

PM Modi inaugurates Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram



Visakhapatnam: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district, near here, on Saturday. After landing at the runway of the Greenfield Airport, the Prime Minister inaugurated the passenger terminal building and undertook a walk-through along with Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu. The top leadership of GMR Group and the Civil Aviation Minister explained the special features of the airport to the Prime Minister. The terminal was decorated to showcase the culture, traditions, and arts of Andhra Pradesh. PM Modi had a close look at large-scale

Etikoppaka artwork displayed at the airport's welcome gate. When the PM stepped out of the airport and headed towards the venue of the public meeting on a special vehicle along with Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and others, tribal women performed the traditional 'Dhimsa' dance to welcome him. According to officials, the 'Dhimsa' dance by 13,500 tribal women created a Guinness World Record. The Prime Minister was seen clapping to appreciate the colourful and impressive dance performance by tribal women. At the public meeting venue, PM Modi will lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 17,900 crore in Bhogapuram and address the gathering on the

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Congratulations For Making Prime Minister Modi's Meeting A Success

**Happy To Share Stage With Pm And Cm
Thanks To In-Charge Ministers, Officials,
People And Media
Minister Kondapalli Srinivas**

Vizianagaram, August 1: "Minister For Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Eradication And Nri Empowerment And Relations Kondapalli Srinivas extended special congratulations to the people of North Andhra for making the Sri Alluri Sitaramaraju International Green Airport inauguration programme and Prime Minister Modi's meeting a success, which people have been eagerly waiting for a long time. On Saturday, amidst huge public applause, Prime Min-

ister Modi, Governor Abdul Nazeer, Goa Governor Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Cm Pawan Kalyan, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and Yuva Neta Nara Lokesh inaugurated the Alluri International Airport which will transform North Andhra into Uttamandhra. The Minister said this has laid the foundation for the future development of the region. He said people of the region will always be indebted to Gmr



Chairman Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao, son of North Andhra who built the prestigious and beautiful airport, to Ashok Gajapathi Raju who initiated the airport, and to the farmers who sacrificed their lands for the development of this region. He extended special thanks to the people who came voluntarily from all corners of North Andhra for the programme. He also congratulated the Tribal Thinsa Dance Artists who are a North Andhra icon and featured in Guinness Book Of Records, their gurus who came to welcome the Prime Minister, and the artists who per-

formed Thappeta Gullu, Kuchipudi Bharatanatyam, Folk Songs and Garaga Dance to energize the public. The Minister expressed gratitude to In-Charge Ministers, MLAs, MLcs, Corporation Chairmen and leaders of Coalition Parties who supervised arrangements for the airport inauguration for the past ten days as per the instructions of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He extended special congratulations to all officials who performed duties efficiently. He also extended special congratulations to Coali-

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Pawan Kalyan's wife adopts elephant and tiger at Vizag Zoo



Visakhapatnam: Anna Konidala, wife of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, has adopted an Asiatic elephant and a Royal Bengal tiger at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP) here for one year under its Animal Adoption Programme. G Mangamma, curator of IGZP, also known as Vizag Zoo, said Anna Konidala adopted the two animals on her birthday by contributing a total of Rs 6.3 lakh towards their care and welfare for one year. "IGZP welcomes Anna Konidala to the Zoo's Animal Adoption Family and sincerely

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BJP leader Sadhineni Yamini urges architects to promote India's heritage at Saptasindhu 2026 event

BJP leader Sadhineni Yamini called on the current generation of architects to highlight the scientific, engineering, and sustainability principles of India's ancient temples. She was the chief guest at the 'Sapta Sindhu 2026' conference, organised by HMTV and The Hans India at the School of Planning and Architecture. Yamini emphasised the importance of architecture in passing cultural knowledge through generations. She said, "Every civilisation writes its autobiography in literature, administrative institutions, and architecture. Architecture reveals what a civilisation valued and wished future generations to remember." She highlighted the role of platforms like 'Sapta Sindhu' in inspiring young architects to rediscover India's heritage and timeless wisdom.

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Andhra on track to become mfg hub: PM Modi

Vizianagaram: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed the Andhra Pradesh government for its strategic vision to comprehensively develop the entire region as a thriving Coastal Economic Corridor. He was addressing a public rally after inaugurating the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram and launching developmental projects worth Rs 18,000 crore, here on Saturday. Developed by the GMR Group, the airport will commence commercial flight operations on August 17. The naming of the airport reflected the state government's emphasis on recognising the contributions of inspiring personalities from the country's



rich history, he said. Taking a swipe at the Congress and the Gandhi family, Modi said, "Earlier, airports were named only after one family," and asserted that his government had

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A new economic growth chapter unfolds in North Andhra



Vizianagaram: A new economic growth chapter of North Andhra region has been unfolded at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inau-

gurated the much-awaited Alluri Sitarama Raju Green Field International Airport on August 1 (Saturday). Highlighting tradition and

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Nanda Bhagi Sandilya's
Smart City Framework:
The Secret to Urban
Transformation

