

Sri Geetaansha Digitals
Hyderabad | Visakhapatnam | Kakinada | Vijayawada | Ongole



Print
*Conditions Apply

For More Details: 93948 55244, 9059465965

President Droupadi Murmu Presents Sant Kabir National Handloom Awards At The Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre



New Delhi: National Handloom Day is being observed in the country on Friday, August 7, 2026. On one hand, PM Modi urged every citizen to use handloom, and President Droupadi Murmu has said that the handloom sector serves not only as a source of livelihood but also as a powerful instrument of inclusive development. Addressing the programme on the occasion of the 12th National Handloom Day in New Delhi today, the President said that for thousands of years, handloom has been an integral part of India's cultural and civilisational journey. She also presented the Sant Kabir National Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre on Friday, recognising the outstanding contributions of India's

handloom weavers and artisans. President Murmu has addressed the National Handloom Day event at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday. During the event, the President conferred the Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and the National Handloom Awards for the year 2025. A total of 22 awards, comprising three Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and nineteen National Handloom Awards, were conferred upon the handloom weavers for their craftsmanship, innovation and contribution to the preservation of India's handloom traditions. The Sant Kabir National Handloom Awards are among the country's highest honours for handloom weavers, particularly in rural India. Addressing the gathering, President Murmu congratulated the awardees and praised the



country's weaving community for preserving India's rich textile traditions. She said that Indian handloom products are not just pieces of fabric but symbols of the nation's cultural heritage, craftsmanship, and identity passed down through generations. The President highlighted that the handloom sector plays a crucial role in providing livelihoods to millions of weavers, particularly in rural

India. She noted that the industry significantly contributes to women's empowerment, employment generation, and sustainable economic development while keeping traditional art forms alive. The President said that handloom has been an integral part of the evolutionary journey of India's civilisation for centuries. It reflects the extraordinary diversity of our nation and has preserved our regional uniqueness.

MEA Clarifies No Govt Involvement In Sheikh Hasina's New Delhi Virtual Briefing

New Delhi : The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday clarified that New Delhi had no role in former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's media interaction in the national capital, reiterating that the press conference was hosted independently by a private press organisation. Addressing a weekly media briefing, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasised that India does not endorse the remarks made during the event, stating, "The Government had no role to play

in what was an event by a private media entity. The Government does not endorse anything said at the forum, especially with regard to the duly constituted Government of Bangladesh." The event in question was organised by the Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) of South Asia, a private media entity. The clarification follows Hasina's first virtual press briefing from New Delhi on Wednesday, marking her first media address since departing Bangladesh in 2024. During the interaction,



she expressed her resolve to return to her homeland later this year despite potential risks. "Whatever fate awaits me, I will return to my people. I cannot stay away while my beloved countrymen are

suffering... I want to go back in December," she said, speaking two years after stepping down following the student-led movement in 2024 that led to the end of her administration.

Amritsar Top Cop Removed After Jantar Mantar Remarks BJP Questions Timing

New Delhi: The transfer of Amritsar Police chief Gurpreet Singh Bhullar days after the force announced a major breakthrough against alleged Pakistan-backed terror modules has raised questions over the timing of the move. The Amritsar commissionerate had announced the arrest of nine people, including four minors, and the recovery of three pistols, nine live cartridges and four petrol bottle

bombs. The police had said the accused were acting at the behest of foreign-based ISI handlers and were conducting surveillance of security installations. The development assumes significance as the police operation came amid heightened attention over the alleged terror plot linked to protests at Jantar Mantar. In his August 4 briefing, Bhullar said the investigation had revealed that some of the arrested accused

had visited Jantar Mantar, conducted reconnaissance and allegedly planned to target protesters with petrol bombs. The Punjab government subsequently issued a clarification, saying the police commissioner had not stated that the accused were participants in the Jantar Mantar protests or that the protesters had any links with the terror module. The government said selective editing of the police chief's

remarks had created a "wrongful impression" that the arrested people were associated with the protesters. Bhullar's transfer, coming shortly after these remarks, has now triggered speculation about whether the controversy surrounding the statement played a role in the decision. There is, however, no official confirmation that his transfer was linked to the Jantar Mantar remarks.

National Handloom Day: CM Chandrababu Extends Greetings to Weavers

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August, 7 : Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu extended his greetings to weavers on the occasion of National Handloom Day. Responding through social media platform X, he said the state government is giving priority to the welfare of handloom workers who are carrying forward the handloom art that reflects India's rich cultural heritage. As part of these efforts, the government is launching the 'Nethanna Sevalo' scheme, he said. He added that the government is supporting weavers through electricity subsidies and pensions from the age of 50. The Chief Minister said that 71,536 handloom families are being provided assistance under the 'Nethanna Sevalo' scheme. Each handloom family will receive Rs.25,000, with a total of Rs.179 crore being disbursed to weavers. He said the assistance is aimed at protecting the welfare of handloom workers and



preserving their traditional occupational heritage. "Let us all join hands and protect the art of handloom weaving," CM Chandrababu Naidu posted on X.

CM Orders Strict Action Against Accused in Vehicle Attack on Medicos

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 7: Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has directed senior officials to take stringent action against those accused in the incident in Rajamahendravaram in which two medical students were hit by a vehicle. On Friday, the Chief Minister reviewed the incident at the Secretariat and enquired with senior officials about the health condition of the injured medicos, Priyanka and Umesh. He expressed concern over the serious injuries suffered by the medical students. Officials briefed the Chief Minister on the circumstances of the incident. They said the accused, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, rammed their car into the two medicos and fled the spot. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the accused had been arrested immediately. Chandrababu directed them to take steps to ensure that the accused receive stringent punishment. He made it clear that those responsible for the incident should not be

spared under any circumstances. He also instructed officials to continuously monitor the health condition of medico Priyanka and ensure that both victims receive all necessary medical assistance. On Wednesday night, two young men reportedly went to Prasad Aditya Mall in Rajamahendravaram after consuming alcohol. Observing their condition, the mall staff conducted a breathalyser test and denied them entry. Angered by this, the two allegedly became aggressive towards the mall staff and drove their car at high speed. At the same time, they reportedly rammed their car into a scooter passing in front of the mall gate. They hit the scooter again while driving at high speed, causing the medico travelling as a pillion rider to fall onto the road and suffer serious injuries. The car allegedly passed over her head for a third time while continuing at the same speed. She subsequently suffered brain death and is currently undergoing treatment in the ICU. Umesh, who was

riding the scooter, also sustained serious injuries. Police registered a case and launched an investigation, subsequently arresting the two accused. According to police, the accused are residents of Namavaram near Rajamahendravaram.

Priyanka, who has been declared brain dead, was pursuing her postgraduate studies at GSL Medical College in Rajamahendravaram. She was shifted to Hyderabad for advanced medical treatment.

Ponnamanda Lakshmana Swamy Varma Jayanti Celebrated as State Festival: Minister Savitha Pays Rich Tributes

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 7: The birth anniversary celebrations of Ponnamanda Lakshmana Swamy Varma, regarded as the founding figure of the Agnikula Kshatriya community, were held grandly at the camp office in Tadepalli. Minister Savitha paid rich tributes by garlanding his portrait. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said Lakshmana Swamy Varma rendered outstanding services for the development of the Agnikula Kshatriya community. She praised him as a social reformer who worked extensively for the upliftment of the Agnikula Kshatriya community as well as the poor.



She also highlighted his significant contributions to the field of Ayurvedic medicine. Minister Savitha said Ponnamanda Varma was a great personality who prepared 120 types of medicines and supplied them across the country and abroad. She said he played a key role in bringing special recognition to the Agnikula

Kshatriya community in society. She noted that the Agnikula Kshatriyas were officially recognised through G.O. No. 271 in 1927. The Minister said the coalition government's decision to officially celebrate Ponnamanda Varma's birth anniversary as a state festival was a great honour for the community.

CM Chandrababu Fulfils 90-Year-Old Woman's Wish

From Our Staff Reporter Bapatla District: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu fulfilled the long-cherished wish of a 90-year-old woman to meet him and take a photograph together. He also met a handloom family from Srikakulam district, keeping a promise he had made earlier. Recently, 90-year-old Pushpavathi from Chirala expressed her desire to meet Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. A video of her wish was posted on social media and went viral. The video came to the Chief Minister's attention, prompting him to fulfil her wish. On the occasion of International Handloom Day, he posted on X that he would meet and speak with her in Chirala. Keeping his word, CM Chandrababu met his



elderly admirer in Chirala today. He affectionately enquired about her well-being and spoke to her warmly. Later, he posed for a photograph with her as she wished. Pushpavathi expressed immense happiness over getting a picture with CM Chandrababu, saying that her lifelong wish

had finally come true. Meanwhile, CM Chandrababu also met handloom couple Nageswara Rao and Lakshmi from Etcherla in Srikakulam district. A video of the couple had also gone viral on social media, following which the Chief Minister had promised to meet them on Handloom

Day. True to his word, he met them in Chirala today. On the occasion, the couple presented Chandrababu with a portrait of him woven on a handloom. The Chief Minister examined the artwork and appreciated the handloom couple for their remarkable skill in weaving his portrait onto the fabric.

PM Modi Praises Minister Lokesh, Hails Bhogapuram Event as Excellent

New Delhi: On the occasion of National Handloom Day, Vizianagaram MP Kalisetty Appalanaidu paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He presented the Prime Minister with special handloom fabrics made by weavers from Vizianagaram. Modi appreciated the skill and contribution of the handloom artisans. During the meeting, the inauguration ceremony of the Bhogapuram International Airport in Andhra Pradesh was discussed. The Prime Minister praised the event, describing its organisation as excellent. Prime Minister Modi also specially appreciated Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh. He praised Lokesh for his



good organisational skills. Modi also commended MP Kalisetty Appalanaidu for his discipline. He said he had noticed that the MP regularly comes to Parliament by bicycle and praised him as a disciplined public representative. MP Kalisetty's daughter, Kalisetty Nikhila, also participated in the meeting. She said that the Gen-Z generation in India as well as abroad takes pride in Prime Minister Modi's governance. Mean-

while, Nikhila told the Prime Minister that people in Andhra Pradesh were highly satisfied with the governance of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Prime Minister Modi agreed with her views. During the interaction, PM Narendra Modi once again extended his greetings to the people of the country and handloom workers on the occasion of National Handloom Day.

EDITORIAL

The education system is in deep crisis!

