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Close To Suvendu Adhikari, Away From NDA : Curious Case of 3 Trinamool Rebels



Kolkata: Senior Trinamool Congress leader Saugata Roy dropped a bombshell today by claiming that some of the rebel MPs are in touch with him, exploring a way to return. Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, who arrived in Delhi today, had invited all 20 MPs to lunch at Banga Bhavan. All 20 turned up - including the three Muslim MPs who had skipped the NDA meeting. A delicious meal was served to the MPs, featuring dishes such as Hilsa fish and prawns, alongside "Chhola Dal" (Bengal gram lentils). Union Environment Minister Bhopendra Yadav and BJP MP Nishikant Dubey - who played pivotal roles in the Trinamool rebellion - were also present at the lunch. A senior BJP

leader said the absent MPs are also aligned with the NDA. Their decision to stay away from the NDA meeting is a strategic move. The Speaker has not yet approved the merger of these 20 MPs into the NCPI.

The Lok Sabha website still lists them as Trinamool MPs. Read: Opinion: Battle For Legacy Over July 21 Remembrance In Bengal When some of them rose to speak in the House, their party affiliation was displayed as Trinamool on television broadcasts. Pending the Speaker's decision, they are seated separately from the Trinamool MPs in the Lok Sabha. Sources indicated that there appear to be technical issues preventing the recognition of their merger. Trinamool leader Abhishek Banerjee has already submitted petitions to the Speaker seeking the disqualification of all 20 MPs. Later today, Suvendu Adhikari later met Speaker Om Birla at the Parliament House as well.

India-Flagged Ship Sinks After Attack In Red Sea, 13 Indian Sailors Rescued



Yemeni: An India-flagged cargo vessel overturned and sank in the Red Sea off Yemen's western coast after it was attacked by a projectile on Tuesday. There were 14 crew members on the ship, of which 13 were Indian sailors and one was Yemeni. All 14 sailors were rescued by Yemeni forces and have received medical assistance. The vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya, was attacked about 13 nautical miles south of the Houthi-held port city of Hodeidah. The Yemeni National Resistance Force, also known as the Guards of the Republic, in a statement said that the coast guard and naval units carried out a joint operation to rescue the sailors. They also blamed the Houthi

group for the attack. India in a statement strongly condemned the "unprovoked" attack on the ship near Yemeni waters. The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda

Sonowal, said that the Indian vessel was hit by a projectile which caused the ship to overturn and sink. He said that he has instructed the Director General Maritime Administra-

tion (DGMA) to take immediate steps in coordination with all agencies to ensure the security of Indian seafarers in the region and provide necessary assistance to the rescued crew.

MEA Slams Pakistan Over PoJK Unrest, Says 90 Civilians Killed In 'Brutality' By Forces

New Delhi : India on Tuesday slammed Pakistan for its continued oppression of civilians in Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, which has seen the death of at least 90 civilians, urging the international community to hold Pakistan accountable. The remarks were made by the Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal during a bilateral

press briefing in the national capital on Tuesday. Delhi: MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal says, "What is happening in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is deeply concerning. As I just told you, 90 people have been killed in the brutality carried out by Pakistani forces, and the international community must hold Pakistan accountable for. When asked about calls for

a shutdown in Pakistani universities as the anniversary approaches of the abrogation of Article 370, Jaiswal said, "Regarding the question on August 5, first, let us focus on what's happening in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. 90 people have been killed in the brutality by the Pakistani forces and the international community must take and

must hold Pakistan accountable for these atrocities." MEA spokesperson, in his remarks, slammed the recently conducted so-called elections in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, urging the global community to pay heed to the atrocities committed by the Pakistani establishment against civilians. "This so-called local election in PoK is a complete farce.



'Allow Me to Meet Jagan'

- Borugadda Anil Stages Protest at Tadepalli



From Our Staff Reporter Tadepalli, August 4: Borugadda Anil launched a sharp attack on the YSR

Congress Party (YSRCP) by staging a protest outside the residence of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in Tadepalli on Tuesday. Accompanied by his wife, Borugadda Anil demanded that he be allowed to meet Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He expressed anger over Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy's reported remarks asking him not to visit the YSRCP Office.

"It is strange that Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy says he

does not know who I am. He should publicly apologize to me and my family," Borugadda Anil demanded. 'Ready Even to Sacrifice My Life' Borugadda Anil further demanded that Karumuri Venkata Reddy, who allegedly called him a "rowdy-sheeter," be expelled from the party. He also accused Boddu Srihari of being part of a conspiracy. "I worked for the party for ten years. I spent nine months in jail. There are 22 cases against me. I am ready to sacrifice my life for the party. My bank accounts have been frozen, and my software companies have been shut down. I have been humiliated. Even after calling Jagan's personal assistant, I received no response. When leaders from my own party call me a rowdy-sheeter, my family members, especially my sister, are suffering mentally," Borugadda Anil said.

minister further stated that a large number of public grievances were received during the grievance redressal programme, covering issues related to revenue, land, electricity, and pensions.

Dairy Sector Declined During Y.S. Jagan's Tenure

- Centre Releases Data in Lok Sabha

New Delhi: The Central Government informed Parliament that Andhra Pradesh's dairy sector witnessed a decline during the tenure of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Statistics released by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying during the Lok Sabha Question Hour highlighted the deterioration of the dairy sector in the state. According to the Centre, milk production declined and per capita milk availability also dropped during the previous YSRCP government's tenure, raising concerns about the condition of the dairy industry. The Centre stated that milk production in Andhra Pradesh fell from 15.45 million tonnes to 13.95 million tonnes during the



previous government's tenure, representing a decline of nearly 10 percent in a single year. It also said that per capita daily milk availability decreased from 799 grams to 716 grams. The Centre said these figures re-

flected the challenges faced by the dairy sector during Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration. At the same time, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha that after the NDA coalition government assumed office in Andhra

Pradesh, substantial support has been extended to the dairy sector. Under the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned Rs.115.65 crore. It noted that only Rs.6 crore had previously been allocated under the same scheme, meaning the allocation has now increased by nearly 19 times. The Centre also stated that allocations under the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) have increased, with Andhra Pradesh receiving Rs.6.57 crore under the scheme. In addition, Rs.75.96 crore has been released for disease prevention and free vaccination programmes for livestock. The Centre said that the Union and State Governments are working together to revive the dairy sector in Andhra Pradesh through coordinated efforts and are implementing several initiatives aimed at increasing farmers' incomes as well as boosting milk production.

Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy Slams YSRCP's Rayalaseema Irrigation Projects Protection Yatra

From Our Staff Reporter Nandyal District: Andhra Pradesh Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy strongly criticized the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders for undertaking the Rayalaseema Irrigation Projects Protection Yatra. He alleged that YSRCP leaders were unable to tolerate the coalition government's development and welfare initiatives in the state and were therefore resorting to such actions. The minister said that while the Chandrababu Naidu government was spending thousands of crores of rupees on the de-

velopment of irrigation projects, YSRCP leaders were creating unnecessary controversy. He accused the "fan party" leaders of misleading the public. B.C. Janardhan Reddy stated that the coalition government had spent Rs.12,480 crore on Rayalaseema irrigation projects over the past two years. He added that Rs.35,000 crore has been earmarked for the development of water projects in Rayalaseema over the next three years. For the 2026-27 financial year, the government has allocated ₹10,014 crore to the irriga-

tion sector to accelerate ongoing works. The minister said that an additional Rs.1,180 crore is being spent on the expansion of the Handri-Neeva Phase-II project. He also stated that the Chandrababu Naidu government had allocated Rs.610 crore for the restoration of the Srisailem, Gorukallu, and Alaganur projects. He noted that the Gorukallu Reservoir was completed during Chandrababu Naidu's tenure between 2014 and 2019 and that the coalition government had released Rs.54 crore to prevent leakages in



the reservoir, with restoration work already underway. The minister alleged that the repair cost of the Alaganur Project had increased due to the negligence of the previous YSRCP government. He also criticized the previous government for neglecting the Daddanala Project, which was built at a cost of Rs.20 crore, for five years.

Amaravati, August 4: Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the government has already released a White Paper on the power sector and presented detailed information to the public through a PowerPoint presentation. He alleged that the power sector was weakened during the previous YSRCP government's tenure and said losses were incurred due to the purchase of electricity at high prices. The minister said the coalition government has restored the power sector after coming to power and

added that electricity tariffs were reduced to some extent last year. He also stated that the establishment of new substations is continuing across the state. Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the government is moving forward with the goal of providing lakhs of power connections through solar energy. He added that a large number of agricultural electricity connections are being provided to farmers and that the government is actively promoting large-scale renewable energy projects. He said the expansion of transmission lines is progressing rapidly. The

EDITORIAL

Gen Z will play a key role in the upcoming elections

The Gen Z youth movement has now become a challenge not only to the government but also to the opposition. This is not a movement that supports any single political party. They are all 'floating voters' who change their vote strength depending on the circumstances and the severity of the issues. Therefore, their vote decision seems likely to play a key role in the 2029 elections. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned due to their violent protests over the leakage of the NEET exam question paper. After that, the government agreed to their demands and other developments, although their protests ended, their real impact will be known in the upcoming elections. This movement has sensitized many young voters. It remains to be seen what decision they will take in the elections. If we look at the opposition, they are assessing the Cockroach Janata Party protests as a manifestation of dissatisfaction with the government. They are hoping that they can turn this public opinion into a vote bank for them in the upcoming elections. Their assessment is not wrong, but it is incomplete. People may be dissatisfied with the government. But at the same time, do people have complete trust in the opposition? That is the question. In such circumstances, what determines how the anti-people movement is transformed politically is the alternative, credibility, leadership, and clear action shown by the opposition. In fact, without a leader, without a clear organizational structure, the Cockroach Janata Party took the movement forward by winning the public's support before all the opposition parties. And what could the main opposition parties have done? The Cockroach Janata Party was able to formulate a strategy that completely changed the political equation by mobilizing the public's protests against the government.

Can the opposition come up with such a strategy? Or will it be limited to traditional politics? That is not to say that the opposition parties have not achieved any success. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the India Alliance won a record 43 out of 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh. While the BJP went ahead with the slogan 'Ab ki baar 400 par', the India Alliance campaigned extensively to increase the distrust of the people in the BJP by saying that it would change the constitution if it got 400 seats. However, this will not be the case by the 2029 elections. Now Prime Minister Narendra Modi is changing his strategies from time to time. He is trying to reach the Gen Z youth through Instagram. He is bringing new welfare schemes to the fore according to the needs of the people.

The total number of Lok Sabha seats in the country is being increased from 543 to 850. Along with the implementation of 33 percent reservation for women, a third of the Lok Sabha seats are being reserved for them. The constituencies are being redistributed according to the 2011 population. If this plan is implemented, the biggest change in the Indian parliamentary system in decades is likely to happen before the 2029 elections. In this context, the key segment that political parties need to win over now is the young voters. It is known that these are voters who are not permanently attached to any party. While Indian families traditionally have similar political views, the opinions of young voters are different from them. They are interacting with information tools like social media, online platforms, the Internet, and Instagram.

Therefore, they are thinking away from the opinions of their parents. By 2029, Generation Z will become the largest voting group in the country. By then, Gen Z will have surpassed Millennials and become the most powerful group. More importantly, in 2029, about 50 million to 60 million Indian youth are going to vote for the first time. This new group of voters is more than the entire population of many countries. These youth are not in favor of any single party. Problems like employment problems, rigging in exams, employment with the spread of artificial intelligence, shrinking job opportunities, and other issues are seriously affecting them. That is why the dissatisfaction that no matter which political party comes, their livelihood will be affected has taken root among them. While some of the youth of Genji are hopeful that the government will come down with their movement and get the Union Education Minister to resign, and that it has responded positively to other demands, and that this will solve their problems, others are remembering the brutal repression carried out by the police during the protests at Jantar Mantar and the Parliament march. They are angry that they were beaten with nail-studded batons, used tear gas, stopped the internet, and carried out campaigns that are completely unreliable. Some other politicians are disgusted by the opportunistic attitude. They are criticizing the behavior of chameleonean leaders who appear when the conditions are favorable and disappear when the conditions are difficult. With these bitter experiences, it is impossible to say who the youth will be inclined to vote for.