Nanda Bhagi Sandilya, President of Nikola Tesla Smart Cities Inc. (NTSC), has developed and articulated an integrated smart city framework designed to address the evolving infrastructure needs of the 21st century. His vision brings together renewable energy, intelligent mobility, digital governance, advanced healthcare, education, public safety, sustainable housing, artificial intelligence, and economic development into a unified, technology-enabled ecosystem. This holistic approach seeks to create resilient, efficient, and sustainable communities capable of improving quality of life while supporting long-term economic growth. The NTSC conceptual framework has attracted institutional interest because it addresses one of the most significant challenges in modern infrastructure development: integrating multiple sectors into a coordinated and scalable ecosystem rather than developing isolated projects. By emphasizing interoperability, sustainability, public-private partnerships, and emerging technologies, the framework provides governments, investors, developers, and strategic partners with a structured roadmap for evaluating and implementing future-ready infrastructure. Observers recognize Sandilya’s vision as an ambitious framework for reimagining how cities can be planned, developed, and managed, particularly in rapidly growing economies. His ability to translate complex systems thinking into structured, actionable concepts has enabled meaningful discussions with government agencies, infrastructure developers, financial institutions, and technology partners. This disciplined approach has helped advance the NTSC initiative from an early conceptual vision toward pilot-stage evaluation and institutional engagement. A distinguishing characteristic of Sandilya’s leadership is his emphasis on building collaborative ecosystems rather than standalone projects. His strategic philosophy focuses on bringing together experienced industry leaders, engineering experts, financial institutions, technology providers, policymakers, and implementation partners under a common framework with clearly defined objectives, governance structures, and long-term sustainability goals. Industry observers note that Sandilya’s integrated conceptual architecture provides the strategic foundation upon which experienced infrastructure and financial leaders can contribute their respective expertise. Professionals such as Dr. Sailesh Lachu Hiranandani, who brings decades of leadership experience in finance, infrastructure, and global business development, represent the type of strategic partner capable of supporting the commercial, financial, and execution aspects of large-scale infrastructure initiatives. The combination of a comprehensive strategic framework and experienced execution partners creates the potential for transforming complex infrastructure concepts into practical, phased implementation programs. Without a well-defined conceptual architecture, large-scale smart city initiatives often remain aspirational. With a structured framework, robust governance, and capable strategic partners, implementation can be prioritized through modular development, allowing governments and investors to select and deploy the specific components that best align with local economic, social, environmental.

Congratulations For Making Prime
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tion Leaders who supported the public who came voluntarily to the public meeting, supervised all arrangements and especially made foolproof food arrangements. He thanked Local, National And International Media and press friends who spread the fame of North Andhra in all directions.Happy To Share Stage With Prime MinisterMinister Kondapalli Srinivas said he felt very happy to share the stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the airport inauguration venue which will be written in golden letters in North Andhra history. He expressed special gratitude on behalf of the people of North Andhra to Chief Minister Chandrababu for giving him such an opportunity.

PM Modi inaugurates Alluri Sitarama Raju
International Airport at Bhogapuram

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occasion.Developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode at a cost of over Rs 5,640 crore, the Greenfield airport has been designed to handle 6 million passengers annually. The airport is expected to provide a significant boost to tourism, trade, investment and employment generation in Andhra Pradesh while strengthening air connectivity in the region. The passenger terminal building has been designed to provide a modern, seamless and efficient travel experience.The airport incorporates advanced infrastructure, cutting-edge technologies and sustainable features to enhance operational efficiency and meet future aviation requirements.The airport has been equipped with advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Building Information Modelling (BIM), Airside 4.0 technologies, Airport Predictive Operations Centre (APOC), biometric passenger processing, automated baggage handling systems and intelligent operational monitoring solutions. These systems are expected to enhance operational efficiency, improve passenger convenience and safety, and optimise resource utilisation.

Pawan Kalyan’s wife adopts
elephant and tiger at Vizag Zoo

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appreciates her valuable contribution towards animal welfare, zoo management and wildlife conservation,” Mangamma said in a press release issued late on Friday.According to the curator, Anna Konidala contributed Rs 4.3 lakh towards the adoption of the Asiatic elephant, India’s National Heritage Animal, and Rs 2 lakh towards the adoption of the Royal Bengal tiger, the country’s National Animal.She said the contribution would support the animals’ care, nutrition, environmental enrichment and veterinary welfare while reinforcing the importance of wildlife conservation.Mangamma said the gesture would inspire people to celebrate special occasions by supporting wildlife conservation initiatives.The curator said the Zoo’s Animal Adoption Programme enables individuals, families, educational institutions, organisations and corporate bodies to contribute towards animal welfare and wildlife conservation. She added that donations made under the programme are eligible for tax exemption under Section 80G(5) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, under the old tax regime, subject to applicable provisions.