Democratic governments are responsible for responding to public opinion. Accountability is a cornerstone of constitutional democracy. But it should not end with the resignation of a minister. It should equally apply to examination conducting agencies, recruitment agencies, police investigation machinery, cyber security systems, state governments, educational institutions, and all administrative institutions involved in the conduct of competitive examinations. Without institutional accountability, political accountability remains symbolic. The police action against the students reminds us of another key aspect of democratic governance. It is the constitutional right of every citizen to protest peacefully. At the same time, the government has the responsibility to maintain law and order. The resignation of the Union Education Minister should not be seen as a mere political defeat of an individual. It should be seen as a symbol of a deep institutional crisis that has been building up in the Indian education system for years. Whether the resignation was a result of public pressure or part of a political strategy, the main questions raised by the students are still unanswered. Can India restore public trust in its examination system? Is accountability limited to political sacrifices? Can the regime change in line with the aspirations of a youth who refuse to be silenced? The student movement has achieved a historic victory. While the resignation of a minister is a moral victory for the democratic struggle, it would be simplistic to assume that the institutional flaws will be removed by changing one individual. Problems like question paper leaks, exam irregularities, lack of administrative transparency, and declining trust in educational institutions are structural failures that have accumulated over decades. They will not disappear with a resignation. The most remarkable aspect of this movement is the emergence of Generation Z as an independent political force. While student movements in the past were dominated by political parties, this movement has taken shape around digital mobilization, decentralized leadership, and issue-based politics. For today's youth, issues such as educational justice, employment opportunities, and transparent governance have become more important than ideological slogans. This is evidence that the participatory nature of Indian democracy is changing. These protests are not limited to examination reforms, but have become a symbol of growing discontent among the youth. Unemployment, uncertainty over job opportunities, repeated examination irregularities, and declining trust in government institutions - all these have combined to cause deep frustration among the youth. Therefore, this movement has become a struggle not just about an exam, but about the future of a generation. This development also raises an important question about political accountability. Democratic governments are responsible for responding to public opinion. Accountability is a cornerstone of constitutional democracy. But it should not end with the resignation of a minister. It should equally apply to examination bodies, recruitment agencies, police investigation machinery, cyber security systems, state governments, educational institutions, and all administrative institutions involved in the conduct of competitive examinations. Without institutional accountability, political accountability remains symbolic. The police action against students reminds us of another key aspect of democratic governance. It is the constitutional right of every citizen to protest peacefully. At the same time, the government has the responsibility to maintain law and order. Maintaining a balance between the two, police action should be transparent, impartial, and respectful of civil rights. Democracy is not strengthened by suppressing dissent; it is strengthened by listening to people's concerns constructively. Social media has also played an increasingly important role in influencing contemporary political debates. Memes, caricatures, and digital campaigns have become powerful tools for capturing public attention. But they also risk oversimplifying complex policy debates. Public opinion should be based on evidence-based information rather than viral stories. Similarly, the debates surrounding the E-20 ethanol blend fuel make it clear that public trust is based on transparent scientific information. Government policies related to environmental protection, energy security, and technological change should be subject to continuous public debate. The public should be provided with clear evidence-based information on the benefits, costs, and long-term impacts. The resignation is also being seen as a turning point in Indian politics. Some analysts believe that it indicates that continued public pressure could force governments to reconsider their decisions. However, the final verdict on this will depend on future political developments. Such incidents in the history of democracy redefine the relationship between citizens and governments over time. Most importantly, India's education crisis is not limited to question paper leaks. Postponement of exams, delays in recruitment, vacancies in educational institutions, lack of adequate investment in higher education, and commercialization of the education sector have all eroded student confidence. Without comprehensive reforms in education governance, examination reforms alone cannot restore public confidence. India urgently needs a comprehensive examination integrity system. Secure digital infrastructure, independent examination regulatory bodies, strong cybersecurity systems, transparent audits of recruitment processes, speedy legal action against examination fraud, protection for whistleblowers, and uniform standards for competitive examinations across the country. Also, psychological counseling and support systems for students facing severe academic stress must be strengthened. Ultimately, the true success of any student movement cannot be measured by the resignation of a single minister. If it leads to lasting institutional reforms, it will go down in history. Political victories are temporary; structural reforms bring about lasting change. These developments send a clear message to policymakers. Education is not just an administrative sector; it symbolizes the dreams, aspirations, and future of millions of Indian youth. Restoring the credibility of the examination system, promoting transparency in governance, protecting the constitutional rights of students, and restoring public trust must become national priorities. Only then can India channel public anger into meaningful educational reforms and a democratic revival.

Age Of The Pink Slip: India's Brutal IT Layoffs Are No Longer About Cost-Cutting

On the morning of July 29, a lot of Visa staff in India opened their laptops to an HR email telling them not to come in. Their jobs were gone. Visa is cutting about 2,600 roles worldwide, about 7% of its people, and India, its biggest tech base outside America, took a real hit. By early August, the axe had climbed the org chart to vice-presidents, senior directors, and engineering leads. A US filing on July 31 logged 320 losses at its California headquarters alone. One India team of 28, employees told reporters, lost ten. Visa's official line is that this is about efficiency and reinvesting for growth, and that AI is only one reason among several. Worth noting the company is making plenty of money and isn't leaving India. This isn't a struggling business trimming fat. It's a profitable one, deciding it needs fewer humans. Visa is not an outlier either. TCS, the country's largest private employer, said this summer it would let go of about 12,200 managers under a "future-ready transformation". Look at the full year, and the picture is uglier: net headcount down 23,460, ending March at 584,519. The four biggest IT firms, TCS, Infosys, HCLTech, and Wipro, removed a net 9,100 people in the April-June quarter this year. A year earlier, in the same quarter, they had added 22,622. Oracle has cut roughly 30,000 globally, many of them in India. Microsoft has gone back for more. Freshworks dropped 11% of its staff and named AI as the reason. Beneath the announced

figures sits what nobody files paperwork for: freshers at Infosys, Cognizant and Accenture whose joining dates keep slipping, benches quietly emptied.

A Very Different Storm

This round of layoffs feels different from 2023. Back then, firms were just unwinding pandemic over-hiring. This time, they are shrinking while the money still rolls in. NASSCOM puts the sector's FY26 revenue near \$315 billion, up around 6%, yet headcount rose only 2.3%. Revenue grew three times faster than the number of people earning it. For thirty years, Indian IT ran on one sum: revenue equals people times hours times billing rate. Win a client, hire a hundred engineers. That sum is what's breaking. The firms are shifting to charge for outcomes instead of bodies, and the old edge - paying an Indian company to throw more cheap people at a problem - stops meaning much once one AI agent does the work of ten analysts. Some reckon half a million jobs could go in the next two or three years. I don't buy the apocalypse, though, and nor should you. The Indian tech workforce actually grew last year, to roughly six million. The pain is landing on particular work: repetitive, process-heavy tasks, and the mid-career engineer keeping some decade-old system alive that a coding assistant can now half-run by itself. Meanwhile, the hiring is real in AI, cloud, cybersecurity, and platform work, and the global capability centres, the in-house tech arms multinationals run out of India,



are still adding people.

Look At The Fine Print

TCS was careful to call its cuts a skills mismatch rather than an AI dividend, and that wording matters more than it looks. The trouble isn't machines wiping out work wholesale. It's that the work keeps mutating faster than people can retrain for it. The number that should worry everyone: India may need over a million AI professionals, yet by the government's own estimate, only about 16% of the current IT workforce is genuinely AI-skilled. The bottleneck was never the supply of engineers. It's how few of them are ready for the job that exists today. Which is where the response has to go, and to be fair, some of it already is. A relook and reassessment is being undertaken at many levels, and two areas that need attention are below. The first task is retraining people and actually moving them into the roles that are hir-

ing. FutureSkills PRIME, run by the IT ministry with NASSCOM, now claims over 25 lakh registered learners across 3,000-odd courses in AI and cloud. The IndiaAI Mission is pushing AI teaching from undergraduate to PhD level, and the Skill India Digital Hub has pulled training onto one platform. Companies are doing their bit, with close to half of tech workers now saying they get AI training on the job and Infosys running its own programmes. But a certificate is not a career. The real test is whether a laid-off maintenance engineer lands in a GCC or product team, or just collects another badge that changes nothing on payday.

The Fixes Lie Outside The Workplace

The second task is fixing the pipeline before it reaches the workplace, so graduates turn up already fluent instead of needing a retrofit. In July, the government and NASSCOM con-

firmed they are rewriting the AI syllabus for undergraduate courses, a job expected to take about six months. Get it right, and the gulf between what colleges teach and what employers want starts to close. Get it wrong, and we keep minting graduates trained on last decade's tools for jobs that have already vanished. None of this makes the layoffs painless. Behind every "restructuring" is a person locked out of their own inbox, a fresher watching a start date drift into the fog. But India is not a passenger here. It has the youngest big workforce on the planet - two in three Indians are under 35 - and the deepest bench of AI skills of any country. The real contest is one of speed: how fast AI swallows the routine jobs against how fast the country can push its people up into the harder ones. It can't slow the first. It can win the second, if it stops treating retraining as a press release.

From Punjab To Karnataka, Congress Just Can't Stop Hitting Self-Goals

Indian politics has a habit of discovering national turning points in municipal wards, assembly by-elections, and stray remarks made outside Parliament. Sometimes, the instinct is justified. More often, a local rebuke is inflated into a national rebellion because the Opposition is hungry for hope, and television studios are hungry for narratives. The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Prashant Kishor has broken the party's three-decade hold over Bankipur, winning 64,151 votes and defeating the BJP by 19,324. In Madhya Pradesh, the Congress retained Datia by 6,016 votes. But on the same day, the BJP retained Manjalpur in Gujarat by more than 30,000 votes. The verdict was, therefore, a warning, not a collapse. The temptation for the Congress will be to celebrate Datia and interpret Bankipur as evidence of a wider anti-BJP mood. It should, however, resist both impulses. Bankipur was not won by the Congress. It was won by a political entrepreneur who recognised a vacant space, invested himself in it, and convinced voters that neither the ruling alliance nor the established Opposition deserved their loyalty. That should worry the Congress more than it does the BJP. In the immediate political future, the road to the 2029 Lok Sabha election will pass through Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand in 2027, and Karnataka in 2028. Together, these four states account for 126 Lok Sabha constituencies. They will test whether the Congress can manage leaders, choose winnable candidates, and preserve alliances - the three areas in which it remains most vulnerable.

Two Defeats Isn't A Wave

The 2024 Lok Sabha verdict altered the psychological balance of Indian politics. The BJP fell from 303 seats to 240 and lost its independent majority; the Congress rose from 52 to 99 and regained the status of the official Opposition party. The INDIA grouping demonstrated that Narendra Modi could be challenged when re-

gional arithmetic, candidate selection, and local grievances worked together. But the elections that followed have produced a far less reassuring picture for the Congress. In Bihar in 2025, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 202 of 243 Assembly seats. The BJP became the largest party with 89 seats, the Janata Dal-United (JD-U) won 85, and the Congress was reduced to six. In the 2026 Assembly elections, the BJP captured West Bengal with 207 seats and secured 82 of 126 seats in Assam. The Congress's decisive Kerala victory, where it emerged as the largest party with 63 seats, demonstrated what it can achieve with an identifiable state leadership, a durable coalition, and an organisation that exists between elections. But its two seats in Bengal, 19 in Assam, and five in Tamil Nadu exposed the geographic narrowness of its recovery. The BJP, in other words, is neither invincible nor remotely exhausted. It has lost important battles, but it continues to acquire territory. Congress leaders often speak as though anti-incumbency is a natural resource that will eventually flow towards them. Bankipur offers the opposite lesson. When the principal Opposition fails to provide an address for public dissatisfaction, voters may find another recipient.

Punjab, Uttarakhand, And The Missing 'Command'

Punjab should, on paper, offer the Congress its clearest opportunity in 2027. The party won seven of the state's 13 Lok Sabha seats in 2024. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government must defend its five years in office, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) remains diminished, and the BJP has yet to establish a statewide social coalition. Even then, the Congress appears determined to turn an opportunity into an internal referendum. The leadership issue is nowhere near settled. Amarinder Singh Raja Warring continues as the Pradesh Congress chief, while Charanjit Singh Channi, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, and their supporters have demanded change. Partap Singh Bajwa has his own



following and chief ministerial ambitions. Bhupesh Baghel, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in charge of Punjab, has held repeated meetings, submitted reports to Delhi, and warned against indiscipline. His organisational tour has nevertheless been greeted by pro-Channi disruptions, anti-Baghel banners, and demonstrations of factional strength. Congress factionalism is not new. It becomes fatal when every compromise is interpreted as a victory for one camp and a humiliation for another. Punjab does not merely require the high command to choose a leader. It requires a high command to define authority. Uttarakhand presents a different problem. The BJP has weaknesses: local anti-incumbency, factional anxieties, unemployment, migration from the hills, and dissatisfaction in closely fought constituencies. In 2022, as many as 23 assembly seats were decided by fewer than 5,000 votes. But the BJP enters the contest with a recognised chief ministerial face in Pushkar Singh Dhami and an organisation that is already identifying weak booths and assigning senior leaders to them. The party won 47 of 70 assembly seats in 2022 and all five Lok Sabha constituencies in 2024. The Congress has leaders, but no leader whose authority is broadly accepted across the state. Harish Rawat retains experience and recall; Yashpal

Arya holds the formal position of Leader of the Opposition; younger aspirants want generational change. What the party lacks is not talent but hierarchy.