Inside The Cabinet Drama That Has Shaken The Congress In Karnataka

Even after getting a lion's share of the berths on offer for his supporters in the expanded DK Shivakumar Cabinet on Monday, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's decision to 'boycott' the swearing-in ceremony because of a perceived 'insult' over the appointment of a woman candidate not chosen by him, clearly indicates that the Congress government in Karnataka will have tumultuous days ahead of the state elections in May 2028. Coming exactly two months after he took over as Chief Minister from a reluctant-to-leave Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar's attempt to stem the unrest among legislators and have a full-fledged Cabinet received an unexpected jolt hours before the swearing-in. Siddaramaiah's 'tantrums' over Gayathri Shathegowda, an MLC, being named in the Cabinet list not only delayed the ceremony by one hour, but her name being pulled out at the last minute also caused embarrassment to the party. It appears that Siddaramaiah wanted Basavaraj Shivannavar from Bagalkot to join the Cabinet on the Kuruba 'quota', but the party high command instead chose Gayathri without consulting him. Not only this meant defying Siddaramaiah's 'prerogative' to name a person from his community, but he was also upset that Gayathri had been chosen ahead of his nominee, Umashri, for the women's slot. The party has named Umashri for the Council Deputy Chairperson's post, but neither Umashri nor Siddaramaiah is happy with that. In another episode, Mankala Vaidya, the lone nominee from Uttara Kannada district, was replaced - hours before the swearing-in - by SS Mallikarjun, a party dyast from Davanagere whose father



was a treasurer of the Congress party for decades, while the wife is currently a Lok Sabha member. The son is also an MLA. Mallikarjun claimed that DK Shivakumar had telephoned him, asking him to join the Cabinet; he claimed did not know anything about the last-minute change. Congress sources say that when Shivakumar received the list of ministers from the party headquarters in Delhi, he was shocked to see that his staunch supporter, HC Balakrishna, the Magadi MLA, was not on it. After he protested the exclusion, Balakrishna replaced M Krishnappa, a big-time realtor and a former minister from Bengaluru. Even after all this, there's one close associate, Lakshmi Hebbalkar, whom Shivakumar has not been able to accommodate and who is now reportedly sulking.

Questions About The 'List'
Considering that in a caste-ridden and region-sensitive state like Karnataka Cabinet compositions are always tricky, the Congress leadership had held a series of meetings with Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah, and BK Hariprasad, the newly appointed Karnataka Pradesh

Congress Committee (KPCC) president. They were asked to submit their respective lists of names to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who hails from Karnataka and has intimate knowledge of state politics. The lists were vetted by the party general secretary, KC Venugopal, and AICC's Karnataka in-charge, Randeep Surjewala, and shown to Rahul Gandhi before being released. The fact that the final list of names typed on the AICC letterhead reached media outlets around the same time as the Chief Minister's office - and much before being sent to the Lok Bhavan (formerly, Raj Bhavan) for the Governor's approval - has kicked up a row. The opposition BJP and the JD(S) have accused the Congress of taking away the Chief Minister's right to name his cabinet and reducing him to a 'rubber stamp'. The leader of the Opposition, R Ashok, has questioned the Congress party's "ethical standards" in choosing the nominees for the posts of Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, and also Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council, when this is the 'man-

datory duty' of the legislators. It appears that with less than two years to go for assembly polls, the Congress high command tried to micro-manage the Cabinet formation by getting caste combinations right and giving a major slice of power to numerically strong and influential communities. The 'Ahinda' group led by Siddaramaiah has garnered nearly 60% of the berths, while the Lingayats, scheduled castes, and OBCs have seven representations each. The Vokkaligas have six, the Muslim minorities four, and the Scheduled Tribes three. The Congress is also not aware of the risk of the JD(S) reclaiming some of its former members, and has thus tried to accommodate at least five of them currently in the party.

Rein In The Discontent
Even so, while the election arithmetic may have been aimed at arriving at a 'winning combination', the ground situation betrays a vast amount of discontent among the legislators, which is bound to have an impact on the final outcome. The Congress has 136 MLAs across the state. Despite that, due to a skewed selection, seven districts have gone with-

out any representation, while Bengaluru urban and rural have nine faces. Yashwantreygouda Patil from Indi and Sangamesh from Bhadavati have resigned as MLAs to protest against their exclusion from the cabinet. A few more disgruntled MLAs may or may not join the list of deserters in the days to come, though whether this immediately threatens the stability of the Shivakumar government remains to be seen. Nonetheless, the sea of discontent over the exclusion of many seniors from the cabinet, such as HK Patil, Dinesh Gundu Rao, HC Mahadevappa, TB Jayachandra, CS Nadagouda, Tanveer Sait, Shivananda Patil, BR Patil, RB Thimapura, Sharanabasappa Dharshan apur, and others, is rising and could soon trigger a washout if it boils over as the polls approach. It is important to remember that Siddaramaiah is still smarting at the "humiliation" of being abruptly asked to step down as Chief Minister. Not one to take such things lightly, it won't be surprising if he keeps his doors open to all those who are willing to walk with him. His boycott of the swearing-in is just the first signal.

The Panic In Rawalpindi: Why Pakistani Generals Suddenly Sound So Afraid

Some really curious events are taking place in Pakistan, unusual even for that volatile country. First, there was Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's lecture on the virtual collapse of government and references to the dangers of 'cockroach' protests. Then came the formidable Director-General of Inter Services Public Relations (DG-ISPR), who delivered a two-hour briefing, most of it in English and with figures galore. That was clearly also aimed at foreign audiences, even as his own country virtually collapsed in an orgy of violence. All of this was echoed by others, including prominent journalists, with dire warnings about the dangers from frustrations among the youth. Apparently, a certain insect emerging next door had come to epitomise the fears of the elite in Pakistan.

The Interior Minister's Advice

First, the unusual - and probably unwelcome - suggestions from an Interior Minister who apparently wants to 'reform' the country bottom-up, so as to improve governance and appease the youth. That's odd, coming from a former Punjab Chief Minister who led the 2024 midnight crackdown on protesters from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The incident left four dead and more than 90 injured. There are also allegations of serious corruption, to the tune of millions. Whatever the truth, he hardly has a reputation for model governance. Referring to the 'Cockroach Janata Party' protests in Delhi, he warned, quite rightly as it happens, that Pakistani youth were no longer to be pacified with free laptops and the like, but wanted structural change. His solution was to create more administrative units for better governance. For instance, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has long been de-



manding that Karachi be designated a province separate from Sindh. This is strongly opposed by the PPP, which rules Sindh. Both are also allies of the PML-N government at the Centre. Similarly, the PPP and the PTI have also long called for a South Punjab province, which was opposed by the PML-N. Naqvi also knows well that such a move for new administrative units requires constitutional changes, which can only be done through a two-thirds majority in the House, which the PML-N doesn't have. But it could, if the army says so. Nothing on that yet, but Naqvi was criticised heavily. Interestingly, Naqvi was addressing a group of top businesspersons at the Pakistan Economic Summit 2026, and he quipped that it was, after all, they who were running the country, with their funding worth millions for political parties. He should know. He has been there, done that. Then there was the far more controversial and potentially danger-

ous marathon briefing by Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Choudhry, the DG-ISPR. The objective of his lecture was to blame everyone else - primarily India - for the violence in Balochistan. That blame-game included very obviously lip-synced videos of girls alleging abduction and threats to become suicide bombers, and a clip of a local alleging that all those involved were "Fitna al Hindustan" terrorists. Another set of allegations was against the Taliban, who are accused, ironically, of being entirely different from Pakistanis in their culture. Pity they didn't remember the three decades that they armed the Afghans. Locals also came in for censure, particularly the Sardars of Balochistan, who apparently only care for their own profit. The state government also comes in for blame for not providing equipment for their own paramilitary forces, such as the Levies and Baloch Scouts. But the general should have known that under the seventh National Finance Commission,

Balochistan gets a paltry 9% of the total national pie of the resource pool, compared to about 52% for Punjab, which accounts for 44% of Pakistani territory. Those figures remained out of the narrative. Moreover, the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, also a Sardar, is a man after the army's own heart. He once declared that genocide was the only option to "solve" the Baloch problem. After proving to everyone that given a whopping 200 "intelligence-based operations" a day - a puzzling phrase since all counter-terrorism operations are based on intelligence - the crux of the General's recommendations was that good governance was necessary. Quoting his boss, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Asim Munir, he observed that one should not talk only of rights but also of 'obligations'. The ball went out of the park there. If the army is not responsible for governance, given its supreme position, who is? Certainly not the crippled politicians, or a local administration

that also has army formations in the area breathing down their necks.

Yes, there was not one word on the popular revolt in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The reason for all this alarm is two-fold. One, the Delhi protests caught the imagination of the Pakistani public, leading to much admiration of Indian students' courage in taking on the authorities. The fact that protests in support of PoK took place in Islamabad and Rawalpindi thereafter may be a coincidence, but remember that such protests come in waves across the world, most apparent in the 2010s, when they spread across some 25 countries, sometimes quietly assisted by outside hands, sometimes not. Pakistan was largely spared from that wave, barring the army-controlled demonstrations that dethroned Nawaz Sharif. But protests climbed significantly in the 2020s, particularly after Imran Khan was jailed, spread thereafter to other provinces, and now seem to have reached the heart of the country.

HackerRank On-Campus Club Launched at Vignan Duvvada

Visakhapatnam, Aug. 4 (Pen Power): The Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Vignan Institute of Information Technology, Duvvada, inaugurated the HackerRank On-Campus Club to enhance students' coding, problem-solving, and competitive programming skills. Around 250 students and CSE faculty members participated in the event. The club will provide opportunities for coding practice, hackathons, technical competitions, and industry-oriented programming skill development. Principal Dr. J. Sudhakar, Rector Dr. V. Madhusudana Rao, and CSE HoD B. Dinesh Reddy appreciated the initiative, expressing confidence that it would strengthen students' technical skills and improve their campus placement prospects. Faculty coordinators Dr. Mahanti Mohan and Y. Srilatha organized the programme.



Dr. YSR Horticultural University, IIT Tirupati to Collaborate on Agri-Tech Research

Tadepalligudem, Aug. 4 (Pen Power): Dr. YSR Horticultural University held an interactive session with IIT Tirupati Director Prof. K.N. Satyanarayana to explore the use of advanced technologies in horticulture. Discussions focused on joint research in AI, drones, robotics, smart irrigation, IoT, sensor-based crop protection, pest detection, and post-harvest management. Prof. Satyanarayana assured that IIT Tirupati and the University would soon organize a joint workshop and undertake collaborative research projects to develop technology-driven solutions for farmers. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Dhanunjaya Rao expressed confidence that the partnership would promote innovation and strengthen horticultural research.



Prakasam Focuses on Road Accident Prevention



Ongole, Aug. 4: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu directed all departments to work in close coordination to prevent road accidents while reviewing the District Road Safety Committee meeting along with SP V. Harsh Vardhan Raju. He stressed the need for continuous road safety awareness and effective field-level implementation. The SP said road accident deaths declined by 18.5% and total accidents by 3.5% during January–July 2026 compared to the same period last year. Officials also imposed ₹2.38 crore in fines for traffic violations, penalised 1,869 drunk drivers, and removed over 9,000 illegal LED lights from vehicles as part of enforcement measures.

NIT Andhra Pradesh Holds 8th Convocation Ceremony



Tadepalligudem, Aug. 4 (Pen Power): The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Andhra Pradesh celebrated its 8th Convocation on Tuesday, conferring degrees on the 2022–26 batch of students. Delivering the convocation address, iLabs Group Chairman Chintalapati Srinivasa Raju urged graduates to focus on opportunities in the manufacturing sector and contribute to building a developed India. IIT Tirupati Director Prof. K.N. Satyanarayana encouraged students

to pursue lifelong learning, innovation, and technology-driven solutions for society. NIT Andhra Pradesh In-charge Director Prof. N.V. Ramana Rao said the institute awarded degrees to 664 B.Tech graduates and 53 Ph.D. scholars, besides presenting eight gold medals to meritorious students. He highlighted the institute's growing academic and research achievements and called upon graduates to use their knowledge for nation-building.