Andhra on track to become mfg hub: PM Modi

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changed that practice. Also Read - BJP celebrates inauguration of Khammam–Devarapalli Greenfield Highway Advertisement The Prime Minister emphasised the national strategy to aggressively fortify the Blue Economy. For context, the blue economy refers to the sustainable use of ocean and coastal resources to drive economic growth, create jobs, and safeguard marine ecosystems. Outlining the Centre’s ambitious vision of transforming the entire coastal stretch into an integrated economic corridor through the modernisation of heritage ports from Visakhapatnam to Krishnapatnam, the Prime Minister underlined the Centre’s focus on constructing new maritime hubs at Mulapeta and Ramayapatnam. “The expressway highway project, constructed recently, is fundamentally imparting unprecedented speed to the entire geographic region,” Modi observed. Highlighting the need to seamlessly connect the region with major national industrial hubs, the Prime Minister announced that railway projects worth Rs.1 lakh crore are currently underway, boosting complete network electrification and modernisation of over 70 stations.

A new economic growth chapter
unfolds in North Andhra

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culture, a massive Dhimsa dance, involving 13,500 Adivasi girls, was presented welcoming the Prime Minister. The massive Dhimsa presentation gained an entry into the Guinness World Records. Alongside Dhimsa and Kuchipudi dance, a number of troupes performed folk dances marking the grand event. Reaching the Greenfield Airport, the Prime Minister inaugurated the coveted airport along with Chief Minister N

Karepalli police in Khammam
arrest gang for defrauding
banks, finance firms with fake gold



Khammam: A gang involved in defrauding banks, finance companies and gold-buying firms by manufacturing fake gold jewellery was busted by Karepalli police in the district.Karepalli Inspector of Police Sagar informed that the operation was carried out under the supervision of Karepalli Sub-Inspector (SI) Gopi. Two accused, Guguloth Sunil Kumar and Mundada Ramchander of Karepalli were arrested while another accused Daravath Rakesh was absconding, he said.Inv estigations revealed that the accused manufactured jewellery using copper and applied a gold plating to make it resemble genuine gold. They subsequently pledged these counterfeit items at various banks and finance companies to secure loans and also defrauded private gold-buying firms to earn money illegally.In one instance, the gang, through Ramchander’s agent, Sunil pledged 52 grams of fake gold at Muthoot Finance in Yellandu and obtained a loan of Rs 3.90 lakh. Later, devising a plan to redeem the pledged item, they contacted ‘Mana Gold Company’ in Hyderabad; Sunil received Rs 5.80 lakh from the company and absconded with the money.A case was registered based on the complaint by the company, which conducted an investigation and arrested the accused. Police seized a car purchased with proceeds from the crime along with Rs 15,000 in cash and a mobile phone used in the offence from the arrested accused.The investigation into the involvement of other individuals in this case is ongoing. The officials commended the investigating officer, SI Gopi and Kamepalli SI Srikanth for nabbing the accused.

Four detained for allegedly
attempting to sell newborn
baby in Hyderabad



Hyderabad: The Balapur police detained four persons for allegedly attempting to illegally sell a newborn baby girl to a couple in Shaheennagar. According to the police, a woman delivered the baby at a government hospital in Malakpet earlier this week. Police said that a woman, identified as Waheeda, allegedly persuaded the infant’s parents to sell the child to a couple in Shaheennagar and negotiated a deal worth Rs. 5 lakh.Acting on a tip-off, the Balapur police formed special teams and intercepted Waheeda when she allegedly arrived to hand over the infant to the prospective buyers at Shaheennagar. Four persons were detained in connection with the case.The infant was rescued safely, and an investigation is underway to ascertain the roles of all those involved and the circumstances leading to the alleged child sale attempt.

Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan, Governor of Goa P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Governor of AP S. Abdul Nazeer, Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu, Ministers V.Anitha, BC Janardhan Reddy, IT and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh, among others. The new airport, completed 31 months before schedule, was decked up exuding rich culture and heritage of North Andhra region and other parts of Andhra Pradesh. The displays at the airport included Etikoppaka toys, Bobbili Veena and puppet show presentation. The inauguration of Bhogapuram Airport marked a significant milestone in the development ofY North Andhra region, ushering in a new era for the state's aviation sector. Scores of people from across North Andhra districts arrived at the venue to witness the public meeting and be part of the inaugural ceremony.

Sapta Sindhu 2026 - Creative Confluence

Culture, Heritage, Architecture.. On A Single Platform Youth Play Key Role In Heritage Conservation Move Forward By Integrating With Modern Innovations: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha



Vijayawada, August 1: “District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said youth play a key role in preserving Indian culture, heritage and architectural wealth and in passing them on to future generations. He said the responsibility lies with youth to take forward the country's history and cultural heritage by integrating it with modern innovations. Sapta Sindhu-2026: Amaravati Edition commenced on Saturday at School Of Planning And Architecture (Spa), Vijayawada with the joint partnership of Ae Foundation, School Of Planning And Architecture (Vijayawada), Vishwa Bandhu Trust and Indira Gandhi National Centre For The Arts (Ignca). Inspired by the significance of the seven sacred rivers, this two-day programme aims to bring students, faculty, architects, artists, researchers and cultural experts from various parts of the country onto a single platform for intellectual deliberation of new ideas, creativity and encouragement of heritage conservation. It serves as a platform for special programmes promoting youth creativity and Temple Architecture Competitions. The

programme is being conducted with the participation of Ae Foundation Director Sangeeta Mishra, Spa (Vijayawada) Director Dr. Ramesh Srikonda, Vishwa Bandhu Trust Founder Yamuna Pathak, Ignca Regional Centre - Tirupati Regional Director Dr. Ktv Raghavan and others, and has given new impetus to youth creativity.