The Confusion In Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh is the state in which the Congress has the least organisational strength and the greatest national stake. The 2024 Samajwadi Party (SP) Congress arrangement produced the Opposition's most important breakthrough. The SP won 37 Lok Sabha seats and the Congress six, while the BJP was reduced to 33. Rahul Gandhi's victory from Rae Bareilly and the visible chemistry between him and Akhilesh Yadav supplied the INDIA formation with its most persuasive image of cooperation. Two years later, sections of the Uttar Pradesh Congress appear unsure whether that partnership should be consolidated, renegotiated beyond recognition, or abandoned in favour of an understanding with Mayawati. Some Congress leaders have publicly sought an equal division of seats with the SP, arguing that the alliance benefited Akhilesh Yadav disproportionately. Others believe the party should explore the BSP route to attract Dalit voters. Mayawati, however, has repeatedly said that the BSP intends to contest the 2027 election independently. This confusion is destructive because it mistakes aspiration for bargaining power. The Congress con-

tested 17 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2024 and won six. That was a significant recovery, but it did not make the Congress equal to the SP in the state. The Samajwadi Party possesses an extensive cadre, an identifiable leadership, a substantial core vote, and a presence across most assembly constituencies. The Congress cannot demand parity merely because it requires more seats to rebuild itself. At the same time, Akhilesh Yadav must recognise that the Congress brings national legitimacy, access to sections of upper-caste and minority voters, and the political utility of Rahul Gandhi's campaign. Alliances cannot endure if the larger partner treats the smaller one as decorative. The sensible course is neither surrender nor fantasy. It is an early, realistic settlement based on constituency-level strength, past performance, and the ability to field credible candidates. The BJP has its own challenges in Uttar Pradesh. The 2024 result exposed discontent over jobs, recruitment examinations, caste representation, and the functioning of local MPs. But Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath remains a powerful political figure; the BJP retains a formidable booth structure, a welfare network, and the ability to frame an assembly election differently from a parliamentary one. The Congress and the SP cannot defeat that machinery while debating publicly whether they wish to remain allies.

Complete Hearing of at Least 70 Electoral Claims Daily: Observer



Vijayawada, August 7:NTR District Electoral Roll Observer M.V. Seshagiri Babu has directed officials to dispose of at least 70 electoral roll claims and objections every day as part of the Special Intensive Revision process. Reviewing the progress at the Vijayawada Collectorate on Friday, he instructed officials to conduct transparent inquiries and resolve each claim or objection within seven days of issuing notice. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh asked Booth Level Officers to ensure accurate voter records, correct photo discrepancies, and place family members in the same polling station wherever possible. Political party representatives also attended the meeting and offered suggestions.

World Tribal Day to Be Celebrated Grandly in Polavaram District on August 10

Rampachodavaram, August 7:The Polavaram district administration is making elaborate arrangements to celebrate World Tribal Day on August 10 at the Government School Grounds in Rampachodavaram. Joint Collector S. Prashanth Kumar, following the directions of District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar, instructed officials to organise the event in a festive manner showcasing tribal culture and traditions. Speaking at a teleconference with officials on Friday, he directed that two APSRTC buses be arranged from each of the eight mandals to facilitate public participation. A rally will begin from the ITDA office, followed by the inauguration of the celebrations with the ceremonial lighting of the sports torch. The programme will feature cultural events, sports competitions, a legal awareness session on tribal rights, felicitation of tribal elders, free medical camps, and traditional tribal food stalls. Officials were



instructed to ensure proper arrangements for drinking water, sanitation, medical assistance, and food to make the event a grand success.

Government Menu Must Be Strictly Implemented in Schools and Anganwadi Centres: Food Commission Member

Rampachodavaram, August 7:State Food Commission Member Ganji Mala Devi directed officials to

all government schools and Anganwadi centres to ensure students receive fresh and nutritious meals every day. During inspections in Rampachodavaram and Maredumilli mandals on Friday, she visited government schools, Anganwadi centres, Tribal Welfare Ashram Schools, Eklavya Model Residential Schools, Civil Supplies godowns, MLS points, and Primary Health Centres. She reviewed the quality of midday meals, student attendance, teaching standards, ration distribution, and the availability of medicines at health centres. She instructed officials to ensure the effective implementation of the Dokka Seethamma Midday Meal Scheme, maintain adequate food and medicine supplies, and distribute ration rice to eligible beneficiaries on time as per government guidelines.



strictly implement the prescribed government menu in

No Delay in Resolving PGRS Petitions: Collector Nishanthi

Paderu, August 7:Alluri Sitarama Raju District Collector Nishanthi T. directed officials to resolve all Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) petitions within the stipulated time and warned against negligence. At the district-level PGRS held at the ITDA office in Paderu, 66 petitions and 38 Revenue Clinic applications were received, taking the total to 104.

The Collector instructed all district and mandal-level officers to attend PGRS meetings without fail, respond promptly to public grievances, and ensure time-bound disposal. She also advised officials to address issues at the local level wherever possible and asked citizens to use the “Meekosam 1100” helpline and the AP online portal to track and register grievances.



Faculty Development Programme on Higher Education Quality Held at Aditya University



Gandepalli, August 7: The School of Business at Aditya University, Surampalem, organised an AIMS Round Table Faculty Development Programme on “Quality in Higher Education: The Role of Academic Leaders – A Road Map.” AIMS National Treasurer and Regional Vice-President (South) Prof. P. Narayana Reddy attended as the chief guest and

highlighted the role of academic leadership in improving the quality of management education. Academicians from various institutions, including principals, faculty members, and academic leaders from across the state, participated in the programme and discussed strategies to enhance higher education standards.

Collector Calls for Investor-Friendly Industrial Environment



Visakhapatnam, August 7:District Collector M. Abhishikt Kishore directed officials to work in coordination to promote industrial growth and create an investor-friendly environment in the district. Reviewing the District Industries and Export Promotion Committee meeting, he stressed the need for speedy disposal of industry-related grievances and timely ap-

provals through the Single Desk portal. The Collector also instructed officials to strengthen infrastructure, ensure faster delivery of incentives to MSMEs, promote employment schemes, and accelerate the development of industrial parks and export initiatives under the “District as Export Hub” programme.

Collector Reviews Bamboo and Plantation Expansion Plan

Kakinada, August 7: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to expand bamboo and fruit plantations by integrating the VBG Ramji Scheme with Forest and DRDA programmes. Reviewing a meeting on Friday, he stressed greater participation of Self-Help Group women to promote sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation. The Collector instructed officials to identify community lands, provide training in plantation management, and promote bamboo, fruit orchards, and palm plantations. He also called for developing a Great Greenery Wall in coastal areas and increasing green cover in Pithapuram through coordinated efforts of all departments.



Farmer Bazaars to Benefit Farmers and Consumers: Collector



Markapuram, August 7: Prakasam District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha said the objective of Farmer Bazaars is to ensure remunerative prices for farmers while providing fresh fruits and vegetables to consumers at affordable rates. Speaking at the foundation stone ceremony for a new Farmer Bazaar in Markapuram on Friday, the Collector said the facility would enable farmers to sell their produce directly without middlemen, ensuring better returns and fair prices. MLA Kandula Narayana Reddy and other public representatives attended the programme.

Draft Electoral Roll Displayed at Tahsildar Offices, Secretariat Offices

Rampachodavaram, August 7:The draft electoral roll prepared after the Special Intensive Revision-2026 has been displayed at all Tahsildar offices and Gram/Ward Secretariat notice boards in the Polavaram district for public verification, said Electoral Registration Officer and Joint Collector S. Prashanth Kumar.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives of political parties on Friday, he urged them to create awareness among eligible voters and encourage them to verify their electoral details. He also appealed to the public to submit claims or objections, if any, before September 30 to ensure a transparent and accurate final electoral roll.



Affordable Essentials Through ‘Mee Mart’: Minister Nadendla Manohar

Kakinada, August 7:Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla

Manohar said the government's objective is to ensure price stability by providing quality essential commodities at affordable rates. Launching special rice sale centres in Kakinada, he announced that BPT Steam Rice is being sold at ₹52/kg and Raw Rice at ₹50/kg, with up to 10 kg per family.



The Minister said ration shops will be transformed into “Mee Mart” outlets offering 64 varieties of quality essential goods at reasonable prices. He added that pulses and palm oil will soon be supplied through ration shops, while doorstep ration delivery for senior citizens and persons with disabilities will continue.

Collector Reviews Preparations for Amaravati Championship Selections

Kakinada, August 7: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to ensure the smooth conduct of the Amaravati Championship-2026 district-level selection trials on August 12 and 13. Around 1,500 Under-17 and Under-23 boys and girls from seven Assembly constituencies are expected to participate. The

Collector instructed all departments to coordinate arrangements for security, drinking water, sanitation, medical facilities, accommodation, and publicity. Winners at the district level will represent the district in the State-level championship to be held in Tirupati from August 19.

Minister Kollu Ravindra Pays Tribute to Ponnamanda Lakshmana Swamy Varma

Vijayawada, August 7: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra paid floral tributes to social reformer Ponnamanda Lakshmana Swamy Varma on the occasion of his birth anniversary at the Collectorate on Friday. Speaking at the official function, the Minister said Lakshmana Swamy Varma dedicated his life to public service and worked tirelessly for the welfare and recognition of the Agnikula Kshatriya community. He noted that the State Government's decision to officially celebrate his birth anniversary reflects its respect for



great social reformers. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh and other public representatives and officials attended the programme.

Guest Lecture on AI Career Roadmap Held at Aditya University



Gandepalli, August 7: The Department of Computer Applications at Aditya University, Surampalem, organised a guest lecture on “Build Your Future: AI Career Roadmap & Live Claude Code Demonstration.” Anitha Ayyagari, Senior Solution Architect at Salesforce

India Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru, was the keynote speaker. She highlighted career opportunities in Artificial Intelligence, essential skills, and the latest AI tools. University officials, faculty members, and students attended the programme.

Sportsmanship More Important Than Winning: Minister Kandula Durgesh



Rajamahendravaram, August 7: Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said sportsmanship is more important than victory or defeat while inaugurating the CBSE South Zone-1 Girls' Football Championship 2026 at Sri Prakash Educational Institutions on Friday. Addressing the participants, the Minister said

sports play a vital role in the overall development of students and praised women athletes for excelling in every field. The three-day championship, being held from August 6 to 8, has attracted 51 teams from different states. He wished all the players success and encouraged them to compete with team spirit and confidence.

Security Review for Godavari Pushkaralu 2027 Conducted

Rajamahendravaram, August 7: East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri and Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore inspected key routes and Pushkar ghats on Friday to review security and traffic arrangements for the Godavari Pushkaralu-2027. The officials examined approach roads, alternative routes, traffic diversion plans, parking facilities, emergency vehicle access, barricading, signboards, and pedestrian movement to ensure safe and smooth management of the festival. They also issued necessary instructions to the concerned departments for timely preparedness.



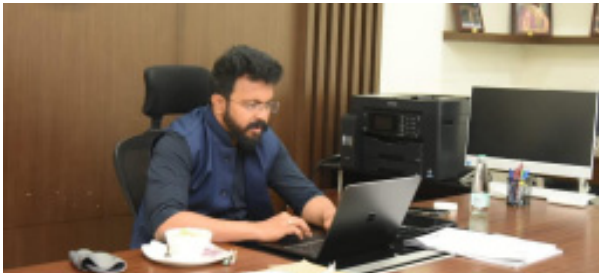
P.S. Kumar Named ‘Mission ASR Weekly Best Officer’



Paderu, August 7: Paderu Divisional Panchayat Officer (DLPO) P.S. Kumar was selected as the “Mission ASR Weekly Best Officer” for his outstanding public service. District Collector Nishanthi T., IAS, honoured him with a certificate of appreciation, a shawl, and a memento. Kumar was recognised for promptly resolving public grievances, responding effectively to IVRS complaints, conducting field inspections, and efficiently implementing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Collector appreciated the dedication of officials under the “One Team – One Goal – One ASR” initiative and urged them to continue delivering transparent and citizen-friendly governance.

Public Satisfaction with Government Schemes Should Improve: Collector

Guntur, August 7: Guntur District Collector C.M. Saikanth Varma stressed the need to improve public satisfaction with government welfare schemes during a review meeting held through video conference on Friday. He directed officials to work towards ensuring a positive public perception, closely monitor all key indicators, maintain accurate and quality data, and achieve departmental targets effectively. Senior officials participated in the review meeting.