India Secures Extradition of 274 Fugitives from 36 Countries

Vijayawada, Aug. 4 (Pen Power): The Central Government announced that 274 fugitive criminals were extradited to India from 36 countries between 2019 and 2026 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The government said it strengthened extradition efforts through legal reforms, international cooperation, the BharatPol platform, and Operation Trishul. It also stated that 401 Interpol Red Corner Notices were issued in the last three years and assets worth ₹17,874 crore were attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) during 2019–2026. New criminal laws now also allow trials of absconding accused in their absence.



Free Dental Health Programme for School Children Launched in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, Aug. 4 (Pen Power): District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha and MLA Gadde Ramamohan on Tuesday inaugurated the Sridant School Dental Health Programme at Komma Seetharamaiah ZP Girls High School, Patamata. Organised by the Dr. Sridhar Oral Health Foundation, the initiative aims to provide free dental check-ups, treatment, and oral health awareness to school children. The Foundation has already screened over 1.2 million students and has now set a target of ensuring dental care for one lakh more children. The Collector and MLA appreciated the Foundation's efforts, stating that early dental care plays a vital role in ensuring children's overall health and confidence.



Prakasam Collector Directs Speedy Completion of Land Resurvey



Ongole, Aug. 4: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu directed officials to expedite the land resurvey process in the remaining mandals and complete it in a systematic manner. He reviewed the progress after participating in a video conference chaired by Special Chief Secretary Sai Prasad and CCLA Jayalakshmi on ROR issues, assignments, resurvey, Pattadar Passbooks, and the El Niño situation. The Collector also instructed officials to focus on grievance redressal, speed up the distribution of Pattadar Passbooks, and resolve revenue and land-related issues through field-level verification.

Observer Calls for Intensified Voter Awareness Campaigns in Prakasam

Ongole, Aug. 4 (Pen Power): District Electoral Roll Observer A. Suryakumari directed officials to intensify SVEEP voter awareness programmes and organize seminars to promote informed use of voting rights, with special focus on youth and first-time voters. Reviewing electoral roll revision, District Collector P. Rajababu said 90.92% of voter data digitisation has been completed. He assured that only eligible voters would remain on the electoral rolls after due verification of duplicate, shifted, deceased, and other disputed entries, in accordance with Election Commission guidelines.



Collector Reviews Independence Day Arrangements at Markapur

Markapur Rural, Aug. 4 (Pen Power): District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha inspected preparations for the Independence Day celebrations to be held on August 15 at SVKP College, Markapur. The Collector reviewed the venue, stage, seating, security, parking, and drinking water facilities, and directed officials to ensure smooth and grand celebrations as per government guidelines. She also stressed the need for adequate arrangements for students and the public and discussed security measures with police officials.



Aditya University Hosts Cyber Security & AI Workshop

Gandepalli, Aug. 4: Aditya University's School of Computing, Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), has launched a four-day workshop on "Cyber Security and AI-Powered Digital Marketing" for 120 third-year B.Tech students from August 4 to 7. The workshop features industry experts Prameel Arjun, CEO of Pricus Group, and Deepti Choudhary, CEO of Codeio Soft Solutions, who are providing hands-on training in cyber security, ethical hacking, network security, AI-driven digital marketing, and emerging industry technologies. The programme aims to equip students with practical skills and enhance their digital sector.



Flood Situation Improves in Chintoor Division

Rampachodavaram Division, Aug. 4: Flood conditions in Chintoor Division have eased, with water levels in the Godavari and Sabari rivers receding and displaced families gradually returning to their homes, District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said. Relief and rehabilitation measures are continuing across the affected areas. A total of 10,828 families were affected by the floods, while 2,124 people from 750 families were shifted to safe shelters as a precaution. Medical camps, essential supplies, drinking water, sanitation, and road restoration works are being carried out. The Collector said there was no loss of human life and urged people to follow official advisories and avoid rumours.



Collector Reviews CM Visit Preparations



Paderu, Aug. 4: District Collector T. Nishanthi reviewed arrangements for Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's proposed visit, the launch of the Sanjeevani pilot project, World Tribal Day, and the 80th Independence Day celebrations. Officials were directed to ensure foolproof arrangements, including security, health services, medical camps, public amenities, and coordination among all departments. The Collector instructed officials to complete all preparations within the stipulated time and warned that negligence in executing assigned responsibilities would not be tolerated.

'Vidya, Vasathi, Vikasam' Programme Launched in Nellore



Nellore, Aug. 4: District Collector Himanshu Shukla launched the "Vidya, Vasathi, Vikasam" programme to upgrade government welfare hostels across

the district. The initiative, introduced for the first time in the State, aims to improve infrastructure and provide quality residential facilities for students. Under the

programme, 155 SC, ST, BC, Tribal, and Minority welfare hostels will be equipped with improved furniture, washing machines, modern electrical facilities, quality kitchen

equipment, and sports materials. MLAs Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, Dagumati Venkata Krishna Reddy, and Kakarla Suresh attended the launch.

Rice Mart Launched to Provide Quality Rice at Affordable Prices

Markapur, Aug. 4 (Pen Power): MLA Muttumula Ashok Reddy, along with District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha and Joint Collector Puli Srinivasulu, inaugurated a Rice Mart at Bestavaripeta under the Civil Supplies Department. The initiative aims to provide quality rice at affordable prices to poor and middle-class families. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said the coalition government is committed to making essential commodities accessible at reasonable prices, while the Collector urged the public to make use of the scheme.



Will CJP Founder Abhijeet Dipke Face Jail Time Next Year? Astrologer's Prediction Video Goes Viral



New Delhi: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke has remained in the public eye since launching a satirical campaign over the NEET paper leak controversy. What initially began as a social media movement quickly evolved into a large-scale public protest, eventually culminating in demonstrations at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. At the time he initiated the campaign, Dipke was living in Boston and searching for employment. According to his earlier statements, he never imagined that the online movement would gain nationwide traction. As support continued to grow, he decided to return

to India and lead the protests in person. Before boarding his flight, Dipke had said, "I will most likely be arrested at the airport," while maintaining that his protest was protected under the constitutional rights to free speech and peaceful assembly. The protests later became one of the most talked-about public movements linked to the NEET controversy, placing Dipke at the center of political and public discussions. Months after the protests, a video featuring an astrologer discussing Abhijeet Dipke's future has gone viral on Instagram. Shared by the account @sanddeepbajajnumero,

the clip has generated widespread reactions across social media platforms. When asked about Dipke's future, the astrologer delivered a pessimistic prediction, saying, "Worst future hai, kyunki ap dekho... pehele bhi bata chuka hoon. Inka bhi driver conductor 2 4 8 hai aise log jo hate hai... life main bulbule k Tarah ate hai... upar jate hai... aur burst ho jate hai." (The future is worse because, as I've said before, people whose driver-conductor numbers are 2, 4, or 8 rise in life like bubbles before eventually bursting.) The statement quickly became a talking point, with supporters and critics of Dipke

sharing contrasting opinions online. The astrologer went a step further by claiming that the coming year could be especially difficult for the CJP founder. He said, "Agla saal inke liye, bohot zyada tension bhara ho sakta hai, even kahin na kahin pe unko jail bhi ho sakta hai next year. Kyunki unka personal year jo hai, 4 a jayega... aur 2 ka bhi dushman 4 hai, 8 ka bhi dushman 4 hai. Unko bara savdhani se agla saal nikaalna chahiye. Yeh saal inka personal year 3 hai toh sayad inko lag rhe jackpot lag gya. But, February 6 k baad, dekhna inka saath bohot saari tensions khadi ho jayegi sar pe aake." (Next year could bring significant stress, and he may even face imprisonment. According to numerology, his personal year will become 4, which is considered incompatible with both 2 and 8. He should be extremely cautious. This year is a personal year 3, which may feel like a lucky phase, but after February 6, many challenges could emerge.) The astrologer also advised Dipke to alter the spelling of his name if he wished to improve his numerological prospects.

17 Research Analysts Lose Sebi Registration For Failing To Pay Mandatory Renewal Fees

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday cancelled the registrations of 17 research analysts for failing to pay the mandatory renewal fee required to keep their certificates of registration in force. The action was taken under Sebi's Intermediaries Regulations, 2008, after the entities failed to renew their registrations despite being issued notices. The entities whose registrations have been cancelled include Concept Securities Pvt Ltd, Grovalue Financial Services, Guinness Securities, Jyoti More, S. Balaji, Trade Deal Financial Services, I

Tips Advisory and Satco Capital Markets Ltd. Under Sebi norms, a registered research analyst is required to pay the renewal fee every five years from the date of registration to keep the certificate valid. However, the markets watchdog found that the 17 entities failed to pay the fees after their respective due dates, which ranged from May 2017 to March 2024. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had issued notices to these entities in February 2025 asking them to explain why their registrations should not be cancelled or suspended. How-



ever, none of the noticees (entities) responded within the stipulated period. Accordingly, the regulator cancelled the certificates of registration of these 17 entities. In its order, the regulator said the cancellation is

intended to prevent misuse of expired registration certificates. It also clarified that, despite the cancellation, the entities would continue to remain "liable for anything done or omitted to be done as Research Analysts".

'It Is A Good Precedent': Kangana Ranaut Reacts To Udhayanidhi Stalin's Arrest Over Alleged Double-Entendre Remark On Vijay & Trisha Krishnan

New Delhi: Actor and politician Udhayanidhi Stalin was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly making a double-entendre remark about Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay and actress Trisha Krishnan. He got bail and has returned to his house. Actress and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut took to X (Twitter) to react to his arrest. She wrote on her Instagram Story, "Public display of filthy abuses, double-meaning obscene and vulgar jokes is not acceptable to any civilised society. Mr Stalin was sent to jail for the offence, he might be out on bail by now but it's a good precedent (sic)." Check out the post below... On Monday, a video of Stalin went viral on



social media, in which, during his speech on the Cauvery water issue, he said, "Our CM is not opening his mouth about the Cauvery water issue. He's more worried about putting false cases on the DMK." In the audience, a few people shouted Trisha's name, so Stalin said, "Water comes or not, the water should come. I meant the

Cauvery." His statement didn't go down well with many netizens, and they started slamming him on social media. Netizens accused Stalin of making a double-entendre remark about Vijay and Trisha. According to reports, Vijay's party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), filed a formal police complaint and approached the Na-

tional Commission for Women, calling the remarks objectifying and insulting to women. The FIR was registered at Thanjavur East Police Station under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) provisions, the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, and the Information Technology Act. Till now, neither Vijay nor Trisha has reacted to the whole controversy. Actress and BJP politician Khushbu Sundar had also reacted to Stalin's comment. She tweeted, "Heard #Udhayanidhi Stalin's speech. It was crass, cheap and deeply derogatory, reflecting the very political culture he seems eager to inherit (sic)."

MK Stalin Calls CM Vijay A 'Reels Creator' After Udhayanidhi Stalin Walks Free

Chennai: The political battle between the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) and the opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) intensified after DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin was released from police custody hours after being arrested over his controversial remarks allegedly aimed at actor Trisha Krishnan. Soon after his release, former Tamil Nadu chief minister M.K. Stalin launched a sharp attack on the government led by Chief Minister Vijay, accusing it of using arrests to suppress dissent. "Arrogance leads to destruction; persistent arrogance only accelerates it," Stalin said in a strongly worded statement. The DMK chief alleged that the arrest was intended to divert public attention from pressing is-

ssues, including the Cauvery water dispute and the proposed Mokedatu dam project. He also claimed that the timing of the action, a day before the commencement of the state Assembly's budget session, was aimed at keeping the Leader of the Opposition away from the House. Targeting Vijay directly, Stalin criticised the chief minister for allegedly focusing more on social media than governance. He further accused the administration of cracking down on political opponents, student groups, farmers and anti-NEET protesters. The controversy stems from a speech delivered by Udhayanidhi Stalin in Thanjavur, where he was interrupted by members of the audience chanting actor Trisha Krishnan's name. His subsequent remarks were



criticised by the TVK as derogatory and inappropriate. Several prominent figures, including MDMK leader Durai Vaiko, singer Chinmayi Sripada and actor-politician Khushboo Sundar, condemned the remarks. Police charged Udhayanidhi under multiple provisions, including sections related to obscenity, insulting the modesty of women, criminal intimidation

and promoting enmity. Provisions of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act were also invoked. However, the Madras High Court later ordered his release after questioning, bringing temporary relief to the opposition leader while intensifying the political confrontation between the DMK and the ruling TVK government.