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha attended the programme as special guest and inspected the designs that stand as symbols of students' architectural artistry and congratulated them. Speaking on the occasion, he said new ideas and creative perspectives will emerge through students, young architects, faculty, artists and researchers sharing mutual experiences. He said youth creativity in areas like architecture, heritage conservation and sustainable development will contribute to the future of the country. Collector Lakshmisha said Sapta Sindhu-2026 is not just a conference, but a great platform that brings Indian culture, heritage, architecture, education and youth creativity onto a single stage.

Attempt Of Cyber Fraud With False Identity As Principal District Judge

Machilipatnam, 01.08.2026: “The District Judiciary has alerted the public regarding an attempt to commit cyber fraud by creating a false identity in the name of Hon'ble Principal District And Sessions Judge, Krishna, Machilipatnam. On 01.08.2026, an unknown person sent messages to some lawyers and court staff through Whatsapp using the photo of Hon'ble Principal District And Sessions Judge as the Whatsapp display picture and falsely introduced himself as the Hon'ble Judge. Later, the said person requested money transfer into a bank account through message. A complaint has been lodged with the Inspector Of Police, Chilakalapudi Police Station, Machilipatnam, requesting immediate legal action and investigation in coordination with Cyber Crime Officials on this matter. The District Judiciary hereby clarifies that No Judge Or Judicial Officer will ever ask for money transfer through Whatsapp or any other unofficial communication. Therefore, the public is advised to remain alert and Not Respond To Such Suspicious Messages, Not Transfer Any Money, And Not Disclose Otps, Pins, Passwords Or Bank Account Details To Anyone. If any such suspicious messages or communications are re-

ceived, the public is requested to immediately bring them to the notice of Police or Cyber Crime Officials.

Ballia man detained for recording, circulating obscene video of 15-year-old girl

Ballia (UP): A 20-year-old man has been detained for allegedly circulating an obscene video of a 15-year-old girl here, police said on Saturday. A case was registered on Friday at the Maniyar police station based on a complaint filed by the girl's mother against the accused, Zahid, they said. According to the complaint, Zahid allegedly lured the Class 6 student into a video call, recorded an obscene video of her and threatened her over marriage before circulating the clip. The complainant alleged that the video later went viral, leaving the teenager depressed. The police have registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Information Technology (Amendment) Act. SHO Ajay Kumar Tripathi said the accused has been detained and is being interrogated.

cStalin seeks all-party meet over Cauvery, slams Vijay

Chennai: Slamming Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay over the Mokedatu dam row, DMK president M K Stalin on Saturday demanded the immediate convening of an all-party meeting to form a united front on the state's vital lifeline-the Cauvery river. Accusing Vijay of attempting a “solo political feat” that ended in isolation and rejection, Stalin criticised the CM for ignoring warnings from Tamil Nadu's political leaders and farmers' associations against direct talks with Karnataka. “By attempting a solo act, the chief minister now stands isolated”, he alleged in his social media X handle. “We urged the chief minister of Tamil Nadu not to visit Karnataka”, he said adding “past experience has taught us that a legal battle is the only way forward against a state that has unequivocally declared it will not release water to Tamil Nadu”. “They (Karnataka) view Tamil Nadu merely as a drainage basin for surplus water,” the former CM charged. Stating that perhaps the new chief minister of Tamil Nadu thought he could bring back the Cauvery water with him if he personally visited Karnataka, Stalin said, “however, as soon as the Cauvery



Water Management Authority (CWMA) ordered the release of water to Tamil Nadu, they (Karnataka) shut the gates on him, saying, do not come for now”. “It was precisely anticipating such a situation that everyone in Tamil Nadu cautioned him beforehand. At least from now on, the chief minister must approach the Cauvery issue, a vital life line for Tamil Nadu, through collective consultation.” Stalin claimed that calling an all-party meeting in Karnataka on August 2, Karnataka chief minister D K Shivakumar has demonstrated their unity through action. “When will the Tamil Nadu chief minister convene an all-party meeting? Can he do it, or can't he,” he asked.

Indian Railways approves Rs 976 crore multitracking project for Bihar's Danapur-Fatuha section



New Delhi: In a bid to support the socio-economic development of Bihar, Indian Railways has approved multitracking of the 29 km Danapur to Fatuha section of East Central Railway for Rs 976 crore, an official statement said on Saturday. The approval reaffirms the commitment of Indian Railways to expanding capacity on high-density routes, strengthening logistics for energy and industry. The project will decongest one of the busiest stretches on the Patna rail corridor and create room for a large increase in both passenger and freight services, according to Railways Ministry. In the first year of operation, the project will allow 22 additional passenger trains and 18 additional freight trains every day. It will also enable handling of an additional 5.2 million tonnes per annum of freight traffic. The project forms part of the quadrupling initiative on the Delhi, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction, Patna, Kiul, Bhagalpur, Khanna and Howrah route. This route is identified under the Energy, Mineral and Cement Corridor of Indian Railways. The strengthened section is also vital for the upcoming 2120 MW thermal power plant at

Chausa in Buxar district, which will depend on rail movement of bulk inputs, according to the statement. The sanctioned work covers three components. Third and fourth lines will be laid between Danapur and Patna. A third line will be laid between Rajendra Nagar and Patna Saheb.

