce

**Manchester, Agency:** Brazilian goalkeeper Ederson has brought the curtains down on his trophy-laden eight years with Manchester City after joining Turkish club Fenerbahce on Tuesday.

Manchester City released a statement to announce the departure of one of their most successful players and wrote, "He has left City to join Turkish side Fenerbahce, subject to international clearance. Everyone at Manchester City wishes Ederson the best in the next stage of his career.

During his eight years



in Manchester, Ederson won 18 major honours under manager Pep Guardiola, comprising six Premier League titles, two

FA Cups, four League Cups, three Community Shields, and the club's first-ever Champions League, UEFA Super Cup,

and FIFA Club World Cup successes.

With six league titles, Ederson is the most decorated goalkeeper in the Premier League era of English football. Before him, former Liverpool man Bruce Grobbelaar is the only other goalkeeper to have also won the English top-flight title six times in the sport's history. I leave Manchester City incredibly proud of what we have achieved together, and I am honoured to have worn the shirt so many times. Under Pep, we have won dominated the Premier League and conquered Europe.

McMillan appointed full-time assistant coach of New Zealand women's team ahead of ODI World Cup

**Wellington, Agency:** Craig McMillan has been named full-time New Zealand women's assistant coach after serving in a part-time role in the position for just over a year.

With his appointment "officially beginning this week", McMillan will work alongside head coach Ben Sawyer and batting coach Dean Brownlie. In a statement on Tuesday, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said, "McMillan will dedicate his time solely to the White Ferns and the female Players of Interest programme."

As McMillan joins the women's team in a full-time role, he will step back from his successful commentary career and



other coaching commitments. McMillan, who was part of the management during New Zealand women's team title-winning run in the T20 World Cup last year, expressed his delight at joining the side on a full-time basis. I'm over the moon to be in this role with the White Ferns.

Premier League: Alexander Isak reveals "biggest motivation" to join Liverpool

**Liverpool, Agency:** Sweden striker Alexander Isak explained the motive behind his decision to join Liverpool, who broke the bank and shelled out a record transfer fee to sign him from Newcastle United.

On the final day of the transfer window, Liverpool eventually got the target that they desired and brought in Isak for a British record fee of £125m. He arrived in the Premier League from the Spanish club Real Sociedad in the summer of 2022.

After joining Newcastle, Isak grew in stature and established himself as one of the league's most prolific strikers. He racked up 62 goals in 109 appearances for

the Magpies at St. James' Park. There were speculations that the move would fall apart, considering the duration and the associated costs.

Isak was left out of Newcastle's squad for their preseason tour to Asia due to a thigh injury. He was also absent from Newcastle's friendly match against Celtic due to uncertainty surrounding his future. As speculation grew, he dropped a bombshell statement, claiming that Newcastle had broken his trust. He started training separately from the first team and remained absent from Newcastle's first three fixtures. The move eventually happened after Newcastle found Isak's replacement. For



the 25-year-old, the decision to move to Anfield was simple: the history, the opportunity to be a part of it and taking his game to the next level.

"I think it's a mixture of what the club is building, but what they're building on top

of what the club already is. The history of the club. Me getting the chance to be a part of this, I want to create history. I want to win trophies," Isak said as quoted from the club's official website.

That's ultimately the biggest motivation for me, and I feel like this is the perfect place for me to grow even further and to take my game to the next level and help the team as well. Yeah, for sure. I feel like this is the next step for me in my career. I'm super-happy that I've been given this chance and I'm very motivated to do something well with it," he added.

Isak has netted 54 goals in 86 Premier League outings for the Magpies.

Back issue returns to haunt Australia captain Pat Cummins, set to miss India series, doubtful for Ashes

**Canberra, Agency:** Australia captain Pat Cummins has faced a massive setback as his Ashes preparations have been compromised after a scan revealed lumbar bone stress in his lower back, which has left him on the sidelines for the three white-ball series against New Zealand and India.

Following the recent whammy, Cummins won't captain the Baggy Greens in a series that will feature batting stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who are returning after their Test retirements, in three ODIs starting on October 19.

Australia's Test and ODI skipper Cummins hasn't played a single game since competing in the three Tests in the Caribbean, where his bowling rate was significantly lower than usual. He sat out of the five T20Is against the West Indies and both white-ball series against South Africa, which was presumed to give physical strength for the Ashes, which will kick off on November 21 in Perth.