Calcutta HC Clears Bengal's Rs.112 Per Patient Food Allocation For Govt Hospitals

Kolkata: A Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court set aside a stay put earlier by a single-judge Bench of the same court on the West Bengal government's decision for higher allocation for food served to patients in government hospitals in the state. To recall, the state government in West Bengal increased the allocation for per-patient food from the earlier allocation of Rs 57 to the revised allocation of Rs 112. A notification on this count was also issued by the state government on July 23 this year. However, an organisation approached the Calcutta High Court's single-judge Bench of Justice Krishna Rao challenging the state government notification. Kolkata, West Bengal: The Calcutta High Court has granted the West Bengal government temporary relief in the case concerning the hike in hospital meal allocations. A Division Bench comprising

Justice Shampa Sarkar and Justice Ajay Gupta has set aside the earlier stay order passed.

The contention of the petitioner was that, since another case regarding the fixing of allocation for patients' food was already pending before the court, how could the state government fix the revised rate chart on its own. Thereafter, the single-judge Bench of Justice Rao stayed the implementation of the state government notification for the time being. Thereafter, the state government approached the Calcutta High Court's Division Bench of Justice Shampa Sarkar and Justice Ajay Gupta, challenging the decision of the single judge. The hearing in the matter was conducted before the Division Bench on Tuesday afternoon, following which the Bench set aside the interim stay on the state government notification imposed by the single-judge Bench. While setting



aside the interim stay, the Division Bench observed that it was not desirable under this head, it was virtually impossible to serve better-quality food. That is why the state government decided to hike the allocation on this count, which received a temporary hurdle following the earlier order by the single-judge Bench of the Calcutta High Court. But that hurdle was removed following Tuesday's order of the Division Bench.

government's contention has always been that, following the paltry allocation under this head, it was virtually impossible to serve better-quality food. That is why the state government decided to hike the allocation on this count, which received a temporary hurdle following the earlier order by the single-judge Bench of the Calcutta High Court. But that hurdle was removed following Tuesday's order of the Division Bench.

Gone In 20 Seconds! Car Plunges 25 Feet From Residential Building Parking Area In Mumbai's Kandivali; Driver Injured

Mumbai: A shocking incident came to light in Mumbai's Kandivali West after a car suddenly plunged nearly 25 feet from the parking area of a residential building in the Charkop locality. The entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras and has raised serious concerns about parking lot safety. According to reports, the incident occurred on Monday evening. CCTV footage shows the car taking a turn before suddenly crashing through the edge of the first-floor parking area and falling to the ground below. The vehicle sustained extensive damage in the crash. The driver survived the fall but suffered injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Following the incident, several local resi-

dents gathered at the spot to help rescue the driver and recover the vehicle. Fortunately, no one was standing below when the car fell, preventing any casualties. The exact cause of the accident remains unclear. However, authorities have launched an investigation to determine what caused the vehicle to plunge from the parking area. In a separate incident, a car plunged into a 50-to-60-foot deep gorge in Khopoli after the driver allegedly lost control of the vehicle when a roadside railing collapsed. The car rolled four to five times before falling into the gorge but eventually became lodged against a tree, preventing it from plunging further and averting a major tragedy. According to reports, the 59-year-old driver, identified



as Mohit Swaroop Bhatnagar, a resident of Bandra (West), Mumbai, escaped the accident without any major injuries. The accident occurred at around 11:45 am when Bhatnagar had travelled to Garmal for sightseeing. According to the Borghat Highway Police, he was attempting to get a closer view of the Connecting Link Valley Bridge, also

known as the Mumbai-Pune Expressway's 'Missing Link', when he drove onto an unpaved mud road. The vehicle reportedly skidded on the slippery surface, causing the driver to lose control before rolling nearly 50 to 60 feet into the gorge. Fortunately, the vehicle became lodged against a tree, preventing it from falling deeper into the valley.

MSME ZED Certification Boosts Quality and Sustainability



New Delhi: Finex Industries Pvt. Ltd. – Advancing Towards Quality and Sustainability with ZED. Finex Industries Pvt. Ltd., based in Dindori, Nashik (Maharashtra), manufactures metal and wooden furniture and achieved ZED Silver Certification on 14 July 2025, following which, the enterprise reduced Cost of Poor Quality (COPQ) by 11%, rework by 10%, and defects by 1%, while improving workplace safety and resource utilisation. It also achieved savings through better energy efficiency, space utilisation and reduced consumable usage. According to the enterprise, ZED Certification has enhanced productivity, product quality and operational efficiency, demonstrating how Zero Defect, Zero Effect practices can drive sustainable and competitive growth for MSME. Concept Clothing Pvt. Ltd. – Strengthening Quality and Efficiency through ZED. Concept Clothing Pvt. Ltd., based in Jalandhar, Punjab, achieved ZED Silver Certification on 14 June 2025, reinforcing its commitment to quality, sustainability and opera-

tional excellence. After adopting ZED practices, the enterprise reported an 80% reduction in workplace incidents, 50% reduction in Mean Time to Repair (MTTR), 7.4% reduction in rework and 4% reduction in rejection, along with significant savings through quality, environmental and workplace improvement initiatives. According to the enterprise, ZED Certification has strengthened operational discipline, improved process efficiency and enhanced overall competitiveness, demonstrating the value of Zero Defect, Zero Effect for MSME. Strengthening MSMEs through Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) Certification. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is promoting quality-driven and environmentally responsible manufacturing through the MSME Sustainable - ZED Certification Scheme. The initiative supports MSME in improving production processes, adopting better quality standards and reducing their environmental footprint, thereby strengthening their competitiveness in domestic and global markets.

A key focus of the initiative is to encourage greater participation of women entrepreneurs in quality and sustainable manufacturing. To reduce the cost barrier for women-led enterprises, the Government has provided 100% subsidy on the cost of ZED Certification for women-owned MSME. The provision came into effect from 11 November 2023 and makes the certification cost effectively zero for eligible women-owned MSME. The support enables women entrepreneurs to assess and strengthen their manufacturing systems against recognised parameters of quality, productivity, safety and environmental sustainability. By facilitating access to structured assessment and certification, the initiative can help women-led enterprises build stronger processes, improve market credibility and prepare themselves for wider business opportunities. **Background** The Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) initiative encourages MSME to manufacture high-quality products while minimizing their environmental impact. It supports enterprises in con-

tinuously improving their technology, systems and manufacturing practices to enhance quality, productivity and sustainability. More than a certification programme, ZED provides MSME with a structured pathway for assessment, improvement, incentives and technology upgradation. The certification framework comprises Bronze, Silver and Gold, enabling enterprises to progressively achieve higher standards of quality and sustainability. Eligible MSME can also avail financial assistance of up to 75% of the cost of testing/system/product certification (maximum ₹50,000), up to ₹2 lakh for handholding and consultancy support, and up to ₹3 lakh for adopting Zero Effect solutions, pollution-control measures and cleaner technologies. **Growing Reach and Impact** The MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme is emerging as a key driver of quality, sustainability and competitiveness amongst MSME. As on 7th July 2026, around 9.49 lakh MSME had registered under the scheme, with over 6.67 lakh Bronze, 6,700 Silver and

4,800 Gold certifications awarded. The initiative has also provided more than ₹913 crore in financial support to help enterprises adopt quality and sustainable manufacturing practices. The impact of ZED extends beyond certification. 22 States/UTs have integrated ZED into their industrial policies and are offering additional incentives to certified MSME. Further, 19 financial institutions are extending benefits such as concessions in processing fees and interest rates, making it easier for ZED-certified enterprises to access finance. A significant feature of the scheme is the 100% subsidy on ZED Certification for women-owned MSMEs, which removes the cost barrier and encourages greater participation of women entrepreneurs. By promoting quality manufacturing, resource efficiency and environmental sustainability, ZED is helping MSME strengthen their competitiveness, enhance market credibility and integrate more effectively into domestic and global value chains.

Govt Strengthens Dairy, Livestock and Animal Health



New Delhi: Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, informed the Lok Sabha that the Government continues to strengthen the dairy and livestock sectors through focused interventions in dairy infrastructure, breed improvement, entrepreneurship promotion and animal health preparedness. The Government informed that milk procurement prices are determined by dairy cooperatives and private dairies based on prevailing market conditions, and no report has been received by the Department indicating that dairy farmers are not receiving remunerative prices due to the gap between procurement and retail prices. To strengthen the dairy sector, the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) has facilitated the organisation of 36,611 new Dairy Cooperative Societies and strengthened 34,557 village-level dairy cooperative societies as of June 2026. Around 168 lakh litres per day of milk chilling capacity has been

created, while 76,748 milk quality testing devices have been distributed. Under the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), projects with a total milk processing and value addition capacity of 418 lakh litres per day have been approved. The Milk Supply Review Dashboard Portal, integrated with the National Cooperative Database, currently reflects three active dairy cooperative societies in Delhi. Under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), substantial progress has been achieved in indigenous breed development, genetic improvement and productivity enhancement. Tamil Nadu received Central assistance of ₹12,521.83 lakh during the last three years, fully utilised by the State. The support enabled 36.13 lakh artificial inseminations, strengthening of four semen stations, training and equipping of 475 MAITRIs, establishment of two IVF laboratories, creation of sex-sorted semen facilities, establishment of three Breed Multiplication Farms and

assistance for Heifer Rearing Centres. The Government also highlighted nationwide achievements under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Livestock Mission (NLM) and Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP). During the last five years, over 17.27 crore artificial inseminations have been carried out under the Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme, benefiting nearly 5.98 crore farmers. A total of 47,687 MAITRIs (Multi-Purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians in Rural India) have been trained, 24 IVF laboratories established, 48 semen stations sanctioned and 28 heifer rearing centres approved. Under the National Livestock Mission, 4,084 breed multiplication farms have been approved, 1.61 lakh metric tonnes of quality fodder seed produced, and 204 silage and Total Mixed Ration units sanctioned. Large-scale vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease, Brucellosis, Peste des Petits Ruminants and Clas-

sical Swine Fever continues under LHDCP. The Entrepreneurship Development Programme under the National Livestock Mission has sanctioned 4,291 projects involving a total project cost of ₹2,956.79 crore with approved subsidies of Rs.1,356.53 crore. These projects are expected to generate around 21,000 direct employment opportunities and indirectly benefit approximately 91,000 farmers. The programme is implemented through a fully digitised portal with subsidy disbursement through the Public Finance Management System. The Government also informed the House that the national mock exercise,

Pashujanya Yudh Abhyas (PYA), conducted in Madhya Pradesh from 29 June to 3 July 2026, has been successfully evaluated. The exercise strengthened preparedness for zoonotic disease outbreaks by improving coordination, surveillance, biosafety, laboratory protocols, infection prevention, emergency response and inter-agency communication. The Department continues to support States through disease surveillance, vaccination, laboratory strengthening, standard operating procedures, crisis management plans and capacity building under the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme.