Third and fourth lines will be laid between Patna Saheb and Fatuha. The additional lines will ease congestion, minimise delays, and improve punctuality across the Patna region, according to the statement. According to the ministry, Railways is headed for a transformative expansion with the government having approved a total investment of Rs 1.53 lakh crore across 100 new projects in 2025-26 covering more than 6,000 kilometres of railway network.

Compared to FY 2024-25, where 64 projects worth Rs 72,869 crore covering over 2,800 kilometres were cleared, project approvals have increased by 56 per cent, route coverage has surged by over 114 per cent, and financial commitment has witnessed a remarkable jump of more than 110 per cent, according to a factsheet released by the ministry.

Servant, aide held for burglary in Adilabad's Boath mandal

Adilabad: A servant and his accomplice were arrested for allegedly burgling both silver and gold ornaments in Boath mandal centre on Friday. Police recovered 1.4 kg of silver and 15 grams of gold from the two. Boath Inspector Guru Swamy said that Arjun Thade and his friend Rathod Ganesh were arrested on charges of stealing silver, gold ornaments and cash Rs

2,000 from his employer Dharavath Vinod's house in Boath on July 26. They were detained with the help of CCTV footage. During an interrogation, Arjun reportedly confessed to committing the crime by taking assistance from Ganesh. He admitted to stealing the ornaments when Vinod was not present at home.

Indian-origin US Army Sergeant Angel Rampersad laid to rest with full military honours



New York: Indian-origin US Army Sergeant Angel Rampersad, who was killed in action in the Iran war, was given a hero's farewell at her funeral here. "My daughter was a real hero", her mother Carol Acevedo said on Friday at her funeral, surrounded by officials, soldiers and several hundred mourners who shared the sentiment. Rampersad, who immigrated to the US as a two-year-old from Trinidad, was killed last month in an Iranian missile strike on a US Army base in Jordan. New York Governor Kathy Hochul, who ordered the flags to be flown half-staff across the state to mourn her, said, "Staff Sergeant Rampersad lived a life of courage and selflessness. New York, and our nation, are safer because of brave Americans like her who answer the call to serve". The city and state rallied to honour her on her final journey, which was televised live by some stations. A motorcade led by dozens of New York Police on motorcycles accompanied her body to the funeral services at a church and to the burial at a Long Island cemetery with military honours. New York Mayor Zohair Mamdani, who is against President Donald Trump's Iran War, joined the mourners at the church, and said in a statement, "Sgt. Rampersad's courage

and sacrifice will be remembered" across the city that was her home. "For so many New Yorkers, wars overseas are never distant, they are felt here at home", he added. President Donald Trump and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth received her body with military honours when it was brought from Jordan to the Dover Air Force Base on July 22. Rampersad was based in Germany with an Army Air and Missile Defence Command, but was deployed to the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan for the war. So far, 18 US military personnel have been killed in the Iran war that began on February 28 when Israel bombed Iran, and the US joined in. Rampersad and four others, who were killed in renewed fighting after the memorandum of understanding between the US and Iran imploded, had been listed by the Pentagon among the casualties of the Iran War. But on Sunday they were moved out of that list to a new one called "Overseas Operations" in an apparent attempt to make the Iran War casualties lower. Two others, Captain Tyler James Feehan, 25, and Private First Class Isabella Gonzales, 19, died with her in the attack on July 17. The next day, Sergeant Michael Emmanuel Swinton was killed in a base in Iraq that had been attacked by a drone.

Amarnath Yatra suspended from Jammu as NH-44 remains closed

Jammu: The Amarnath Yatra was suspended from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here on Saturday as the 250-km strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed for the second consecutive day due to incessant rain, officials said. No fresh batch of pilgrims was allowed to leave the Jammu base camp for the Kashmir Valley due to repair work underway on the Ladha-Samroli stretch of the highway in Udhampur district, they said. Both sides of the highway (NH-44), the only all-weather road linking the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country, were closed to traffic on Friday shortly after the passage of the Amarnath Yatra convoy to facilitate repairs to the damage caused by rain last week. Fresh spells of rain have since disrupted the restoration work, leaving the road surface slushy, muddy and extremely slippery. Light to moderate rainfall has been recorded across parts of Ramban and Udhampur districts. Meanwhile, the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) shifted the Yatra registration and token distribution counters from the Tawi Riverfront to the Bhagwati Nagar base camp following a decline in the number of pilgrims arriving in Jammu. The Tawi Riverfront had been



developed as a centralised mega facility for offline registration, token distribution, e-KYC verification and RFID issuance for Amarnath pilgrims. With the pilgrim influx tapering off, the registration facilities have now been consolidated at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, the officials said. Since July 3, when the Yatra began, around 4.5 lakh devotees have visited the cave shrine housing the naturally formed ice lingam in the south Kashmir Himalayas. The Yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 28, which coincides with Raksha Bandhan.