Amaravati Championship District-Level Events Held with Enthusiasm

Vijayawada, August 7: The district-level Amaravati Championship 2026 competitions, organised by the NTR District Sports Authority, were held enthusiastically at the ZP High School in Nandigama on Friday. Around 815 boys and girls participated in Kho-Kho, Kabaddi and Volleyball events.

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh interacted with the athletes, encouraged them to excel, and reviewed the competition arrangements. He said the tournament aims to identify talented players for district-level representation and instructed officials to ensure smooth and transparent conduct of the events.



Resolve Every Public Grievance Within the Stipulated Time: Collector



Vijayawada, August 7: NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh directed officials to resolve every public grievance within the stipulated time and ensure permanent solutions rather than temporary relief. Speaking at a special grievance redressal programme held at Penuganchiprolu under the “One Month – One Village – Four Visits” initiative, the Collector said 160 petitions were received, mainly related to land and Panchayat Raj issues. He instructed officials to conduct field inspections, thoroughly examine each case, and prevent delays in resolving public grievances.

We will bring a special brand to Madanapalle handlooms



Madanapalle, August 7: On the occasion of the 12th National Handloom Day, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu launched the ‘Nethanna Sevalo’ scheme, which is being implemented by the state government with great pride, in Chirala on Friday and deposited financial assistance of Rs. 25 thousand each in the bank accounts of eligible handloom workers. To celebrate this program, a district-level program was organized at the PGRS conference hall in the Annamayya District Collectorate office under the auspices of the Handloom and Textiles Department. Madanapalle MLA Shahjahan Basha and DRO Venkatesh attended the program as chief guests. Speaking on the occasion, Madanapalle MLA Shahjahan Basha said that it is their responsibility to bring a special brand identity to Madanapalle handlooms, said MLA Shahjahan Basha. He assured that he would bring this matter to the attention of the Chief Minister of the state, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and work to declare a special brand identity for Madanapalle handloom.

He said that he would meet the Chief Minister along with the representatives and leaders of the handloom sector and make a special appeal on this issue. Similarly, he said that he would make a special appeal to the silk fabrics offered to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams to be purchased from Madanapalle handloom workers.

He said that the state government is already contributing to the welfare of the handloom sector by providing a monthly pension of Rs. 4,000 to eligible handloom workers who have crossed 50 years of age, 200 units per month for handloom looms, and up to 500 units of free electricity for powerloom units. He also said that the handloom sector is being further strengthened through programs such as financial assistance to cooperative societies, establishment of handloom parks, and handloom museums. He suggested that handloom workers should take advantage of the welfare schemes being implemented by the government and further develop their livelihood. He instructed the officials to work in coordination so that every eligible beneficiary in the district gets the benefits of the scheme. To solve the housing problem of handloom workers, a special colony will be brought to the attention of the Chief Minister, the MLA said. He said that a program to provide about 1,250 houses in the Pothabolu area is ongoing, and efforts will be made to establish a special colony for handloom workers using the additional available land. He instructed the officials to take steps so that not a single eligible poor handloom family is left out of the Rs. 25,000 assistance program currently being implemented. The MLA suggested that the problems of handloom workers should be identified with the master weavers, discussed with the relevant sections and found solutions. He said that setting up a mega textile park in Madanapalle is very necessary for the development of the handloom sector. Although proposals for a cluster were made in the past,

the process did not move forward due to some reasons. He assured that he has already discussed it with the concerned minister and will discuss it again and work towards getting the permissions granted for the Mega Textile Park. Speaking at the meeting, the District Revenue Officer said that the handloom sector is a great heritage associated with the Indian independence movement, and the skill, hard work and talent of the handloom workers are highly respected across the country, District Revenue Officer Venkatesh said. He said that the handloom sector played a key role in the freedom movement with the slogan “Wear indigenous clothes – boycott foreign clothes” given by Mahatma Gandhi. He said that the skill and greatness of the handloom workers will continue to be praised as long as the country exists. He said that the central and state governments, recognizing the importance of the handloom sector, are celebrating National Handloom Day every year on August 7. He said that this is a matter of pride for the handloom profession. He said that the government, recognizing the hardships and problems of the handloom workers, is implementing welfare schemes such as pensions, stamp loans, free electricity scheme, Nethanna Seva scheme and other schemes for them. He said that the problems faced by handloom workers in the implementation of the free electricity scheme will be brought to the attention of the district collector and steps will be taken to resolve them in coordination with the relevant departments. At the event, Handloom and Textiles Department Officer Pawan Kumar Annamayya explained the report on the development and welfare schemes being implemented by the government in the district. He said that the state government is giving special priority to the development of the handloom sector. He said that through the ‘Nethanna Sevalo’ scheme, each eligible handloom worker family is being provided financial assistance of Rs. 25 thousand to ensure their livelihood, he said. A total of 3,950 handloom workers are registered in Annamayya district, out of which 3,121 are handloom yarn weavers and 829 are powerloom workers. Based on the eligibility criteria, 3,869 beneficiaries were selected in the district and a total of Rs. 9.67 crores of financial assistance is being provided to them. On this occasion, under the auspices of the Handloom and Textile Department and DRDA in Annamayya district, a mega cheque of Rs. 83,50,001/- was handed over to 51 members of the Handloom Women's Association through bank linkage for the financial year 2026-27 through the hands of the chief guests. Later, some weavers were felicitated by the Madanapalle MLA. Madanapalle Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Sivaram, Handloom Department Officer Pawan Kumar, Handloom Association leaders Neelakanta, Siddappa, Harikrishna, Satyam Purushotham, Narasimha, representatives of various women's associations, Handloom and Textile Department officials, other district officials, handloom workers and public representatives participated in the program.

UP Government To Form Integrated Youth Policy, Plans State Youth Commission For 16-35 Age Group



Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to formulate a comprehensive youth policy aimed at addressing the aspirations and needs of young people in the 16 to 35 age group. The move comes as the government seeks to strengthen engagement with the state's youth by designing policies aligned with their expectations in education, employment, entrepreneurship and personal development. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath chaired a meeting with senior officials from the Youth Welfare Department and other departments to discuss the proposed integrated youth policy. He directed officials to establish an independent State Youth Commission comprising experts to monitor, evaluate and review programmes related to youth development before the policy is finalised. The proposed commission will regularly assess the implementation of youth-centric schemes and provide recommendations to the government. The Chief Minister also instructed all de-

partments to ensure that every eligible young person receives the benefits of government welfare and development programmes. Officials said the new policy will cover students, sportspersons, research scholars, startup entrepreneurs and young professionals. It will focus on preparing youth for future op-

portunities while promoting their overall development. The Chief Minister directed that the policy should include provisions related to education and skill development, entrepreneurship, employment, innovation, digital empowerment, healthcare, sports, leadership development, culture and heritage. He said the policy should contribute to the holistic personality development of young people. Yogi also emphasised strengthening skill development programmes based on emerging technologies. He asked officials to promote training in artificial intelligence, robotics, cyber security, drone technology, semiconductors and other high-growth sectors to prepare the state's youth for future employment opportunities. During the meeting, the

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay Urges PM Modi To Retain Class XII Marks-Based BVSc Admissions, Opposes NEET

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene and ensure that admissions to the Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (BVSc & AH) course continue to be based on Class XII marks or admission criteria determined by individual State governments, instead of the proposed NEET-based system. In a letter dated August 6, the Chief Minister objected to the Veterinary Council of India's proposal to introduce a Common Entrance Examination for, alternatively, use the NEET (UG)-2026 merit list for BVSc & AH admissions

from the 2026-27 academic year onwards. He said the move would have serious implications for Tamil Nadu's long-standing admission policy. Vijay argued that Tamil Nadu's admission system, based on Higher Secondary examination marks, has ensured equitable access to professional education for students from rural areas, government schools, economically weaker sections and socially disadvantaged communities. He said the State had abolished the Common Entrance Examination for professional courses in 2007-08 and had consistently opposed centralised entrance tests such as

NEET, contending that they favour students with access to coaching and greater financial resources. The Chief Minister also cited past concerns over the conduct of NEET, including alleged irregularities and the 2024 question paper leak that led to a CBI investigation, saying it would be inappropriate to extend the examination to veterinary admissions. Maintaining that veterinary education is closely linked to the agricultural and rural economy of each State, Mr. Vijay said State governments should retain the authority to frame admission policies suited to their socio-economic conditions while upholding academic standards.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi Targets Centre's E20 Fuel Policy, Alleges Losses To Consumers

New Delhi: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, raised concerns over the government's E20 fuel-blending policy, alleging that the increased use of ethanol-blended petrol is adversely affecting vehicles and causing financial losses to consumers. In a video shared on his official handle on X, Gandhi described the E20 issue as a "very big issue" and said the matter would be taken up by the Congress "in a massive way". "The issue of E-20 is a very big issue. Normally, we say that there is something wrong with Dal. But this Dal itself is wrong," Gandhi said. Calling the matter one of "sequencing", Gandhi said there were several issues that needed to be prioritised amid what he described as widespread corruption. "Don't worry, this issue, we are going to take it up in a massive way because this is destroying people's cars, destroying people's scooters, destroying people's lives and literally is stealing directly from them," he said.



Following Gandhi's remarks, a user in the comment section shared a video recorded in Parliament on August 11, 2005, featuring former Union minister Mani Shankar Aiyar speaking about ethanol blending with petrol. In the clip, Aiyar can purportedly be heard saying that ethanol blending with petrol would be made mandatory. He also referred to discussions with the Indian Sugar Mills Association and said that if the availability of ethanol increased, the government would increase its blending with petrol. The user then tagged Rahul

Gandhi and sought clarification over the Congress's position on ethanol blending, pointing to the fact that the policy had also been advocated during the previous Congress-led government. "Mr Rahul Gandhi, when your party was in the government, your party minister Mani Shankar Aiyar was doing a massive campaign for ethanol as Petroleum Minister in Parliament. Please tell us what about this. Explain your stand about this issue then and now," the user wrote. E20 refers to petrol blended with up to 20 per

cent ethanol. The government has promoted ethanol blending as part of efforts to reduce dependence on imported crude oil, lower emissions and provide an additional market for domestic agricultural produce. The older remarks cited by the user, however, concern ethanol blending and pre-date the current E20 rollout by several years. Therefore, the 2005 statement by itself does not establish that Aiyar or the Congress government had endorsed the specific E20 policy in its present form.

Uttarakhand Reviews Skill Development Schemes, Plans Statewide Skill Hub To Boost Youth Employment

Dehradun: A review meeting regarding schemes related to skill development and employment was held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Shri Anand Bardhan. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on various schemes related to skill development, training programmes, employment and placement status, and the upcoming action plan. The Chief Secretary said that skill development programmes should be de-

signed according to the current and future requirements of industries. He also directed that quality training should be provided in accordance with the interests of youth and local employment requirements, and that trained youth should be connected with employment and self-employment opportunities. The Chief Secretary said that all departments related to skill development should work on a single platform so that youth can benefit from it. He directed the



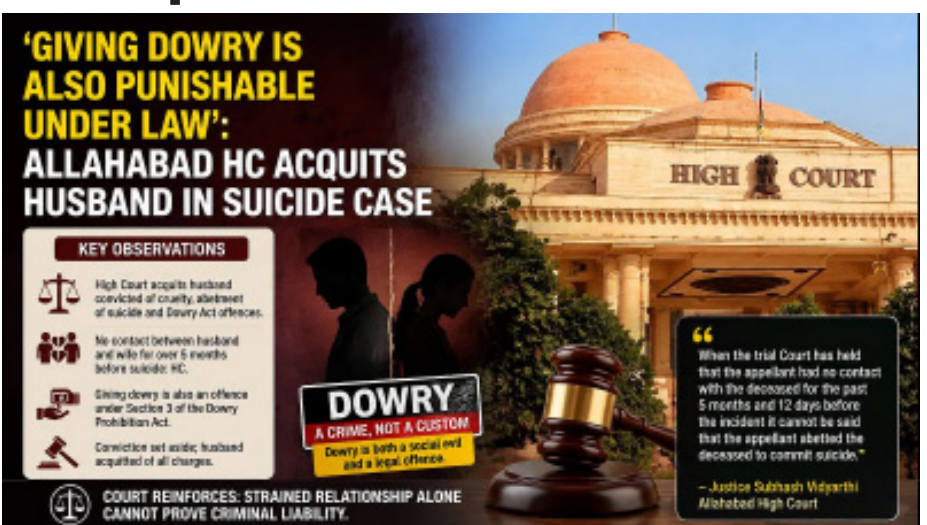
Secretary, Skill Development, to prepare a dashboard for making the state a skill hub, while taking the opinion of the Setu Aayog and involving all stakehold-

ers. Secretary, Skill Development and Employment, Shri C. Ravishankar informed that for comprehensive skill development, ITIs are to be upgraded according to industry standards with the cooperation of schools, higher education, technical education, and medical education sectors. He informed that currently 119 ITIs are operational. Ninety ITIs have already been mapped on the portal. Tata Technologies has started short-term training courses in ITIs.