2020 Delhi Riots: Ex-AAP Councillor Tahir Hussain Sentenced To Life In IB Officer Ankit Sharma Murder Case

New Delhi: The Karkardooma Court sentenced former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and four others to life imprisonment in the murder case of Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer Ankit Sharma, one of the most high-profile cases linked to the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. Apart from Hussain, the court awarded life sentences to Nazim, Qasim, Anas and Javed. The convicts had been brought to the court earlier in the day ahead of the pronouncement of the sentence. The verdict comes after nearly six years of legal proceedings, during which the court examined witness testimonies, forensic evidence and electronic records. On July 13, 2026, the court convicted the five accused on charges including murder, kidnapping, rioting and promoting communal enmity. The court, however, acquitted six of the 11 accused in the case, citing a lack of evidence against them. The murder of Ankit Sharma, an Intelligence Bureau official, emerged as one of the most widely discussed incidents during the communal violence that erupted in northeast Delhi in February 2020. His body was later recovered from a drain near his residence, triggering widespread outrage. Security was tightened in and around the Karkardooma Court complex ahead of the sentencing in view of the sensitivity of the case. The judgment is being regarded as one of the most significant judicial rulings related to the 2020 Delhi riots.

Dipka OC: Powering India's Growth through Scale, Efficiency and Sustainable Mining



New Delhi: Dipka OCP of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) stands out as one of the most vivid reflections of the remarkable transformation of India's coal mining sector. From producing barely 1 million tonne of coal in 1992, Dipka OC has evolved into one of the largest coal-producing complexes in the country, recording an all-time high production of 37.5 million tonnes and despatch of 39.43 million tonnes during FY 2025-26. With the recent enhancement of Environmental Clearance to 40 MTPA and a well-defined roadmap towards 60 MTPA, Dipka OC today stands as a strategic national asset, combining scale, efficiency and sustainability in equal measure. **A Strong Start to FY 2026-27** Building upon last year's record performance, Dipka OC has begun the current financial year with equally impressive momentum. Up to 25 July 2026, the mine has produced 12.66 million tonnes of coal, achieving 104% of the progressive production target. Even more encouraging is the 30.5% year-on-year growth in coal production compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, reflecting substantial improvement in mine productivity and equipment utilisation. Coal dispatch has been equally robust, touching 13.87 million tonnes, exceeding the progressive target by achieving 109%, thereby ensuring uninterrupted fuel supply to thermal power stations and industrial consumers. The seamless synchronization between coal production and despatch demonstrates Dipka's operational maturity, where mining, transportation and logistics function as an integrated value chain rather than as isolated activities. **Creating Value Beyond Production** While production remains the principal indicator of mining performance, Dipka's success is equally reflected in its financial contribution. During FY 2025-26, the mine generated an overall profit of ₹3,230.91 crore, making it one of the strongest profit centres within SECL. Profitability has improved not merely because of higher production but also due to better cost management and enhanced operational efficiency. With profit per tonne increasing to ₹827, the mine has demonstrated that large-scale production can be achieved without proportionate escalation in operating costs. These financial outcomes underline Dipka's growing contribution to Coal India Limited's overall profitability. **Strengthening the Foundation for Future Growth** Behind Dipka's impressive production performance lies a series of strategic initiatives that have strengthened the mine's long-term production capability. Among these, land acquisition and rehabilitation have emerged as the most significant enablers for sustained capacity expansion. Following the successful possession of Malgaon village, the Area has made substantial progress towards rehabilitation and resettlement of Hardi Bazar, one of the largest and most complex R&R initiatives in the region. Rather than viewing rehabilitation merely as a statutory obligation, Dipka has adopted a development-oriented approach by initiating development of a well-planned rehabilitation township equipped with essential civic infrastructure, including roads, schools, healthcare facilities, community amenities and public utilities. This participative and transparent approach has facilitated progressive land availability for mining while strength-

ening stakeholder confidence and social acceptance of the project. **Infrastructure that Supports High Production** Large-scale mining demands equally robust evacuation infrastructure. Dipka possesses one of the most diversified coal evacuation systems in Coal India Limited, comprising MGR-connected silos, First Mile Connectivity (FMC) silos, railway loading facilities and road transport systems. This integrated network provides operational flexibility and enables uninterrupted dispatch to major consumers, including NTPC Sipat and several thermal power stations across western and central India. Efficient evacuation has ensured that increasing production is promptly translated into higher consumer supplies without creating stock accumulation at the pithead. **Technology Driving Productivity** Dipka's remarkable production journey has been powered by sustained investment in technology and modernization. The mine has progressively upgraded its mining systems with 42-cubic metre electric rope shovels, high-capacity surface miners, long in-pit belt conveyor systems, advanced silo loading facilities, drone-based mine monitoring and digital mine management platforms. These technologies have significantly improved equipment productivity, optimized mine planning, reduced operational delays and strengthened monitoring of mining activities. As production volumes continue to grow, technology remains one of the strongest differentiators enabling Dipka to maintain high operational efficiency. Responsible Mining for Sustainable Growth Dipka has demonstrated that high production and environmental stewardship can progress together. The Area has implemented an array of initiatives including Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (CAAQMS), fog cannon-based dust suppression, wheel washing systems, plantation drives, deployment of electric vehicles and plastic waste recycling facilities. These measures have substantially strengthened environmental management while improving the overall sustainability of mining operations. Digital environmental monitoring through integrated online platforms has further enhanced regulatory compliance and operational transparency. At the same time, systematic rehabilitation and development of modern resettlement infrastructure have enabled timely land availability for future mining while maintaining constructive engagement with project-affected families. This balanced approach has significantly strengthened the long-term production outlook of the Area. **Looking Beyond 40 Million Tonnes** The recent enhancement of Environmental Clearance to 40 MTPA represents not the culmination but the beginning of Dipka's next growth phase. With progressive land acquisition, ongoing rehabilitation, infrastructure augmentation and a clear vision for expansion to 60 MTPA, the mine possesses all the essential ingredients for sustained high performance. Dipka's journey is a compelling example of how scientific mine planning, technological innovation, financial discipline and responsible mining can collectively create a world-class mining operation. As one of Coal India Limited's flagship producing mines, Dipka continues to set new benchmarks in production, profitability, operational efficiency and environmental responsibility while making an ever-growing contribution to India's energy security.

C-DAC, GSI Join Hands for AI-Driven Geoscience



New Delhi, August, 4 (PIB): The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Geological Survey of India (GSI) signed an Umbrella Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration in geoscience, mineral exploration and disaster management through advanced next-generation technologies. The MoU was signed at Electronics Niketan, New Delhi, in the presence of Shri S. Krishnan, IAS, Secretary, MeitY by Shri E. Magesh, Director General, C-DAC and Shri Pradeep Singh, Additional Director General,

Geological Survey of India (GSI). The collaboration aims to combine C-DAC's High-Performance Computing (HPC) capabilities with GSI's geological expertise to address complex subsurface exploration challenges through advanced digital technologies. The partnership envisages the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and HPC for processing large geophysical datasets, enabling high-resolution 3D subsurface mapping, predictive modelling for mineral targeting and cognitive processing of decades of unstructured geological records into a domain Large Language Model (LLM). The collaboration will also support disaster miti-

gation through slope-scale landslide monitoring using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), development of early warning systems and studies on Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF). In addition, it aims to accelerate the discovery of critical minerals and Rare Earth Elements (REE), thereby contributing to India's economic security, supply chain resilience and technological self-reliance. The ceremony was attended by Shri Sudeep Srivastava, Joint Secretary, MeitY; Shri Maneesh Khar, Deputy Director General, DGCO, GSI; Dr. Praveer Pankaj, Director, DGCO, GSI; Dr. Mukesh Verma, Director, DGCO, GSI; Shri Manoj Jain, Group

Coordinator (R&D in IT), MeitY; Cmde Sandeep Wadhwa, Executive Director (Corporate & Govt. Business), C-DAC; Dr. Ch. A. S. Murty, Executive Director, C-DAC Hyderabad; Shri Mrinmoy Kumar Das, Executive Director, C-DAC Kolkata; Shri Prasad Wadlakondawar, Scientist F, C-DAC Pune; Dr. Manoj Khare, Scientist G & HoD, C-DAC Pune; Dr. D. Ethirajan, Scientist F & Centre Head, C-DAC Chennai; Smt. Poonguzhali P, Scientist F, C-DAC Chennai; Smt. Sayantani Bhattacharya, Scientist E, C-DAC Chennai; Smt. Geeta Singh, Scientist C, along with delegates from C-DAC and MeitY.

Ayurveda Day and Promotion of Preventive Healthcare

New Delhi, August, 4 (PIB): The 10th Ayurveda Day was celebrated on 23rd September 2025 under the aegis of the Ministry of Ayush, with All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa as the nodal institute. The celebrations were held on the theme "Ayurveda for People and Planet," emphasizing holistic health and environmental sustainability. The main event at AIIA, Goa was held in the august presence of Shri Puspapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Hon'ble Governor of Goa (Chief Guest), and was graced by Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa; Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush & Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare; and Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy. The prestigious National Ayurveda Awards were conferred upon eminent Vaidyas in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the field of Ayurveda. Multiple

projects/initiatives were also inaugurated/launched during the event. Beyond the main event at AIIA Goa, extensive activities were organised across the country and abroad as a part of Ayurveda Day 2025 including Ayurveda health camps providing free consultations, diagnostic services, and distribution of medicines; specialized camps focusing on non-communicable diseases, geriatric care, women and child health, and lifestyle disorders; and outreach services in rural and underserved areas to improve accessibility to traditional healthcare. Educational and awareness initiatives formed a major component, with the organization of seminars, national and international conferences, CME programmes, workshops, and expert lectures. Schools, colleges, and community institutions actively participated through quizzes, essay competitions, painting competitions, and awareness drives to sensitize the younger population about healthy lifestyles rooted in Ayurveda. In alignment

with the theme "Ayurveda for People and Planet," numerous activities focusing on environmental sustainability were also conducted, including plantation drives, herbal garden development, medicinal plant distribution, and cleanliness campaigns under Swachhta initiatives. Digital outreach played a significant role, with webinars, social media campaigns, online pledge drives, and interactive programmes conducted through platforms such as MyGov, significantly amplifying public engagement and awareness. The Day was observed across more than 150 countries. A total of 32 States and Union Territories reported organization of activities in connection with Ayurveda Day 2025. The major activities included Ayurveda medical camps, medical screening and outreach programmes, awareness campaigns, seminars, workshops, webinars, Yoga sessions, medicinal plant exhibitions, plantation drives, distribution of medicinal plants, cleanliness drives, rallies, walkathons, competitions, media and Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities. To further institutionalise Ayurveda Day as a nationwide movement for preven-

tive healthcare, and public awareness, the Government has notified 23rd September as the annual date for its observance, thereby providing a fixed date for its celebration every year. The Ministry of Ayush adopts a Whole-of-Government approach by involving Central Ministries/Departments, States/UTs, National Institutes, Research Councils, academic institutions and other stakeholders. A dedicated theme is identified each year, and a framework of suggested activities aligned with the theme is circulated to stakeholders to facilitate coordinated nationwide implementation, with a consistent focus on preventive healthcare, health promotion, and public awareness through Ayurveda. A nodal institution under the Ministry is designated annually for overall coordination for planning, implementation, and monitoring of activities. A dedicated Ayurveda Day microsite serves as a central repository of the IEC materials, and other resources, besides enabling online reporting and documentation of activities. These measures facilitate coordinated nationwide outreach, promote preventive healthcare, and enhance public awareness of Ayurveda.

Today's Horoscope



Aries

Start meditation and yoga for physical gain especially mental toughness. Today, you can take your family members out for a get-together and spend a lot of money on them. Unexpected news from children brings happy moments. No one can separate your love. Professional advancements for some. Not giving time to important tasks and passing your time over useless things can prove fatal for you today. With just little efforts, the day might become the best day of your married life. Remedy :- Tend to yellow Sunflowers plants at home for a marvellous work-life.



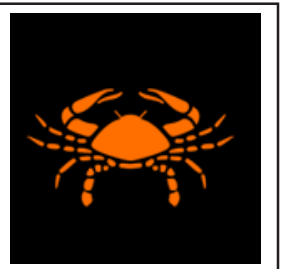
Taurus

You can start your day with Yoga and Meditation. Doing this will be beneficial for you and you will maintain your energy levels throughout the day. Put your extra money in a safe place that will promise you returns in times to come. Friends and spouse brings comfort and happiness to you otherwise a dull and slow day. Sudden romantic encounter may confuse you. Pending proposals get implemented. Your personality is slightly different from others, and you like to spend time alone. Today, you will get time for yourself, but will be occupied by office work. It's a good day to romance with your better half. Remedy :- Wear one mukhi (faced) Rudraksh in a white thread to improve your financial condition.