OMCs slash commercial LPG cylinder prices by over Rs 200



New Delhi: State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Saturday reduced the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders by over Rs 200 across major cities, providing relief to restaurants, hotels and other commercial establishments that depend on the fuel for cooking. The price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders has been reduced by more than Rs 200 in Delhi and Kolkata. The latest revision, which took effect on August 1, saw the price of a commercial cylinder fall by Rs 202 in Delhi and Rs 209 in Kolkata. In Kolkata, the revised price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder stands at Rs 2,872.50. The reduction, however, is limited to commercial LPG users. However, the prices of 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinders used by households remain unchanged. The reduction comes as global energy markets continue to adjust to supply risks arising from geopolitical tensions. On July 1, the OMCs reduced the price of 19-kg com-

mercial LPG cylinders by up to Rs 183.50 across major cities. The decision to reduce prices comes after commercial LPG rates witnessed multiple increases amid rising global energy prices triggered by the West Asia conflict. Earlier, the government relaxed LPG supply restrictions for commercial and industrial users after fuel availability improved. It restored 50 per cent of supplies to customers whose allocations had earlier been suspended as part of measures to prioritise domestic household demand. During the conflict, the government had issued orders under the Essential Commodities Act requiring C3-C4 streams to be utilised exclusively for LPG production, diverting them from petrochemical and other downstream uses. Moreover, the government directed the OMCs to continue maintaining comprehensive data on commercial and industrial LPG consumers to facilitate efficient planning and supply management.

Death toll rises to two in Kulgam terror attack as injured worker dies

Srinagar: The death toll in Friday's terrorist attack in Kellam village of Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district rose to two on Saturday as authorities said the second injured labourer from Chhattisgarh succumbed to his injuries at a Srinagar hospital in the morning. The deceased have been identified as Deepak Rattray (24), son of Uma Shankar, and Bopinder (28), son of Dasrar, both residents of Chhattisgarh who were working as migrant labourers at a brick kiln in Kellam village of Kulgam district. Officials said Bopinder was shifted from the Government Medical College in Anantnag to the Super Speciality Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, in Srinagar late on Friday evening in a critical condition. "He passed away this morning at SKIMS," an official said. Terrorists on Friday evening shot and critically injured the two non-local brick kiln labourers in Kellam village by firing at them from close range in a hit-and-run attack. Both injured labourers were shifted to the Government Medical College Hospital in Anantnag, where Deepak succumbed to his bullet injuries, while doctors referred Bopinder to SKIMS for specialised treatment. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on X on Friday: "I spoke with the DGP, Nalin Prabhat, and top security officials following the brutal terrorist attack in Kulgam in which a labourer from Chhattisgarh was killed. I strongly condemn this cowardly act. I have directed our security forces to step up their operations and eliminate the terrorists. "J&K Police and security forces have cordoned off the area and launched an operation to bring the perpetrators to justice. Another injured labourer from Chhattisgarh has been rushed to the hospital for urgent medical care. "My deep-



est condolences to the bereaved family, and I am praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. The J&K administration and the entire nation stand with the families." The attack has been widely condemned by local political and religious leaders. Security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to track down the attackers. The incident follows a heightened phase of counter-terror operations across the Kashmir Valley in response to recent terrorist violence. On July 22, terrorists killed J&K Armed Police Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi while he was deployed on Amarnath Yatra duty in Anantnag.

Keralam: Seventeen stranded fishermen rescued off Kozhikode coast

Kozhikode (Kerala): Seventeen fishermen stranded at sea after their fishing boat developed engine trouble off the Kozhikode coast were rescued by the Coastal Police and local residents on Saturday. The fishermen had ventured into the sea from Beypore harbour when the boat suffered an engine failure and became stranded off Kappalangadi in Kadalundi, a statement said. All 17 fishermen on board were rescued and brought ashore safely. Those who sustained minor injuries were shifted to the Taluk Hospital for treatment. None of the injuries was serious, the statement added.

Tanushree Dutta urges Gen Z to protest responsibly, focus on national security

Mumbai: Actress Tanushree Dutta has shared her strong views on the ongoing Gen Z protests, calling for greater focus on national security and border issues, while urging youngsters to express their anger responsibly. Taking to her social media account, the actress shared a note that read, “Gen-Z ke kandhe par bandook hai... Nishana hai India. She further wrote, “Education system reform is not too far away. Usski shuruaat ho chuki hai. Its time to move away from this topic and focus on securing our borders and other constructive pursuits.” Her post continued, “Best not to disturb a well functioning administrative setup simply based on fiery emotions & mob influence.” Addressing the younger generation, Tanushree added, “Gen-z must express their anger responsibly. We all love them, everyone in India has acknowledged their value and importance in our eco system. Everyone wants the best for them as they are our future.” She further wrote, “But logon ki baaton mein na aaye. Desh ki leadership teams working very hard to keep us all safe and comfortable here in India.” The actress concluded her note by saying, “Unko de-stabilize karna means we all get de-stabilize somehow because enemies at border may become bold and attack without fear.” She ended the post with a message to young people, writing, “Samjho baat ko young ones, politics is not always black & white. Very often its grey zone so be carefull who you trust.” In the post, she also added a video where she was heard expressing her firm views. Tanushree elaborated on her views, saying, “Right now, the resignation of any top administrator of the country can prove harmful for the country. We are surrounded from all sides. There is tension on the border from all sides, especially the Bangladesh border and China border.” She further said, “The Bangladesh border has not been fully sealed yet. And maybe this is the after effect of that. Because whatever was happening there has now started to stop. So there will be a little retaliation.” The actress added, “Modi ji and Shah ji together sealed the Bangladesh border. After that, all these issues arose. I am not saying that the student protest was not a genuine reason.