'Giving Dowry Is Also Punishable Under Law': Allahabad HC Acquits Husband In Suicide Case

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court has acquitted a husband convicted of subjecting his wife to cruelty, abetting her suicide, and offences under the Dowry Prohibition Act, noting that he had no contact or communication with her for more than five months before she died by suicide. Allowing the husband's criminal appeal, Justice Subhash Vidyarthi said that when the trial court itself had found that the husband and wife had not been in contact for five months and 12 days before the suicide, it could not be said that he had abetted the act. The High Court also pointed out that Section 3 of the Dowry Prohibition Act makes both giving and taking dowry punishable, Live Law reported.

The case arose from the husband's appeal against a trial court judgment convicting him under Sections 498-A and 306 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act. The trial court had acquitted him of the offence under Section 304-B of the IPC. According to the prosecution, the woman married the appellant on December 14, 2004. It was alleged that after the marriage, the husband and his family demanded Rs 10 lakh as dowry to purchase a flat. The woman's father allegedly sold a plot of land and paid Rs 6 lakh in cash. The prosecution claimed that the husband continued to demand the remaining Rs 4 lakh and harassed his wife. She died by suicide on October 2, 2010. The High Court, however, found serious discrepancies in the



prosecution's version regarding the alleged demand and payment of dowry. It noted that prosecution witnesses had given inconsistent accounts of the alleged Rs 6 lakh payment.

The court also noted that details of the alleged sale of the plot, including the date of sale and the consideration amount, had not been disclosed. It further found material inconsistencies between the allegations in the first information report (FIR) and the oral testimony of prosecution witnesses. While examining the allegation that the woman's father had paid Rs 6 lakh as dowry, the High Court said that if the claim were proved, it would amount to a confession regarding an offence under Section 3 of the Dowry Prohibition Act because the provision penalises both giving and taking dowry. "Thus, not only taking dowry, but also giving dowry is an offence under Section 3 of the Dowry Prohibition Act. However, as I have come to a conclusion that the allegation that the father of the deceased had given Rs

6,00,000 to the appellant as dowry has not been proved..." the court observed. The observation is significant because it underlines that the prohibition under the law applies to both sides of a dowry transaction. In this case, however, the prosecution's inability to establish the alleged payment beyond reasonable doubt meant that the charge relating to the transaction could not stand. The court concluded that the ingredients required to establish an offence under Section 498-A of the IPC and Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act had not been proved beyond reasonable doubt. On the husband's conviction for abetment of suicide under Section 306 of the IPC, the High Court referred to several Supreme Court decisions and said abetment requires proof of instigation, incitement, or intentional aid. Mere allegations of harassment are insufficient unless there is a positive act by the person concerned that is proximate to the suicide. The High Court noted that the trial court had ac-

quitted the husband of the charge under Section 304-B of the IPC after finding that the couple had not been in contact since April 20, 2010, when an FIR was lodged by the woman.

She died by suicide on October 2, 2010. This meant there had been no contact between the spouses for five months and 12 days before her death.

"When the trial Court has held that the appellant had no contact with the deceased for the past 5 months and 12 days before the incident, it cannot be said that the appellant abetted the deceased to commit suicide even without there having been any contact or communication between them," the High Court observed.

This finding became central to the appeal. In the court's assessment, convicting the husband of abetment despite the prolonged absence of contact would not satisfy the legal requirement of establishing an act of instigation, incitement, or intentional assistance connected to the suicide.

Congress Steps Up Preparations For Rahul Gandhi's 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' In Prayagraj After Venue Row Ends

Prayagraj: With the controversy over the venue resolved, the Congress on Thursday intensified preparations for Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' programme in Prayagraj, claiming that nearly two lakh students have registered for the event and over one lakh are expected to attend the interaction at KP Ground. The party said students and youth from neighbouring districts are also expected to participate in large numbers, while preparations at the venue are in full swing. Congress leaders described the programme as the beginning of a broader movement against alleged irregularities in competitive examinations, rising unemployment and the increasing contractualisation of government jobs. The Congress has mobilised its organisational network across Prayagraj and adjoining districts for the event. The party's OBC Department held a meeting to coordinate the movement of students to the venue. The



meeting was attended by Congress OBC Department national chairman Dr Anil Yadav, Uttar Pradesh in-charge Rajendra Pal Gautam and state OBC Department president Manoj Yadav, who reviewed mobilisation plans. Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to interact with students, research scholars and university youth during the programme. The Congress said the discussion would focus on issues such as examination paper leaks, recruitment delays, unemployment and con-

tractual and outsourcing-based employment, which it claimed have deeply affected the younger generation. The event was thrown into uncertainty a day earlier after the Kayastha Pathshala (KP) Trust withdrew permission for the use of the KP College ground despite having earlier accepted the booking and a fee of Rs 51,000. The trust cited a 2025 Allahabad High Court order restricting the ground to educational and sports activities, along with waterlogging following recent rains, as reasons for

cancelling the booking.

The Congress strongly protested the decision, alleging that the BJP government was attempting to prevent Rahul Gandhi from interacting with students. The party maintained that the programme would be held regardless of the cancellation, while Rahul Gandhi accused the government of trying to suppress the voice of students and youth. Following discussions between the district administration, the venue management and Congress leaders, permission was restored on Thursday, allowing the programme to proceed as scheduled. The BJP rejected the Congress allegations, maintaining that the issue was related to the venue provider's decision and administrative considerations rather than political interference. The Congress views the Prayagraj programme as a major youth outreach initiative ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. By placing issues such as examination irregularities, unemployment and delayed recruitment at the centre of the campaign, the party is seeking to connect with students and first-time voters in one of the state's most politically significant regions.

'Hands OFF': CJP Opposes Move To Remove Jantar Mantar As Protest Site

New Delhi: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) chief spokesperson Saurav Das, August 7, opposed any move to take away Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site, asserting that the party would not accept any restrictions on its right to peacefully demonstrate. In a post on his official handle on X, Das said, "HANDS OFF our Jantar Mantar!" He questioned where citizens would be allowed to exercise their fundamental right to peaceful protest if authorities sought to remove Jantar Mantar as



a protest venue. "Before trying to take away our protest site, tell us if you will designate the India Gate where we can exercise our fundamental right to peacefully protest," Das wrote. He also alleged that the India Gate area

had already been taken away as a protest venue and warned against any similar move involving Jantar Mantar. "You took away the India Gate. We will not tolerate taking away of OUR Jantar Mantar too!" Das added. Jantar Mantar has long been associated with public demonstrations and protests in the national capital. Das's remarks come amid concerns over access to designated spaces where political parties, organisations and citizens can voice their demands through protests.

Sowa-Rigpa Must Emerge as a Globally Recognised Evidence-Based Healthcare System: Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav

National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) Should Become a Global Centre for Holistic Wellness: Prataprao Jadhav
Union Ayush Minister Chairs 2nd Governing Body Meeting of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa



New Delhi, August, 7 (PIB): The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, chaired the 2nd Governing Body Meeting of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) in New Delhi and outlined a strategic roadmap for strengthening Sowa-Rigpa through scientific research, academic excellence, institutional development and expansion across the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). Setting out the Institute's priorities for the coming years, the Union Minister Shri Prataprao Jadhav emphasised that the

next phase of growth should focus on strengthening scientific research, promoting international standards and expanding the reach of Sowa-Rigpa beyond its traditional geographical boundaries. Addressing the Governing Body, Shri Prataprao Jadhav said, "Our goal is no longer limited to developing infrastructure; it is to establish Sowa-Rigpa as a mainstream healthcare system in India and across the world. Our foremost commitment is to establish Sowa-Rigpa as an evidence-based system of medical science before the world. To achieve this, we must accelerate our research strategies, and the

establishment of an independent research council will be the first important step. We must build an ecosystem that integrates traditional wisdom with scientific excellence through evidence-based research, strong academic institutions and globally accepted standards." Prataprao Jadhav further said, "I firmly believe that the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa is not merely an institution of Ladakh; it is the custodian of the medical heritage of the entire Indian Himalayan Region. We must strengthen both of its regional models and deepen our engagement with the Himalayan communities.

Greater focus should be given to sustainable cultivation of rare medicinal plants, bio-prospecting, agroforestry and conservation of medicinal biodiversity so that local communities become equal partners in preserving and promoting this invaluable knowledge system. Together, let us transform this institution into a global centre for holistic wellness." Jadhav suggested that hundreds of Bhoti language manuscripts containing the invaluable knowledge and heritage of Sowa-Rigpa should be preserved through systematic transcription and translation. He proposed that, as a first step, these manuscripts be digitised, followed by their translation to make this rich repository of knowledge accessible to the general public and researchers. He further proposed that the digitisation drive be accelerated with the work being undertaken by NISR, the Gyan Bharatam Mission or any other competent institution, and, if required, through collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. He emphasised that preserving and digitising this invaluable knowledge is essential for safeguarding India's tra-

ditional medical heritage and strengthening future research in Sowa-Rigpa. Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, said that the Ministry is committed to building strong institutions that preserve India's traditional medical knowledge while advancing it through modern scientific approaches. He noted that NISR has emerged as a key institution for promoting Sowa-Rigpa through quality education, clinical services, research and capacity building, and reaffirmed the Ministry's continued support for its long-term development. The Governing Body also congratulated Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director, National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, on being conferred the Padma Shri in 2026 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of medicine, particularly for his pioneering efforts in reviving, preserving and institutionalising the ancient Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine in India. The members appreciated his leadership in advancing Sowa-Rigpa through education, research, clinical services and institutional development. Dr. Padma Gurmet presented the

Institute's progress and future action plan before the Governing Body. He highlighted achievements in academics, clinical services, research, medicinal plant conservation and outreach programmes, while outlining proposals aimed at further strengthening institutional capacity and expanding the reach of Sowa-Rigpa across the country. Sowa-Rigpa, meaning "Knowledge of Healing" in the Bhoti language, is one of the world's oldest traditional systems of medicine and has been recognised by the Government of India under the Ayush framework. Popularly known as the Amchi system of medicine, it is practised across the Indian Himalayan Region and several neighbouring countries. Over centuries, the system evolved and flourished across the Trans-Himalayan region and today represents a rich repository of traditional medical knowledge. The Governing Body deliberated on key policy, academic and research initiatives aimed at strengthening the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa as the apex institution for education, research and healthcare in Sowa-Rigpa.

SECL leads India in Scientific Mine Closure, Transforming abandoned Mines into Sustainable Community Assets

New Delhi, August, 7 (PIB): South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) has emerged as India's leader in scientific mine closure, having successfully completed the scientific closure of 28 abandoned mines, the highest among Coal India subsidiaries. The company accounts for 67 per cent of all abandoned mines scientifically closed in the country, while 25 mines were scientifically closed during FY 2025-26, the highest achieved by any organisation in India in a single year. At SECL, mine closure is regarded as an integral stage of the mining lifecycle rather than the conclusion of mining activity. Once coal extraction is complete, the focus shifts to securing the site, restoring the landscape and preparing the land for productive future use through scientific reclamation and repurposing.