Gemini

Friends will introduce you to somebody special who would have a remarkable influence on your thoughts. You seem to know exactly what people need and want from you-but try not to be too lavish in your spending today. The time requires you to understand that anger and frustration would only hamper your sanity. This in turn would lead you towards a grave loss. Today, your lover may feel bad about one of your habits and become annoyed with you. Lots of love will prevail at your workplace today. Remedy :- Creating problems for any auspicious event such as marriage will weaken Venus. So, for a stable and secure financial status, desist from such acts.



Cancer

Unwanted thoughts may occupy your mind. Try to engage yourself in physical exercise because an empty brain is a devil's workshop. People who had bought land and now want to sell it can come across a good buyer today and acquire a good amount for it. You can remain disturbed due to the behavior of any member of the family. You need to talk to them. Love life will be vibrant. Today is a day for high performance and high profile. Pending problems need to get sorted out soon and you know that you have to start somewhere- so think positively and start putting efforts today. You are going to feel lucky today for being married. Remedy :- For enhanced health, distribute white scented-sweets to poor and needy children, especially young girls.



Leo

Pleasure trips and social get-togethers will keep you relaxed and happy. You should refrain from consuming alcohol or any such item today, as you may lose your items in toxic state. Some changes at home will make you highly sentimental-but you will be able to effectively communicate your feelings to people who matter the most. Exciting day of romance- Plan something special for the evening and try to make it as romantic as possible. It looks like a wonderful day today at work. Today, to make good use of the free time you have on your hand, you can plan to meet your old friends. The day is exclusive in your regular married life, you will experience something really unusual today. Remedy :- Accept rice and silver from your mother and keep it in your home to improve your financial condition.



Virgo

Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for you- as you set about to enjoy life to the fullest. Investment needs to be made with a long-term perspective. Lately your personal life has been the focus of your major attention- but today you will focus on social work- charity and helping those who approach you with a problem. Past happy memories will keep you busy. Adapting to new skill and techniques would be essential to further career advancements. Natives of this zodiac sign should read some spiritual books in their free time today. By doing this, many of your troubles can be overcome. It is the day to experience the brighter side of marriage. Remedy :- Ensure proper water arrangement for thirsty birds and make your condition better.



Libra

Your personality will act like a perfume today. Simply ignore those who approach you for temporary loans. A day for renewal of bonds and ties with relations. Likely to be rewarded for fair and generous love. Don't take your partners for granted. You would like to spend your time with people close to your heart, but won't be able to do so. Your partner might do something fabulous unintentionally, which will be really unforgettable. Remedy :- For a wonderful financial life, present books, educational and reading material to deserving people, academicians, scholars etc.



Scorpio

Today you feel relaxed and in the right mood to enjoy. A new financial deal will get finalized and fresh money rolls in. Your family members appreciate your effort and dedication Day is filled with joy and happiness with a lovely message. You will be honored for some of your good deeds today at work. Repeating things in life that are no longer important isn't the right thing to do. By doing this, you are just wasting your time. Your spouse will appreciate you today praising all nice about you and falling for you again. Remedy :- For a thriving profession, wash the entrance of your home with clean water early in the morning.



Sagittarius

Your sense of humour would help someone to encourage himself to develop this skill as you make him understand that happiness does not lie in possession of thing but is inside of us. Watch your tendency to live for the day and to spend too much on entertainment. Your problems will be serious-but people around you will not notice the pain you are going through-Probably they feel it is none of their business. Your smiles have no meaning-laughter have no sound-heart forgets to beat as you miss the company Investment made today would be lucrative but you will probably get some opposition from partners. Remedy :- To become financially strong, respect and honor your wife.



Capricorn

Yoga and meditation will help you to keep in shape and stay mentally fit. Monetary gains will be from various sources. Evening at the movie-theatre or dinner with your spouse seems to keep you in a relaxed and wonderful mood. Give tiny bits of kindness and love to make it a special day. New partnership would be promising today. Some of you will undertake a distant journey-which will be hectic-but highly rewarding. Life will be really exciting when your spouse will come to you forgetting all the tiffs, embracing you with love. Remedy :- To enjoy good health, keep a container filled with milk near your head side, at night. Empty this container in the next morning over the nearest tree.



Aquarius

Too much excitement and explosive passions could harm your nervous system. Control your emotions to avoid this. Today, you may remain worried due to money-related problems. For this, you should consult your trusted confidant. Your thirst for knowledge will help you make new friends. You will be in a loving mood- so be sure to make special plans for you and your beloved. Slow progress of work brings minor tensions. Today, you will be able to take out time for yourself despite the busy schedule, and use it well by spending time with your family. Today, you will get to spend the best evening of your life with your spouse. Remedy :- Take blessings from elder brothers by touching their feet and have a successful business life.



Pisces

Umpteen nervous breakdowns could weaken your resistance and thinking power. Encourage yourself to fight the disease with positive thinking. Monetary transactions will continuously take place throughout the day, and after the end of the day, you will be able to save enough. Some cleaning up around your house needs to be done immediately. You can brighten your love life by visiting some picnic spot. This is a wonderful day to negotiate with new clients. Today, you may get some bad news from your in-laws' side, which can make you sad. As a result, you may spend a lot of time just thinking. With just little efforts, the day might become the best day of your married life. Remedy :- Perform Surya Namaskar, twelve Sun Salutation exercises, along with the rising sun or early morning sun for great health.

AGRICULTURAL ROAD MAPS BASED ON AGRO-CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

New Delhi, August, 4 (PIB): As reported by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Agricultural Action Plans have been initiated for the States of Assam, Goa, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Comprehensive consultations have been undertaken with the concerned State Governments and other stakeholders for preparation of these agricultural Roadmaps. The Agricultural Roadmap are being prepared collaboratively by ICAR, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, ICAR, ICAR Institutes, State Governments, State Agricultural Universities, and experts. The planning is based on agro-climatic regions, natural resource endowments, climate resilience, technological interventions and farmers' needs. The roadmaps aim to ensure technical validation, alignment with State priorities, local agro-climatic conditions, and climate resilience. The Roadmap seek enhancement of productivity, profitability and resource-use efficiency in agriculture and allied sectors. The agricultural roadmaps is broad policy framework based on agro-climatic conditions. States/UTs may refer to these guiding principles while formulating annual action plans under various schemes. The key outcomes of Agricultural Roadmap include enhancing farmers' income, improve self-sufficiency in agricultural and allied commodities, generate rural employment opportunities and ensure sustainable growth of the agriculture sector, while addressing local agro-climatic conditions, climate resilience and farmers' needs.

Cooperative based Organic Farming

New Delhi, August, 4 (PIB): Organic farming is promoted through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in the States/UTs including Assam and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCNDR) for the North Eastern States including Assam since 2015-16 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. Both schemes stress on end-to-end support to farmers engaged in organic farming i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing. Primary focus of the schemes is to form organic clusters, with preference to small and marginal farmers, to create a supply chain. Both the schemes are implemented through States /UT Governments. Under PKVY, assistance of Rs. 31,500 per hectare is provided over 3 years for promotion of organic farming. Out of this, assistance of Rs. 15,000 per ha is provided to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer for on- farm /off – farm organic inputs. Under MOVCNDR, assistance of Rs. 46,500/ ha is provided over 3 years for creation of Farmers Producer Organization, support to farmers for organic inputs etc. Out of this, assistance @ Rs. 32,500/ ha is provided to farmers for off -farm /on – farm organic inputs under the scheme including Rs. 15,000 as Direct Benefit Transfer to the farmers. This information was given by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

He's Alive": Wife Of Sailor Who 'Died' Near Hormuz Approaches Top Court



"New Delhi: The wife of Merchant Navy Captain Ashish Kumar, who is believed to have died in a drone attack on an oil tanker anchored in the Gulf of Oman at the beginning of the Iran war, has approached the Supreme Court claiming that her husband is alive and is held in illegal captivity by foreign actors. In a habeas corpus writ petition, Kumar's wife, Anshu, has claimed she has received a ransom call from

an international number, demanding Rs 20 Lakh for his release.

Dead or Alive?

Ashish Kumar, 37, from Bettiah in Bihar, was presumed dead after a missile attack on the oil tanker Sky Light near Oman's Khasab port on March 1. The Indian Embassy in Oman at the time said 10 Indian sailors were aboard the parked vessel when it came under attack and caught fire, in one of the initial casualties in a

conflict that has turned the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's busiest shipping routes, into a war zone. According to the ministry, eight of the crew members were rescued by Omani authorities, but two -- Captain Kumar and crew member Dalip -- who were in the engine room, remained missing. On March 4, it was reported that Omani Coast Guards had found a burnt skull and bones in the captain's room. The em-

bassy at the time said nobody had entered the captain's room and the remains "most likely" belonged to Captain Kumar.

The Family's Demand

Kumar's family has, however, not accepted the conclusion and claims the forensic and DNA testing of the remains with samples provided by the captain's younger brother yielded a negative match. Through her petition, his wife has sought directions to the government of India, through the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs, to trace, locate and produce Captain Kumar by utilising all available diplomatic, consular and intelligence channels. According to the plea, the Indian Embassy in Muscat informed the family on May 15, 2026, that the recovered remains did not belong to Captain Ashish Kumar. The petition describes this as conclusive scientific evidence disproving the earlier assumption of death. The petition also

relies on a Biological Technical Examination Report issued by the Directorate General of Search and Criminal Investigation of the Royal Oman Police, which reportedly found no human DNA result from the examined bone fragments. Apart from the DNA evidence, the petition relies upon electronic evidence to claim that Captain Ashish Kumar remained alive after the attack. It states that on the day of the attack, a WhatsApp message sent by the petitioner was successfully delivered to the captain's second mobile phone more than three hours after the vessel was struck, indicating that the device survived the incident. The plea further alleges that on March 4, 2026, the petitioner received ransom calls from international and domestic numbers demanding Rs.20 lakh for Captain Ashish Kumar's release and claiming that he was alive and in their custody.

Pakistan Bans Al Jazeera For "Yellow Journalism" After Reports On PoK Crackdown



Islamabad:

Pakistan has reportedly blocked access to Al Jazeera after the influential Qatari broadcaster released a series of reports on Islamabad's brutal crackdown on anti-government protests and election-related protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif-led government has not announced any formal ban on the broadcaster so far, but multiple users across Pakistan have taken to social media claiming they were unable to access Al Jazeera's English-language website.

Pakistan's Information & Broadcasting (I&B) ministry has, meanwhile, criticised Al Jazeera's "selective reporting," accusing the media organisation of "misrepresenting" the elections and the voting process.

"We have taken note of Al Jazeera's selective reporting from handpicked polling stations in Muzaffarabad today. Through carefully chosen timings and scripted statements from selected individuals, the channel has sought to misrepresent the AJK elections and the voting process," the ministry said in a statement posted on its X handle.

Islamabad refers to the illegally occupied parts of Jammu and Kashmir as 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Pakistan also accused the Qatari media outlet of doing 'yellow journalism'-- a term which refers to reports that are written in an exaggerated way in order to shock the readers. "Such yellow journalism only confirms the agenda of

external actors with vested interests who are attempting to delegitimise this electoral exercise and undermine the popular will of the people of Muzaffarabad and AJK, clearly demonstrated today in their rejection of anarchy and coercion," it said.

India's Stand On PoK

The criticism came shortly after Al Jazeera aired extensive reporting from the disputed region. India maintains that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of it. New Delhi also asserts that Pakistan has been in "illegal and forcible occupation" of parts of these Union Territories.