Shankar Mahadevan to perform at Commonwealth Games 2026 closing ceremony in Glasgow

Mumbai: Renowned singer and composer Shankar Mahadevan has been roped in to perform at India’s handover segment at the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2026, which will take place at Glasgow’s OVO Hydro on August 2. During the closing ceremony, India will formally be taking over the hosting duties for the centenary 2030 edition of the Commonwealth Games, expected to take place in Ahmedabad. Sharing his excitement about his performance, Shankar Mahadevan claimed that every time one gets the opportunity to represent their country on an international platform such as this, they are faced with a deep sense of responsibility. Talking about what it means to represent India on the global stage, Shankar Mahadevan said, “Every time you represent India on an international stage, there is a deep sense of responsibility that comes with it.” Speaking about the Commonwealth Games, the singer and composer added, “Events like the Commonwealth Games are a celebration of excellence, unity, and shared human spirit, and music has the power to complement that beautifully.” “We’ve approached the performance with the intention of capturing



But it has been solved. The main issue was solved. The resolution has been made.” Speaking about the ongoing protests, Tanushree said, “So the extra work that is being done now, because they don’t want all these borders to be sealed. And now trusting a new person, where you are surrounded from all sides, and who knows where else the border issues will start.

So this is the agenda of the unrest.” She further stated, “So the Sangh should also understand, and everyone else should also understand, that now is not the time for change. Let them do their duty at the place where they are stationed. Because it is not a two-day job to handle the command. Those who are in charge of the command, they know what the challenges are, what the setup is. Changing it now means making our country vulnerable at the border level.” Concluding her remarks, Tanushree said, “And the enemies of the country want us to become vulnerable at the border level. And Gen Z, they get angry at everything. And it is valid that they are angry because of the paper leak. But now they are solving the issue. Leadership. So why escalate the matter now? It is escalating because the crossing of the border that was going on, is now closed. So those who have closed it, will they take action against it?”



the many emotions, traditions, and musical influences that make India so unique. My hope is that audiences don’t just enjoy the music, but also experience the warmth, diversity, and soul of our country through it,” he further went on to say. The closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2026 will include a 20-minute India Handover Segment. The cultural presentation will have Shankar Mahadevan, actress and former Miss World Manushi Chhillar, Playback singer Bhoomi Trivedi, musicians Siddharth Mahadevan and Shivam Mahadevan, and sitar maestro Rishab Rikhiram Sharma. The performance plans to pay tribute to the state of Gujarat, which will be hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

Salman Khan’s heartfelt post for Sanjay Dutt leaves fans amused over quirky caption

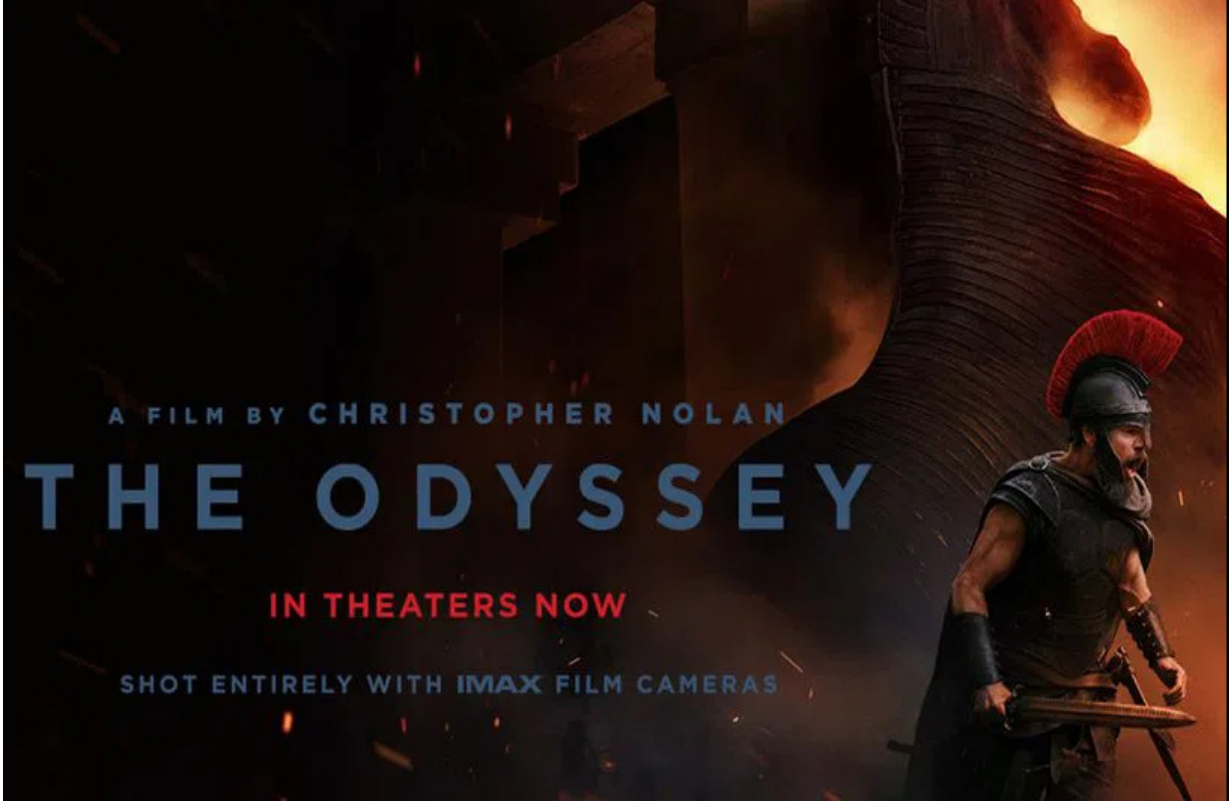
M u m b a i : Bollywood super-star Salman Khan is back with another unusual post on Instagram at an ungodly hour. The actor celebrated his brotherhood with actor Sanjay Dutt. On Saturday, the actor took to his Instagram, and shared 2 pictures