Of the 54 abandoned mines identified for scientific closure, SECL completed the closure of three mines during FY 2024-25 and 25 mines during FY 2025-26. The company has set targets to close 11 mines in FY 2026-27 and the remaining 15 mines in FY 2027-28, completing the scientific closure of all identified abandoned mines in phases. To strengthen planning and stakeholder participation, District Mine Closure Advisory Committees (DMCACs) have been constituted across all 10 operational districts in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Scientific mine closure at SECL involves securing abandoned mine workings through permanent sealing of underground openings, demolition of redundant infrastructure, treatment of subsidence areas, installation of safety measures, land reclamation, plantation and ecological restoration. Reclaimed land is subsequently assessed for productive reuse to support renewable energy, community infrastructure, livelihoods and environmental conservation. The company is currently implementing eight mine repurposing projects. Among its major initiatives, the Kenapara Eco Park at Bishrampur has already been completed on reclaimed mine land. At Vivek Nagar UG, a 5 MW solar power project integrated with an Eco Park is under implementation. SECL has also commissioned 20 MW solar power plants at Bhatgaon and Bishrampur, while a 40 MW solar project at Pinoura UG is under implementation. In addition, a 55 MW solar power project at Jamuna UG and Govinda UG has been planned, extending the productive use of reclaimed mine land for renewable energy generation.

Several scientifically closed mines have also been repurposed into public infrastructure. At Korba 3&4 UG, reclaimed mine land has been integrated into the Bal Vihar Higher Secondary School campus. North Jhagrakhand UG now supports a public park and a water filter plant, while a former service building at Subhash Incline has been repurposed into a municipal water filter plant. At South Jhagrakhand 5&6 UG, a former mine service building has been converted into a CISF Post, while South Jhagrakhand 10&11 UG has been developed into a public park. Banki 7&8 UG now houses a health centre and a weekly market, while Banki 5&6 UG has been developed as a community centre. Environmental restoration remains central to every mine closure project. At Chachai UG, nearly 35,000 saplings have been planted following the sealing of mine openings and demolition of obsolete structures. Dense plantations have also been developed at sites including Ramnagar UG, Korea UG and Malga UG, while naturally regenerated vegetation has been preserved at Rajgamar 8&9 UG and Pure Chirimiri UG to support ecological recovery.

Alongside environmental restoration, SECL has organised skill development programmes and health camps across reclaimed mine areas. Training has covered computer education, tailoring, handicrafts, mushroom cultivation, pickle making and other livelihood activities for project-affected communities. The company is also promoting sustainable livelihoods through productive utilisation of reclaimed mine land and mine water bodies. Pisciculture initiatives are expected to support annual fish production of 25 tonnes, generate 206 livelihoods and provide a potential annual income of ₹3 lakh per participating family. Future repurposing proposals include eco-tourism, pisciculture, poultry farming and masala processing at Jamuna OC; honey processing, turmeric cultivation and cage culture at Baiga OC; and a training centre, compressed bio-gas (CBG) plant and fruit-bearing plantations at Banki UG, based on local conditions and future land-use requirements. SECL Chairman-cum-Managing Director Harish Duhan said scientific mine closure represents the responsible completion of the mining lifecycle and reflects the company's commitment to sustainable mining. "At SECL, mine closure is not the end of mining but the beginning of a new chapter. Our objective is to restore land, protect the environment and convert reclaimed mine areas into productive assets that generate clean energy, support livelihoods and serve local communities. Every scientifically closed mine reflects our commitment to responsible mining and sustainable development," Duhan said.

IT Rules, 2021 Mandate Classification for Liquor & Tobacco Content; 3-Tier Mechanism Redresses Code of Ethics Complaints

New Delhi, August, 7 (PIB): Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media, Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on 25.02.2021 under IT Act, 2000 in order to put in place an institutional mechanism for publishers of news & current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms). Part-III of the rules provides for a Code of Ethics for digital news publishers and publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms). The Code of Ethics, inter-alia, requires OTT platforms not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law, exercise due caution and discretion, and undertake classification of content on the basis of i) Themes and messages; ii) Violence; iii) Nudity; iv) Sex; v) Language; vi) Drug and substance abuse; and (vii) Horror as described in the schedule to the Rules. Part II of the Schedule to the IT Rules, 2021 prescribes guidelines for the classification of content, including content involving 'Psychotropic substances, liquor, smoking and tobacco and Imitable behaviour'. Complaints relating to the violation of the Code of Ethics are addressed under the provisions of the three-tier grievance redressal mechanism and complaints received by the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned OTT platforms for resolution as per IT Rules, 2021. The Government issued an advisory dated 26.11.2024 to publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) on streaming content related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Today's Horoscope



Aries

Tooth ache or stomach upset may create some problems for you. Take a physician's advice to get relief immediately. Any of your chronic diseases may bother you today, due to which you may have to go to the hospital and spend a lot of money. Spending time with children will be important. Those who stay away from their lover can miss them deeply today. Because of this, you can talk to your beloved on the phone for hours during the night. Tact will be required while handling colleagues. Someone from your past is likely to contact you and make it a memorable day. Today, you will experience that the love of your partner forgets you about the pains of life. Remedy :- Keep water in a Copper vessel near bedside at night, and next morning, pour this water at the root of a nearest tree, for excellent health benefits.



Taurus

Your energy level will be high. There is a possibility of money loss today, hence you are required to remain alert while making transactions or signing any document. Enjoy a peaceful and quiet day with family members-If people approach you with problems- Ignore them and don't let this bother your mind. Some difference may crop up with your darling-You will have difficulty trying to make your mate understand your position. Your partner will be hard to deal with. While spending free time with your spouse tonight, you will realize how important it is to give them more time. Work pressure had been hampering your married life since long. But today, all the grievances will be vanished. Remedy :- For enhanced financial condition, plant a banana tree, tend to it and worship it.



Gemini

A beneficial day and you may be able to find relief from a prolong illness. An old friend can ask you for financial help today. However, your assistance can weaken your financial conditions. Children need to concentrate on studies and plan for the future. You are likely to be dazzled by some natural beauty today. You will make beneficial career changes if you present yourself in a professional manner. You should try to understand the things in the right manner, otherwise you'll waste your free time just thinking about such scenarios continuously. Today, you will realize that all the vows taken on your marriage were true. Your spouse is your soulmate. Remedy :- Financial life will become better by using green vehicles.



Cancer

Misusing personal relations to fulfil your expectations would annoy your wife. You will possess a considerable amount of money today, and with it there will be peace of mind. You will also make important contacts through friends. The ecstasy of entire universe is held between the two who are in love. Yes, you are the lucky one. You need to focus on your way of working to get good results at the workplace, otherwise your negative image can get created in the eyes of your boss. Today, you will be able to spend time with your lover and put forward your feelings in front of him/her. Today, your partner might take you in the realm of a different world of love and sensations. Remedy :- Wear Green Coloured clothes



Leo

Your mind will be disturbed with recent events. Meditation and yoga will prove to be beneficial for spiritual as well as physical gains. At the beginning of the day, you may suffer from any financial loss, which can spoil the whole day. Try to be reasonable especially with people who love and care for you. Exciting day of romance- Plan something special for the evening and try to make it as romantic as possible. Great day to implement new projects and plans. You have spare time today for socializing and follow up with things that you love doing the most. Your partner might do something fabulous unintentionally, which will be really unforgettable. Remedy :- For a good financial life, keep green stones in flower pots, keep plants in green bottles, and also have green tiles in bathroom.



Virgo

If possible try to avoid long journey as you are too weak to travel and this could put further weaken you. Today, you are likely to attain benefits from the help of your brother or sister. Think before sharing your confidential information with your spouse. If possible, try to avoid as she might reveal it to someone else. Be careful your romantic partner may flatter you- don't leave me alone in this lonely world. Bold steps and decisions would bring favourable rewards. The natives of this zodiac sign would like to spend more time alone than meeting people today. Today, your free time can be spent by cleaning the house. Your spouse will be full of energy and love today. Remedy :- Include use of white clothes in your daily wear for good health.



Libra

Work pressure might bring some stress and tension today. It should be well understood that in the hour of grief, your accumulated wealth will only help you tackle the situation. Hence, start saving from today and avoid excessive spending. A better understanding with your spouse brings in happiness-peace and prosperity at home. Your work will take a backseat- as you find comfort-pleasure and extreme ecstasy in the arms of your beloved. You will be in a strong position to put together a team and work toward a collective goal. Today, you would like to do all the things that you used to love during your childhood. Romantic songs, aromatic candles, good food, and some drinks; the day is all about this with your spouse. Remedy :- Distribute sweets and savouries made of ground yellow chana dal to needy people for amazing health benefits.



Scorpio

Astrological guidance by a friend will encourage you to improve your health. Try to control your spending- and buy only the essential items today. Good time to get involved into activities that include youngsters. Erratic behaviour of your darling might make your mood upset. This is an excellent time for developing professional contacts in other countries. Good day for some recreation and entertainment. Rude behavior of your spouse might take a toll on you today. Remedy :- Offer seven almonds and seven grains of black grams in Shani temple and build a strong love life.



Sagittarius

Outings-parties and pleasure jaunts will keep you in good mood today. Money can be required anytime, so plan your finances and start saving now as much as possible. Let family tension not divert your attention. Bad times give us much more. You will be in a loving mood- so be sure to make special plans for you and your beloved. New assignments undertaken would fall short of expectations. Travel and educational pursuits will enhance your awareness. Those who say that marriage is all about sex, they lie. Because today, you will know what true love is. Remedy :- For enhanced career/work life/business, brush your teeth with herbal-based toothpaste such as neem and babool.



Capricorn

Your frank and fearless views could hurt the vanity of your friend. It's another high-energy day and unexpected gains are foreseen. You will upset your spouse if you spend money on things that you don't immediately require. Beloved will be in a romantic mood. Daydreaming will bring your downfall- Do not count on others to do your work. You need to remember that god helps those who help themselves. Today, you will fall in love with your spouse again. Remedy :- Maintain harmony and balance in the family by switching on a white-light zero watt bulb in the Northwest direction.



Aquarius

Health will be perfect today. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day. Domestic work keeps you busy most of the time. Love will show positive vibes Good day for businessmen. A sudden trip undertaken for business purpose will yield positive results. Today, you can think of spending your free time carrying out religious work. During this time, do not get into unnecessary conflicts. Today, you will forget all the hardships of your life with the love of your spouse. Remedy :- For enhancing positive experiences in the family, offer 28 drops of mustard oil near Peepal or banyan tree or in a pot filled with mud at home.



Pisces

Cheer up as good time ahead and you will have additional energy. You may get into a fight with your spouse today over money-related matters. However, you will fix everything with your calm attitude. A wonderful day to enjoy the company of guests. Plan something special with your relatives. They would also appreciate it. A good communication or a message from your beloved or spouse will enhance your morale today. Added knowledge that you acquire today would give you an edge when dealing with peers. Amidst your busy life, you will get enough time for yourself today and be able to do your favorite things. Marriage had never been so wonderful before than today. Remedy :- Accept rice and silver from your mother and keep it in your home to improve your financial condition.

Hemant Soren Opens Talks With Jharkhand Protesters, They Say 'Do It On Camera'

Ranchi:The Jharkhand students' agitation against alleged irregularities in state recruitment exams, which began 12 days ago, has grown into a massive movement with hundreds joining the sit-in at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium in the capital, Ranchi. The protests started after the results of the 14th Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) Preliminary Examination were announced on July 5, with aspirants alleging irregularities in the recruitment process. Since then, students have been holding round-the-clock protests and an indefinite sit-in, demanding transparency and accountability. The growing agitation has finally forced the state government to initiate a dialogue with the protesting students. On Wednesday, Ranchi Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Kumar Rajat visited the protest site and conveyed the government's willingness to hold discussions with the agitating students. He asked the protesters to nominate a delegation of five to seven representatives, assuring them that

the government was ready to discuss every issue and work towards a resolution through dialogue.

Government Forms Panel, Students Want Public Talks

The Hemant Soren government has formed a committee comprising ministers and officials to hold talks with the students. Rajat stated that complaints regarding recruitment examination irregularities were already under investigation and that the agencies concerned were working with urgency. The students have formed an 11-member panel for talks with the state government. It includes eight students, one lawyer and two technical experts. However, the students have rejected the proposal for closed-door negotiations and made it clear that they would agree to talks only if the process was conducted transparently and in public view. They insisted that any discussion with the government should take place in the presence of the media and cameras. Student leader Devendra Mahato, who has been on a hunger

strike for the last five days, said that the fast and agitation will continue until the students' demands are met.