The Criticism

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has, meanwhile, slammed Pakistan for a systematic crackdown on news gathering, citing ongoing communications shutdowns and state-imposed reporting barriers. "CPJ is monitoring the deteriorating press freedom conditions in Pakistan-administered Kashmir amid ongoing protests. Reports of internet blackouts, telecommunications shutdowns, restrictions on reporting, and the detention and disappearance of journalists are deeply concerning. Pakistani authorities must immediately end the crackdown on journalists, restore access to information, and allow independent reporting," the group said in a post on X. The press freedom body expressed particular urgency regarding the safety of media personnel operating in the region, including the reported disappearance of journal-

ists seized by uniformed personnel in Islamabad. "CPJ is deeply concerned by reports that independent journalist Razi Tahir and his colleague Muhammad Saif have been missing since August 1. They were reportedly taken by men in police uniforms from their office in Islamabad, and their whereabouts remain unknown. Pakistani authorities must acknowledge whether they are in state custody, ensure due process, and immediately release them if they are being arbitrarily detained," it wrote. "Journalists Razi Tahir and Muhmmad Saif remain missing after reportedly being taken by men in police uniform on August 1. Pakistani authorities must acknowledge their detention if they are in state custody, ensure due process, and immediately release them. Kashmiri journalist Raja Ikram, who was reportedly detained in Islamabad on August 1, was later released," it added. CPJ also noted that media censorship appears to be extending beyond regional borders, pointing to reported state actions against major news outlets and long-running telecom disruptions. "Separately, unconfirmed reports suggest access to Al Jazeera has been restricted in Pakistan after the outlet reported from Kashmir on August 1. Pakistan's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting accused the broadcaster of "yellow journalism." Media reports also indicate that a partial internet blackout and severe telecommunications restrictions have been in place across Pakistan-administered Kashmir since June 5.

'Be Creative, Unconventional': US Military Asks Troops To Find New Ways To Punish Iran



Washington: The US Central Command, the American combat unit stationed in the Middle East, has reportedly reached out to a broad group of military analysts seeking "new creative and unconventional ways to pressure and punish Iran." In an email sent last week, an officer in US Central Command's intelligence branch kicked off a brainstorming session, soliciting new ideas on how to deal with Iran, according to a report by CNN. Seeking crowdsourcing-style queries through email was an unusual move from the military and is an indication that President Donald Trump is left with limited -- and po-

tentially unpalatable -- options to force Iran into a deal on his terms, officials noted while talking to the American publication. The second source noted that CENTCOM is looking at everything, acknowledging it needs to reevaluate the strategy. "US Central Command has a long history of thinking and working in innovative ways," Captain Timothy Hawkins, a spokesperson for CENTCOM, said in a statement to CNN. "Admiral Cooper, in particular, reaches out to members of our great team, regardless of rank, to achieve the highest levels of operational performance possible," he

added.

The Timing

The CENTCOM email came before Trump last week threatened to launch new unprecedented strikes against Iran, only to call them off after Saudi Arabia's crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, intervened by calling Trump and urging him to de-escalate. The United States has carried out unrelenting air strikes on Iran for weeks, with an intention to weaken Tehran's ability to threaten shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and to bring the Islamic Republic back to the negotiating table. But so far, there is no sign of a deal. The US president has repeatedly threatened to escalate America's military campaign against Iran, especially aimed at Tehran's remaining nuclear facilities, which the US leader claimed had been "obliterated" in strikes last summer. Two sources familiar with the planning told CNN that the military has been actively preparing to strike Pickaxe Mountain and other Iranian sites believed to contain ei-

ther nuclear material or equipment.

Trump's Intention

But sources pointed out that even America's most powerful conventional weapons are unlikely to achieve much because the facilities are buried deeply underground. "To destroy them, the US would likely need to use ground troops -- a tremendous risk that Trump has been unwilling to take -- amid questions about his administration's transparency over service member casualties," they said. So far, at least 18 US service members have been killed in the fighting in the Middle East. With no real victory in sight, Trump has reportedly lowered his expectations and is hoping to end the war with just a symbolic win. A source said Trump has been considering strikes akin to a "fire-works" display, which could hit either the same or similar sites as those targeted a year ago, in the hopes of a symbolic victory that would allow him to exit the war. The move would abandon one of Trump's

initial war aims -- ridding Iran of its nuclear program. The move is also unlikely to resolve what has become the war's central issue, Iranian claims over the Strait of Hormuz. "At the end of the day, POTUS will want a deal, so he'll continually look for ways to get tough and get out of this," said one of the sources familiar with recent planning discussions. "You need creative minds at times -- especially if you're running out of conventional options," they added. CNN has earlier reported that both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defence Intelligence Agency have assessed that the kind of bombing the US is carrying out is unlikely to shift the Iranian negotiating position. Even Trump's most senior military adviser, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine, has acknowledged publicly that bombing alone is unlikely to accomplish all Trump's previously stated objectives for the war. "Air power has its limits," Caine told lawmakers last month.

Escalate, Negotiate Or Exit? Trump's 3 Options As Iran Conflict Drags On

US President Donald Trump has so far avoided escalating the Iran conflict into a larger war that could become difficult for the US to control. Now, Trump is facing a difficult decision: whether to continue military action against Iran or end the conflict and step back. The war has so far involved US air strikes, temporary ceasefires and naval blockades by both sides. However, it has not led to a clear victory, with Iran refusing to surrender or return to negotiations. Trump recently said that Iran had reached out for talks to end the war but later claimed that no discussions were taking place, NBC reported. He also described Iran's leadership as "unbelievably duplicitous", adding, "Nothing gets through to Iran, unless we want it to, and nothing will get through, unless a Deal, or Total Surrender, is accomplished." In the past, US presidents increased military involvement in wars such as Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan

because they wanted to avoid looking weak. However, according to CNN, those conflicts became longer and harder to end. Trump had earlier criticised such conflicts during his 2016 election campaign, saying America should avoid wars that never end. Now, Trump has three options. He can continue the current strategy of air strikes, temporary ceasefires, and naval blockades, but that may keep the war going without a clear outcome. Trump also has the option to increase the attacks and target not just Iran's military bases but also key infrastructure such as power plants and bridges. However, this could make the war much bigger, as Iran may retaliate by attacking US allies in the Gulf and damaging key facilities. The third option is to step back and end the conflict, even if some of its main goals remain unfinished. However, that could be a difficult political decision, as it may make the US appear to have

failed. The US also faces risks if it tries to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a major route for global oil shipments. Iranian missiles and drones could target US ships, while any ground operation could lead to heavy fighting. Past wars show that conflicts become much harder to control once ground troops enter, as this can also increase the chances of deaths. If American troops start losing their lives, people in the US may begin questioning the



government's decision to continue the war. However, no presi-

dent wants to be remembered as someone who lost a war.

US To Deneutralise 25, Including Indian-Origin Man, Over Criminal Charges

Washington: The United States is revoking the citizenship of 25 naturalised citizens, including an Indian-origin man, over allegations ranging from falsifying identity to attempted murder and child sexual abuse in one of its largest coordinated denaturalisation drives. The US Department of Justice (DoJ) has accused 65-year-old Narinder Singh, a resident of the District of Delaware, of using a fraudulent identity to seek admission to the US. According to the DoJ, Singh used two identities to gain admission to the US beginning in 1996 and naturalised as a US citizen on May 1, 2008. The complaint against him alleges seven counts for his numerous misrepresentations and unlawful acts that adversely reflect his moral character.

17 Nations, 25 People

Two persons of Pakistani descent -- Zia Murad Bhatti and Mohd Wasif -- are also among the 25 persons against whom denaturalisation proceedings have been initiated for allegedly falsifying identity. The complaints against these 25 individuals were filed between July 20 and August 3.

Aung San Suu Kyi Meets Red Cross Official In Rare Contact Since 2021 Coup

Myanmar's detained former leader Aung San Suu Kyi met with the International Committee of the Red Cross' representative in the capital on Monday, the military-backed government said, a rare moment of contact with the outside world for the Nobel laureate who has been held out of public view since the military seized power in 2021. Two photographs published with the announcement showed Suu Kyi shaking hands with Arnaud de Baecque, the ICRC's representative to Myanmar, and meeting with him in a wood-paneled room. The Presidential Press and Information Bureau, which released the photographs, said the meeting was held Monday morning but did not disclose the location or provide details about what was discussed. The ICRC confirmed in a statement on Monday that one of its delegates visited Suu Kyi under its standards and procedures for visiting people deprived of liberty, and spoke with her in private, but it did not disclose details of the discussion. The organization said it continues to engage with all relevant actors to maintain and expand its access to places of detention in Myanmar. Two other photographs

showed Suu Kyi cutting a pink birthday cake bearing the inscription, "Happy Birthday Aunty Suu," suggesting they may have been taken during a celebration for her 81st birthday in June. In the photos, Suu Kyi appeared relaxed and was smiling. She did not show any obvious signs of ill health, although her physical condition could not be independently assessed from the images. The release came as calls are growing from other countries, including Myanmar's fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, for access to or engagement with Suu Kyi as part of efforts to resolve the country's political crisis. Kim Aris, her younger son living in London, and Myanmar democracy activists have been waging an online campaign to demand evidence that his mother is alive and well. In a statement sent to the AP, Aris welcomed the reported ICRC visit, saying it could mark the first positive development concerning his mother in more than five years. "This may be a first step, but it must not be the last," Aris said. He thanked governments, the international community and supporters for standing with his family and backing his campaign to seek proof of his

mother's well-being, while stressing that he had not yet received independent confirmation of her condition. He said he hoped the visit would lead to direct family contact and her eventual release together with all political prisoners. Suu Kyi was detained Feb. 1, 2021, when the army seized power from her elected government. She has not been seen publicly since then, and the last official photo of her released was in April, when she was moved from prison to house arrest and her sentence was reduced as part of a prisoner amnesty for a Buddhist holiday. The country's military leaders, who have faced sanctions and widespread international isolation since seizing power in 2021, have sought to project a return to normalcy by holding a 2025 election and increased engagement with regional neighbors. However, critics say the transition to a nominally elected government largely composed of former generals and holdovers from the previous military-led government has done little to change the military's grip on power. Nay Phone Latt, a spokesperson for the opposition National Unity Government, said the ICRC's meeting with Suu Kyi shouldn't be taken as a real move to address human rights or democracy issues.

Will wipe off few players, benefit few others: Gopichand on badminton's new scoring system



New Delhi: Pullela Gopichand still remembers the disruption caused by badminton's scoring overhaul during his playing career and as the sport gears up to embrace another "tactical shift", the India coach believes a few players will be "wiped off". The 15×3 system (three games of 15 points each) will replace the current 21×3 format (three games of 21 points each) next year. The BWF said the shorter format would help in managing player workload in a crowded calendar. Gopichand recalled how he had won the All England title in 2001 under the traditional 15-point format before badminton briefly switched to the 7×5 scoring system. The experiment was abandoned within a year, with the sport reverting to the traditional 15-point scores for men and 11-point scores for women at that time. "When I won the All England, a few months later they moved from 15 to 7. It took me time because I was one of those players who was a stroke player. I wanted time to get adjusted. It took me a year to come back," Gopichand said in response to a PTI query during an interaction here ahead of the World Championships. "And then by

the time I was kind of settling in, they brought us back to the long form and it was a death blow. Because you train, you detrain, and your endurance drops. Then to go back and play 15 was impossible. These definitely make a big impact. A few players, it will wipe off, a few players might benefit." Drawing parallels with the 15×3 system approved by the Badminton World Federation (BWF), Gopichand said the shorter format would place greater premium on speed, power and mental strength, particularly during the closing stages of the games. "You scoring points will be important, but you not giving away points will be even more important. The speed and the power and the focus need to be top notch. The mind will play much more," he said. According to the national coach, doubles players are likely to feel the biggest impact as shorter games will make every phase of the contest more critical. "The serve, serve-return and the attack will be even more fierce in the doubles game...people who can hold their nerves and play the strokes will be important," he said. "In singles, already you can see a bunch of youngsters playing that whether it's people like Alwi Farhan (Indonesia), Christo Popov (France). I think a lot of flat doubles kind of a game is what's being played. So I think that will be a few more players might end up coming like that. "The crucial points in the game will be the 11th and 12th points. How you take pressure at 13-14 or 15-14 will be-

come very important. There will be a lot of pressure points throughout the match." Gopichand felt the change could alter the character of the sport, with the format favouring flatter, faster exchanges over the more elaborate, stroke-heavy rallies a longer format allowed. "Players will try to be a lot safer and not too much of skills. That's one area which I think the sport will miss out on because a longer format typically gives you a little more freedom to open up your arms and play a few more strokes. Here it's going to be a lot more flat, parallel games," he said.

Not convinced by BWF's logic

Gopichand also felt the BWF could have achieved its objective of reducing player workload differently. "If they were planning to extend the tournament schedule to two weeks, they could have stayed on with the 21-point system because it doesn't make sense to shorten it and lengthen the tournament both at the same time," he said. "The purpose was to give rest to the players, and that could have been achieved by having the tournament over a 10-12-day period instead of six days. But probably BWF has its own reasons. It's very subjective." Gopichand believes veteran Indian players such as HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth might benefit from the new scoring system. "It will be better for them. We're not very sure how exactly because when speed goes up these guys have to move quicker. So training to

move quicker needs you to be a lot more agile, a lot more faster and that could lead to injuries as well. "The nuance is everything. The smaller detail is everything. If I had a choice I would pick the 15 for an older player... For some players it might be a little tough, but by and large Indian players are okay."

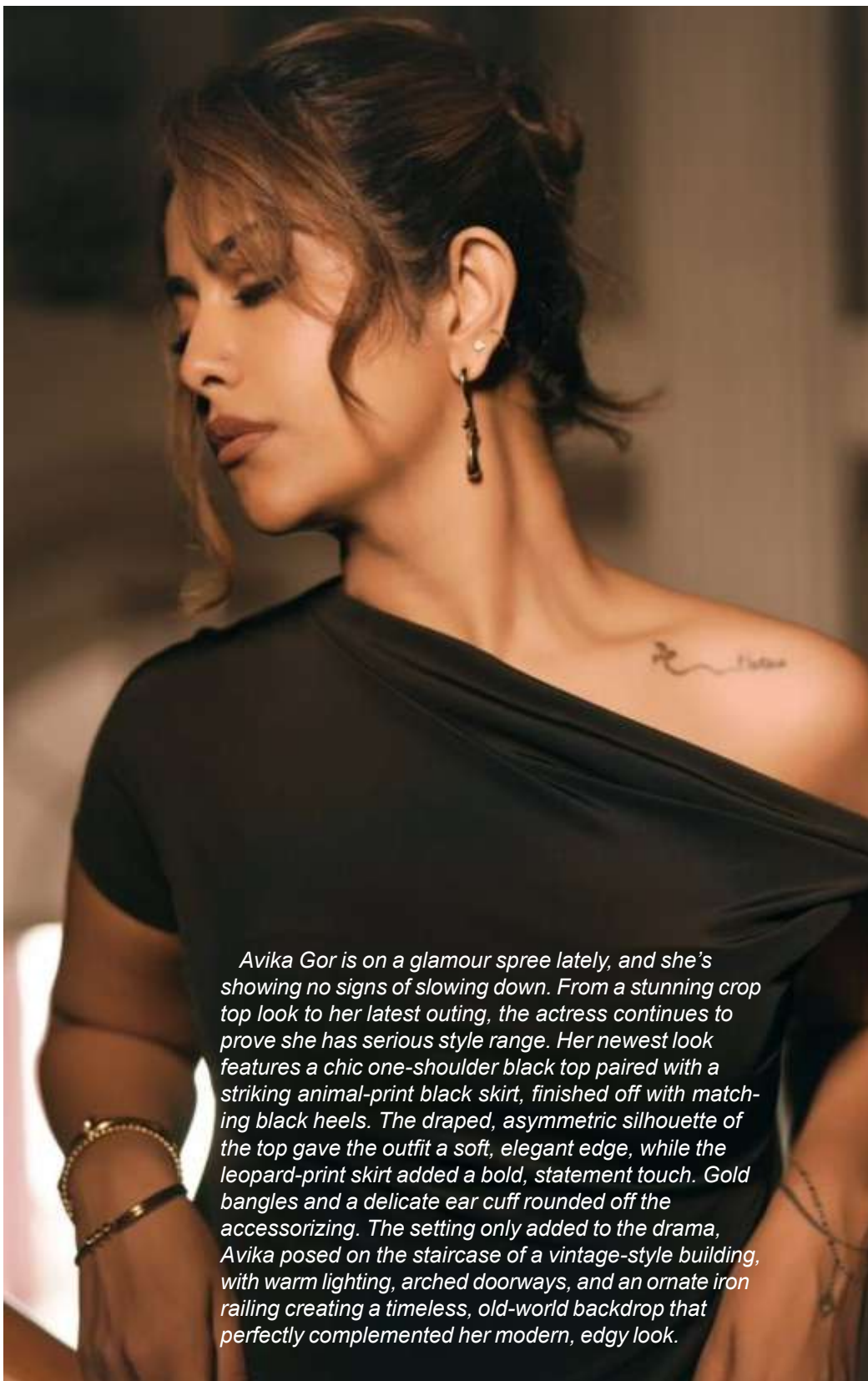
Who after Satwik-Chirag?

Gopichand has admitted India does not yet have a clear answer to who fill the men's doubles void once Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty move past their peak.

Asked how India plans to build a supply chain in men's doubles beyond its top pair, Gopichand did not offer a ready roadmap. "It's a very valid question. I think we need to get the best players coming together, playing together, some system like that needs to be there. We are very democratic in that set-up. "We used to have five academies, or four academies, five years back. Today there are 500 academies — 5,000 independent players and 5,000 independent minds. When it comes to doubles, that compounds the problem," he said. He acknowledged that very few players, who consider themselves strong in singles, are willing to experiment in doubles.

"Very rarely do we have a decent singles player pick doubles if he is good at it. Not very often do you see that switch...it could be good talent for singles but exceptional talent for doubles."

Avika Gor Dazzles In Chic Vintage Setting



Avika Gor is on a glamour spree lately, and she's showing no signs of slowing down. From a stunning crop top look to her latest outing, the actress continues to prove she has serious style range. Her newest look features a chic one-shoulder black top paired with a striking animal-print black skirt, finished off with matching black heels. The draped, asymmetric silhouette of the top gave the outfit a soft, elegant edge, while the leopard-print skirt added a bold, statement touch. Gold bangles and a delicate ear cuff rounded off the accessorizing. The setting only added to the drama, Avika posed on the staircase of a vintage-style building, with warm lighting, arched doorways, and an ornate iron railing creating a timeless, old-world backdrop that perfectly complemented her modern, edgy look.

Jasprit Bumrah injury raises questions over BCCI Centre of Excellence's sports science team

New Delhi: A glaring communication disconnect between the Centre of Excellence's (CoE) sports science and medical team and the senior national men's selection committee has come into sharp focus once again, with Jasprit Bumrah's absence from the Test series against Sri Lanka emerging as the latest example. It has been learnt that national selection committee was initially made to believe that Bumrah will be available for the Sri Lanka series, starting August 15, before it was realised that his injury is more serious than what was expected. There was a virtual meeting between the top officials of CoE, including VVS Laxman, and head of selection committee Ajit Agarkar on Monday to discuss the injury management issue of centrally contracted players. While injuries are a part and parcel of sport, the performance of the sports science team at the state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence with all modern amenities available, hasn't been something to write home about. The BCCI has been without an official head of sports science since Nitin Patel's exit, and the department's recent functioning suggests it has done little to justify the vacuum at the top. Hence the focus is on CoE's interim sports science head Dhananjay Kaushik, who is currently running the show at the Bengaluru High Performance Centre. While his credentials are beyond doubt, questions have emerged over the rehabilitation timelines being set for players and whether the prescribed 'Return to Play' protocols are being adhered to consistently in every case. In case of Harshit Rana, the ques-



tion remains that how did the sports science team declare him fit when he was distinctly overweight which once again led to recurrence of his hamstring injury? There was a popular T20 specialist batter from one of the southern states, who was reportedly "overweight" when he arrived in England. But every India player before tour report to CoE for mandatory tests. Why didn't CoE report that particular batter? Washington Sundar's fitness has also been pretty dodgy and this is not the first time that he has had hamstring issues and that is a worrying trend for a young spinner. Did the sports science team take cognisance of Washington's repeated breakdowns? The question also arises if Nitish Kumar Reddy got a green light from the CoE and BCCI to independently train under freelance fast bowling coach Stefan Jones to increase his bowling speed from late 120kmph to mid 130s? Did sudden burst of increased

speed affect Reddy's hamstring. "The safest thing is to rule a player out but is the current sports science staff at CoE doing enough to get top players on park on time. Selectors were assured Bumrah will be available for at least one Test. "Now they have been conveyed that Sai Sudharsan is batting in the nets for 75 minutes and is showing signs of good recovery after suffering a foot injury. But what if selectors are later told that Sai won't be fit in time for the first Test against Sri Lanka," a BCCI official tracking developments at CoE told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Will Kamlesh Jain's performance be part of BCCI Review ?

Another person whose role is being re-looked at is Indian team physio Kamlesh Jain. The former Bengal Ranji team physio, who later worked at NCA and India A team, has been with the team for close to five years and is known to be

very popular with the players. But with a spate of injuries rocking the Indian team, it is understood that his role in the Team India set-up is also being looked at. A review meeting is on cards since the England debacle and it won't be surprising if Kamlesh Jain's role is also discussed and deliberated upon by men who matter. It is understood that head coach Gautam Gambhir and chairman of selectors Agarkar are waiting for the BCCI review meeting which will also involve CoE's Head of Cricket VVS Laxman and secretary Devajit Saikia (as convenor). Now that Gambhir will be in Sri Lanka for next three weeks, it is not known whether the supposed Review Meeting will take place physically or virtually. There is also a question as to why the meeting wasn't held in July when both Gambhir and Agarkar were in India and available for a face to face discussion with the BCCI secretary.

One More Reason To Fall In Love With Nithiin: Nani



Natural Star Nani's Unanimous Productions formally launched Nithiin starrer Alias Rukmini, directed by Murali Kanth Devaasoorthy, yesterday with a traditional pooja ceremony. The announcement video has created an instant buzz, with fans and movie lovers praising the fresh concept and predicting that the film could mark a strong comeback for Nithiin. Alias Rukmini is currently trending across social media, where netizens have been appreciating both the intriguing premise and Nani's decision to back such a unique script for his close friend. Nani recalled that Nithiin had stood by him even before he tasted success. He said audiences had fallen in love with Nithiin through films like Jayam, Ishq, and Gunde Jaari Gallanthayyinde, and expressed confidence that Alias Rukmini would give them one more reason to fall in love with Nithiin. Calling it a beautiful love story with a unique backdrop, Nani added that the film has every ingredient to remain with audiences for a long time.

Nithiin thanked Nani for believing in him and bringing the script his way. Calling it a very special film in his career, he appreciated Nani for introducing him to director Murali Kanth and said the film will make everyone associated with feel proud. Producer Deepthi Ganta recalled getting an instant feeling that the script was something special when director Murali first narrated it. She also credited Nani for suggesting Nithiin for the role of Krishna, saying the actor looked perfect in the character.

HCA forms new committee to boost district infrastructure in Telangana

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) Secretary, Mr. M. Jeevan Reddy, announced the constitution of the District Cricket Infrastructure Development Committee under the guidance of the Single

Member Committee, headed by Justice P. Naveen Rao (Retd.). The Committee has been constituted with the objective of strengthening cricket infrastructure and administration, while promoting the systematic devel-

opment of the game across the districts of Telangana. The Committee will be chaired by T. Sheshnarayan, former Secretary of the HCA, whose extensive experience in cricket administration will provide valuable lead-

ership in advancing district-level infrastructure development. Ramakrishna Udupa – Member, HCA M. Rajashekar – Representative, Mahbubnagar District C. Venkat Rao – Representative, Khammam District.