Biggest Arrest In The Case

The protesting students have been demanding a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities, while the state government is insisting that the CID is already investigating and that arrests have been made. The CID on Wednesday arrested Rakshak Singh, an accountant with TDPL, the agency that conducted the state exams. Singh was part of the machinery that conducted the exam and also cleared the JPSC PT exam himself. He was arrested in Lucknow by the CID and brought to Ranchi. The CID has arrested five additional individuals in connection with the case. With these arrests, the total number of people apprehended in the case has now gone up to 20. The investigation is being spearheaded by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) tasked with uncovering the full extent of the recruitment irregularities. Authorities are continuing to

examine digital records, application logs, and related documentation as the inquiry progresses.

CJPSupportsAgitation

Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Wednesday declared support for the protesting students in Jharkhand, stating that the youth movement will operate as a "pressure group" to demand institutional accountability. Talking to reporters ahead of the CJP's core team meeting in his hometown Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in Maharashtra, Dipke said CJP members will travel to Jharkhand to back job aspirants, who have been staging an indefinite sit-in in Ranchi since July 29. "People have lost faith in the judiciary, politics, media and the Election Commission. Our agitation received nationwide support. As the agitation grew, the support was not merely limited to education issues; it was also about these institutions. Hence, to bring accountability to these institutions, there is a need for a public pressure group," Dipke said.

BJP Slams Rahul Gandhi's Silence

The BJP questioned the silence of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on the Jharkhand students' agitation. "Rahul Gandhi's silence on the Jharkhand students' agitation is criminal. The Congress and Rahul Gandhi are silent because it is their government in the state. They don't care about the sons and daughters of Jharkhand who are protesting. Why have Rahul Gandhi and Hemant Soren not spoken to the students?" BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said. Congress leader and Jharkhand Minister Irfan Ansari said the government had opened the door for dialogue and would consider the students' demands. "The Chief Minister has constituted the committee... We have opened the door for dialogue. Talks will take place. We will listen to the students' demands, and if they are reasonable, we will certainly accept them. They are our students, our children," Ansari said.

"Send Us The Video": Daughters Skip Father's Funeral, Care Home Staff Perform Last Rites In Haryana



A heartbreaking incident from Sonapat, Haryana, has highlighted a painful reality of changing family bonds and the loneliness faced by many elderly people. Former wealthy cloth merchant Shivcharan Ratan Gupta passed away at a care home without a single family member beside him. In his final days, he longed to see his three daughters, but none of them visited him during his illness or came to attend his last rites. Instead, they watched his funeral proceedings through a video call. Shivcharan, who was once a successful textile merchant in Maharashtra, had moved to the Sonapat care home around 18 months ago with his wife, Meena Gupta. After his wife passed away, he continued living at the facility alone, spending his remaining days away from his family. He had no sons and spent his entire life's earnings on providing his three daughters with a good education and helping them build successful careers. His efforts paid off, with two of his daughters eventually becoming government schoolteachers. His eldest daughter, Anita, is settled in Nepal, where she works as a teacher, while his second daughter, Nisha, lives in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh. His youngest daughter, Priya, resides in Mumbai.

Excuses and Absence in Final Moments

According to Anand, the care home manager, Shivcharan kept a mobile phone mainly to stay connected with his children. However, as his health began to deteriorate, calls from his daughters became increasingly infrequent. "When his condition worsened, we contacted all three daughters and requested them to come and see their father. But each of them gave different reasons and

expressed their inability to visit," Anand said. He added that after Shivcharan passed away late at night, the care home staff offered to preserve his body for some time to allow the family to arrive and perform the final rites. "Even then, they said they did not have the time to travel and declined to come," Anand said.

Final Rites via Video Call

Rather than attending in person, the eldest daughter, Anita, transferred Rs 5,100 online to the care home management to cover the expenses for the last rites. The family initially requested that his ashes be preserved for them to collect later. However, they subsequently changed their minds, citing time constraints, and requested the care home staff to immerse the ashes in the River Ganges on their behalf. The daughters monitored the entire funeral process remotely via a video link and requested the staff to send them recorded footage of the cremation. In a video of the conversation between the daughters and caregivers that is now going viral, one of Mr Gupta's daughters can be heard asking, "Ho gaya theek se saara kaam? Aap mujhe video bhej dena ek baar" (Was everything done properly? Please send me the video once). In the clip, she is also heard asking, "Abhi aur kitna time lagega?" (How much more time will it take?), to which the caregiver replies that the process would be completed within 10 to 15 minutes. The incident has deeply saddened care home staff and local residents alike. "Alongside academic and career success, children must be taught empathy, compassion, and the enduring value of family bonds," said the caregivers who were with Mr Gupta during his final moments.

If Mediation Fails...": Supreme Court In Sunjay Kapur Family Trust Row



"New Delhi:The Supreme Court is optimistic: that an "amicable solution" in the dispute between late industrialist Sunjay Kapur's mother Rani Kapur and his wife Priya Kapur over the family trust case can be reached and urged the parties involved to explore that. The legal proceedings over control of the estate and assets are pending before the Delhi High Court and the petition before the top court seeks a status quo on alienation of all the properties of the trust. Sunjay Kapur died on June 12 last year after collapsing during a polo match in England. He reportedly suffered a cardiac arrest. Noting that the ongoing mediation process is proceeding in "quite satisfactory" manner, the top

court said the mediation process between the opposing parties will continue till November 2. The top court had on May 7 appointed former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud to act as a mediator in the dispute over the family trust. The top court directed that the mediator's fees be paid by the RK Family Trust. It also emphasised that all parties should strive for a resolution before a situation arises where mediation fails. "If mediation fails, we will allow both parties to proceed in accordance with the law, but let that day not come," Justice Pardiwala said. During the hearing, the top court stated that it was "quite hopeful" that the ongoing family dispute could be resolved amicably.

Lok Sabha Passes Bill To Recognise Digital Bank Records As Evidence

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha passed a Bill to replace a British-era legislation with the objective of including digital and virtual records as admissible evidence in the court of law in sync with the digital dependence of the banking system.

As soon as the House reassembled at 2 pm after an earlier adjournment, the opposition members continued with their sloganeering, refusing to heed the pleas of the Chair to discuss the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026.

The Bill was moved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for consideration and passage amid din. The Bill seeks to provide for law relating to evidence with respect to bankers' books and to align it with contemporary digital banking practices and for matters connected with that.

As the disruptions continued, the Bill was put to vote without a debate and was passed by a voice vote.

The Bill was introduced by the finance minister in the Lok Sabha on Monday. The new law, to be called the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026, will replace the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891.

"With the advancement of technology and growth of digital banking, bank records are increasingly created, stored and maintained using contemporary technology (instead of physical record). It has, therefore, become necessary to modernise and strengthen the existing legal framework to meet the requirements of the present banking system," the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill said.

The Bill proposes to expand the scope of the definition of "bankers' books" to include all forms of records maintained by banks, whether in physical, electronic, digital, virtual, cloud-based or in any other form, thereby providing a comprehensive, technology-neutral and future-ready legal framework, it said.

It proposes to provide for standardised certificate formats and authentication by manual or digital or electronic signature and to expressly recognise admissibility of electronic bank records and permit their production in either physical or electronic form.

It is also going to empower the central government to extend applicability of the proposed legislation to any entity or class of entities operating in the financial sector, subject to certain conditions, it said.

The Bill seeks to define the expression "special cause", for which a court may, by order in writing, compel an officer of the bank to produce any bankers' books or to appear as witness to prove matters, transactions or accounts, in any legal proceeding where the bank is not a party. The Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 was enacted during the pre-independence era to facilitate the use of certified copies of bank records as evidence in legal proceedings without requiring the production of the original records. It was enacted at a time when banking records were predominantly maintained in physical form.

BSP's Lone UP MLA Umashankar Singh Dies At 55



Lucknow:Rasra MLA Umashankar Singh, Bahujan Samaj Party's lone legislator in the 403-member Uttar Pradesh Assembly, passed

away on Wednesday evening after a prolonged illness, party leaders said. Singh (55) was undergoing treatment for brain tumour,

they said. He died at around 8.30 pm at a private hospital in Delhi, BSP's Azamgarh and Gorakhpur zonal coordinator Madan Ram told PTI. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the MLA's demise, calling it "extremely heartbreaking". "The passing away of MLA Uma Shankar Singh Ji from the Rasda Assembly Constituency of Ballia district is extremely heartbreaking. Humble tribute," Adityanath said on microblogging platform X. "I pray to Lord Shri Ram that the departed soul be granted a place at His divine feet, and that the bereaved family members be bestowed with the strength to bear this immense sorrow. Om Shanti," his post read. BSP president Mayawati also expressed

grief over Singh's passing, stating that his death was "deeply saddening" and extending her condolences to his family and supporters. In her X post, Mayawati described Singh as a dedicated, honest and completely loyal party leader. She said his commitment to the BSP was beyond praise. "No amount of praise can do justice to his devotion to the party. His entire family is like the BSP family, and all members of his family treat me with full respect and honour as they would an elder sister," she said. Mayawati said she was continuously in touch with Singh's son during the treatment. "It was from him that I received the news of Singh's passing this evening. In this hour of grief, the entire party and I

stand with him and his family. They must not lose courage in any way but rather look forward. May nature grant strength to all of them to bear this sorrow," she said. She also assured the MLA's family of the party's full support during the difficult time. Condoling the BSP leader's death, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav prayed for peace to the departed soul and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family. Singh began his public life as a student leader and was elected general secretary of the students' union at Satish Chandra College in Ballia in 1990-91. He was first elected to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly from the Rasra constituency in 2012 and retained the seat in 2017 and 2022.

Assam Floods: Death Count Rises To 95, 14 Districts On High Alert



The flood situation in Assam remains grim as six more individuals lost their lives in the last 24 hours, taking the total death count in this year's monsoon season to 95. According to the latest report from the Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), the state is grappling with both widespread rural inundation and critical urban flooding across multiple districts. Out of the six fresh fatalities

reported on Wednesday, five deaths were attributed to the general flood situation--two each from Biswanath and Sivasagar districts, and one from Golaghat. One person died due to urban flooding in the Mayong revenue circle of Morigaon district. One person has also been reported missing in Udalguri. The Dhansiri (S) river at Numaligarh continues to flow above the danger level, keeping 14 districts on

high alert. The affected districts include Golaghat, Lakhimpur, Charaideo, Sivasagar, , Dhemaji, Kamrup (M), Jorhat, Sonitpur, Tinsukia, Nagaon, Darrang, Karbi Anglong, and Udalguri. In total, over 1.6 lakh people across 563 villages have been hit by the current wave of flooding. Sivasagar remains the worst-affected district with over 57,000 people impacted, followed by Golaghat and Jorhat. The

report said that the deluge has caused massive damage to the state's infrastructure. DRIMS reports indicate seven major embankment breaches, five in Biswanath at Brahman and two in Darrang at Mangaldoi. A steel bridge in Charaideo (Cholapothar) and a footbridge in Udalguri (Tangla) have also been damaged. Vast tracts of agricultural land are submerged, with 16,951 hectares of crop area currently under water. The livestock population has also taken a heavy hit; over 35,000 animals are affected, and approximately 8,500 animals, primarily in Sivasagar, have been washed away. Urban centres, including Guwahati, are facing severe waterlogging. Four districts, i.e Kamrup, Kamrup (M), Morigaon, and Jorhat, reported

urban flood impacts affecting 734 people. In Kamrup (M), SDRF and DDRF personnel deployed boats to evacuate 80 people from submerged localities, including Satgaon and Hatigaon. Partial waterlogging continues to hamper daily life in Guwahati's Juripar and Anil Nagar areas. The state government has intensified relief operations, opening 45 relief camps that are currently housing 12,356 inmates. Additionally, 59 distribution centres are providing essential supplies to over 32,000 people. Massive quantities of rice, dal, salt, and cattle feed are being dispatched to the worst-hit zones. Authorities continue to monitor the river levels as the meteorological department predicts further rainfall in the catchment areas, potentially exacerbating the already critical situation.

Ajinkya Rahane signs with Amsterdam Flames for inaugural ETPL



Amsterdam: Former India captain Ajinkya Rahane has signed with the Amsterdam Flames as the franchise's marquee player for the inaugural edition of the European T20 Premier League (ETPL), set to begin on August 26. On July 30, Rahane announced his retirement from international cricket and all formats. Rahane represented India in 85 Tests, 90 ODIs and 20 T20Is for India, while his final international appearance came against the West Indies in a two-game Test series in July 2023. "Cricket has given me so much, and I've always believed that players have a responsibility to leave the game stronger than they found it. Europe is entering an exciting phase and has the po-

tential to become one of cricket's most promising frontiers. "What impressed me about Amsterdam Flames is the ambition to build something meaningful that creates a lasting impact both on and off the field. I'm excited to work alongside the management to build a successful franchise while helping inspire the next generation and strengthen cricket's future across Europe," Rahane said in a statement issued by the tournament on Friday. Rahane is currently in England as a commentator for the Hundred. Steve Waugh, the former Australia captain who's the co-founder and Chief Cricket Officer of Amsterdam Flames, welcomed Rahane into the set-up. "Ajinkya Rahane repre-

sents everything you want in a professional cricketer – skill, resilience, humility and leadership. "Throughout his career he has earned enormous respect across the cricket world, not only for his performances but for the way he has conducted himself on and off the field. I've seen first-hand the composure and leadership he brings under pressure, and those qualities help shape winning cultures. His experience, leadership and character will be invaluable as we build Amsterdam Flames into one of Europe's premier cricket clubs." In the IPL, Rahane played 212 games for six teams and amassed 5367 in the tournament, including captaining Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in 2025 and 2026 sea-

sons and being a tournament winner with the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in 2023. Abhishek Bachchan, Co-owner of the ETPL, highlighted the significance of Rahane's signing for the upcoming league. "Ajinkya Rahane joining Steve Waugh's Amsterdam Flames is a significant moment for both the franchise and the ETPL and another important milestone in our vision to accelerate the growth of cricket across Europe. "Players of Ajinkya's calibre not only raise the standard of the competition but also inspire and mentor the next generation of European cricketers. We are delighted to welcome him to the ETPL family." Echoing similar sentiments, Tim Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of Amsterdam Flames, termed Rahane's recruitment as a landmark event for the club. "Signing a player of Ajinkya Rahane's calibre is a defining moment for Amsterdam Flames. This is about much more than adding an outstanding cricketer, it is about establishing the standards, culture and ambition that will define our club for years to come. "Ajinkya's professionalism, experience and leadership perfectly align with our vision of building a franchise that competes at the highest level while making a lasting contribution to the growth of cricket across Europe," he said.

Marsh, Short must finish BBL before joining SA20, says Cricket Australia

Melbourne: Cricket Australia (CA) has confirmed that Australia's men's T20I captain Mitchell Marsh and batting all-rounder Matthew Short will be granted No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to participate in the SA20 only after completing their respective Big Bash League (BBL) commitments. Marsh and Short were announced as marquee signings for the upcoming season of SA20 by joining Sunrisers Eastern Cape and Pretoria Capitals respectively. The SA20 is scheduled to get underway on January 17, 2027, just a day after Short's Adelaide Strikers host Marsh's Perth Scorchers in the final match of the BBL season 16 league stage. However, CA reiterated that clearance for foreign leagues remains subject to national board approval under International Cricket Council (ICC) regulations, regardless of a player's contract

status. "CA said the pair would only be granted a 'No Objection Certificate' once their BBL 16 commitments with their respective teams have concluded," said a report in cricket.com.au on Friday. Short, who opted to go freelance after his national contract was not renewed for the 2026/27 season, will still require the clearance alongside Marsh. A Perth Scorchers spokesperson also said in the report that Marsh would remain 'with Perth until the season ends, whatever stage of the tournament that is.' Should either Perth or Adelaide qualify for the BBL finals, scheduled to be played from January 19 to 26, their departure for South Africa will be delayed further. Both players enter the upcoming domestic summer in rich form. Marsh, who signed a three-year extension with the Scorchers till BBL season 17, enjoyed a stellar run in the pre-



vious Big Bash edition, scoring 360 runs to propel the side to a record sixth title. He followed it up with 563 runs for Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2026 and has made a blistering start in The Hundred for the Sunrisers Leeds with 290 runs in five innings. Short,

meanwhile, has also been in great touch, hitting consecutive half-centuries for Welsh Fire in The Hundred following a dominant run in Major League Cricket, where he smashed unbeaten scores of 94 and 121 in the playoffs for San Francisco Unicorns.

Neeraj Chopra becomes co-owner of UBS Athletics Kids Cup



New Delhi: Two-time Indian Olympic medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Friday became the co-owner of the UBS Athletics Kids Cup having already served as the programme's Ambassador for the past two seasons. The UBS Athletics Kids Cup is one of a grassroots initiatives, designed to introduce children to sports through fun, inclusive and accessible

competition. It has engaged more than 250,000 children across 2,500 plus schools in five cities. "Over the last two seasons, I have seen the impact that UBS Athletics Kids Cup has created for children across schools," said Chopra, who added a Commonwealth Games silver to his crowded cabinet last month, in a release. "Every child deserves an opportunity

to discover and showcase their talent, and becoming Co-owner felt like the natural next step because I truly believe in the vision we're building together. "Our ambition is to reach one million children and inspire many more youngsters to embrace sport. I look forward to sharing my own experiences with the kids, teachers and schools, because the more children play, the greater the chance of creating future champions." With Chopra joining the initiative as co-owner, the programme now enters its next phase of growth with an ambition to reach one million children across India. Beyond introducing young people to sports, the initiative aims to encourage confidence, discipline and lifelong participation in sport, helping build a stronger sporting culture from the grassroots up.

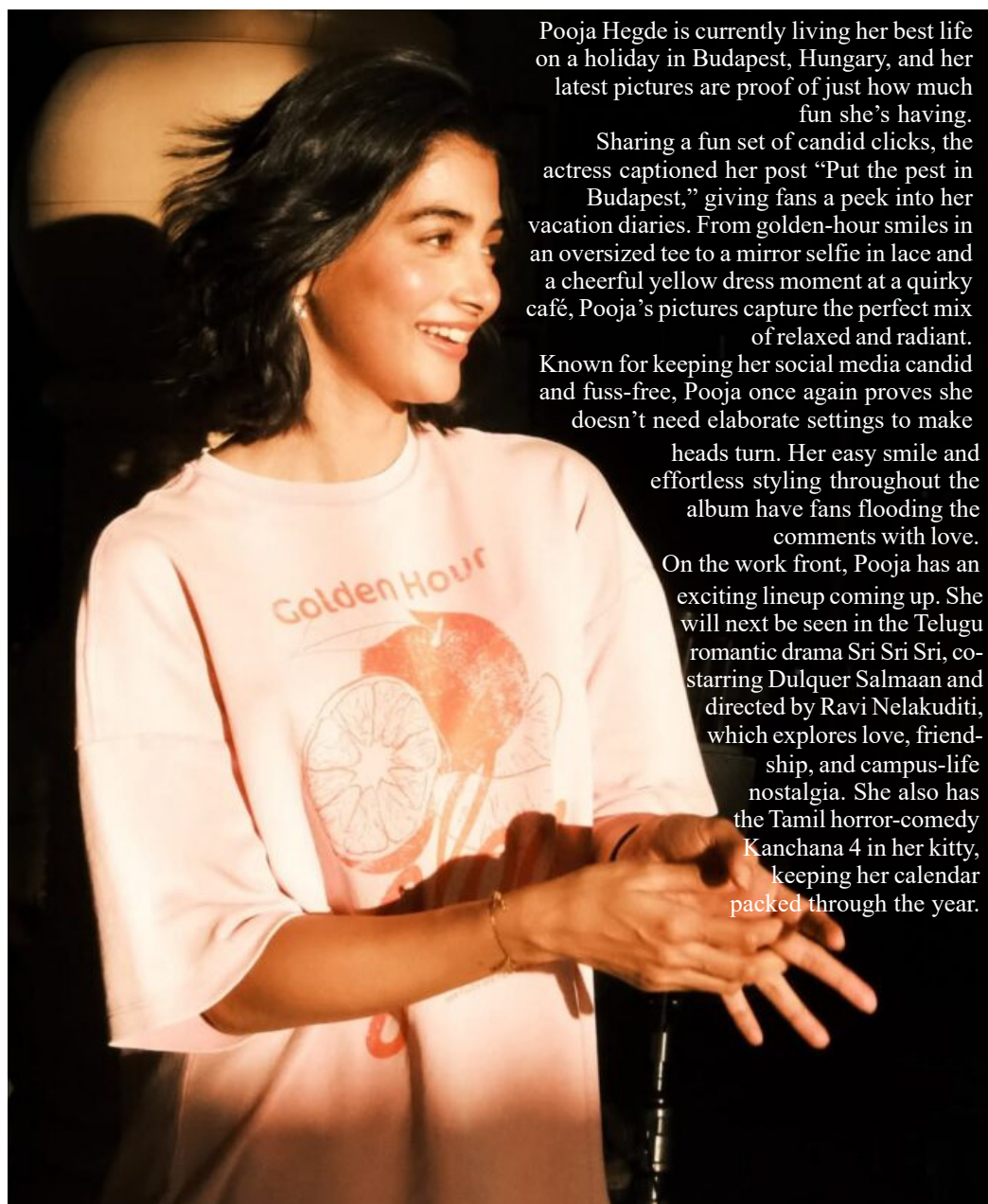
Daniel Schenker, CEO of Dspowerparts and Co-Founder of the initiative, said: "The strongest validation any programme can receive is when someone who knows the field better than anyone else chooses to invest personally in its future. "Neeraj has seen the impact, met the children and understands the vision. His decision to become a Partner is a powerful signal of what we can achieve together in the years ahead." The UBS Athletics Kids Cup has rapidly grown into one of India's leading grassroots sports programmes, creating opportunities for children to participate in fun, inclusive and accessible events. Nearly 50 per cent of all participants have been girls, underlining the initiative's focus on making sport accessible to every child.

Ananya Pandey Proves Sarees Are Her Superpower



Ananya Pandey continues to prove that she can nail a look no matter the setting, and her latest appearance at the Filmfare Marathi Awards is fresh proof. The actress was spotted in a stunning royal blue silk saree featuring an intricately woven pallu with peacock and floral motifs in a traditional Paithani-inspired style. She paired it with a backless blouse, minimal jewellery, and a sleek bun adorned with fresh flowers, giving the ensemble a graceful, old-world charm. Ananya's styling once again struck the perfect balance between traditional and chic, and fans couldn't stop praising how effortlessly she carried the six yards. Her calm expression and elegant pose added to the overall regal appeal of the picture. On the work front, Ananya's last release Chand Mera Dil failed to make a mark at the box office. However, that hasn't stopped her from staying in the spotlight, with her fashion choices consistently keeping her in the conversation. Fans are now waiting to see what she picks up next to bounce back on the big screen.

Pooja Hegde Puts The Pest In Budapest



Pooja Hegde is currently living her best life on a holiday in Budapest, Hungary, and her latest pictures are proof of just how much fun she's having.

Sharing a fun set of candid clicks, the actress captioned her post "Put the pest in Budapest," giving fans a peek into her vacation diaries. From golden-hour smiles in an oversized tee to a mirror selfie in lace and a cheerful yellow dress moment at a quirky café, Pooja's pictures capture the perfect mix of relaxed and radiant.

Known for keeping her social media candid and fuss-free, Pooja once again proves she doesn't need elaborate settings to make

heads turn. Her easy smile and effortless styling throughout the album have fans flooding the comments with love.

On the work front, Pooja has an exciting lineup coming up. She will next be seen in the Telugu romantic drama Sri Sri Sri, co-starring Dulquer Salmaan and directed by Ravi Nelakuditi, which explores love, friendship, and campus-life nostalgia. She also has the Tamil horror-comedy Kanchana 4 in her kitty, keeping her calendar packed through the year.