of himself in an embrace with his “bada bhai”. He also penned a long note in the caption, as he wrote, “Babaaaa forever baba aur baba ,baba hota hai. Sanju baba hai hum sab ka baba n Sanju baba now apne bacchon ka baba, mera bada bhai Sanjay Dutt, Allah, Bhagwan Jesus sab iss aadmi ko khush rakhain, I love you Baba”. Netizens wasted no time to take shots at his caption, as it is indeed a tough nut to crack. They took to the comments section of the post, and trolled the actor for his caption. One user wrote, “He used the word ‘baba’ 9 times”. Another user wrote, “No one can beat you when it comes to savage caption”. A 3rd user wrote, “Looks like bhai and Sanjay Dutt had quite an evening”. The friendship between Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt has been one of Bollywood’s most enduring bonds, spanning over three decades. They have shared the screen in films like ‘Saajan’ while maintaining a close relationship off-camera. Salman has often

spoken about his admiration for Sanjay, considering him an elder brother and a guiding influence. Despite occasional rumours of differences, the two have repeatedly demonstrated mutual respect and affection. Their camaraderie, built on loyalty and shared experiences, continues to resonate with fans, making them one of Hindi cinema’s most celebrated friendships. Earlier, Salman Khan paid a visit to his sibling Sohail Khan, on the sets of the streaming reality show ‘Alliance’. The actor was seen dressed in a denim shirt, black pants, and cowboy hat. The actor posed for the paparazzi. The superstar’s visit came after one of the show’s most emotional moments. Sohail, who entered Alliance as a wildcard contestant alongside his former wife Seema Sajdeh, was left heartbroken after she was eliminated from the competition. Reacting to her elimination, Sohail admitted that he did not want Seema to leave the show.

Christopher Nolan’s ‘The Odyssey’ crosses Rs 150 crore gross at the India box office



New Delhi: Filmmaker Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey” has earned over Rs 150 crore gross in India at the box office. Featuring Matt Damon as Odysseus, Tom Holland as Telemachus, Zendaya as Athena, Robert Pattinson as Antinous, Lupita Nyong’o as Helen of Troy and Clytemnestra, Anne Hathaway as Penelope and Charlize Theron as Calypso, among others, the film released globally on July 17. The film went on to earn over Rs 70 crore in India during the opening weekend and also turned another release for the filmmaker to earn over Rs 100 crore at the box office after “Oppenheimer”. According to the estimates of the trade tracking website Sacnilk, the total collection of the film stands at Rs 165.85 crore gross at the box office. “The Odyssey” revolves around the Greek King Odysseus (essayed by Damon) on a perilous 10-year journey home after the Trojan War. Beset by vengeful gods, sea monsters, and

enchantresses, he fights to reunite with his wife, Penelope (Hathaway), and son, Telemachus (Holland). It is produced under Syncopy Inc and distributed by Universal Pictures. Actors Jon Bernthal, John Leguizamo and Travis Scott, among others, round off the cast of the film. They feature as Menelaus, the King of Sparta, Eumaeus and bard, respectively. The film is based on Homer’s ancient Greek poem, which has been previously adapted several times. In 1954, “Ulysses”, an Italian-American co-production, featured actor Kirk Douglas as the Greek hero. “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”, released in 2000, and was a loose, satirical adaptation directed by the Coen Brothers. “The Odyssey” in 1997 was directed by Andrei Konchalovsky and was broadcast as a two-part miniseries. It starred Armand Assante as the Greek king and Greta Scacchi as Penelope, and followed Odysseus’s perilous ten-year journey home after the Trojan War.

Kumar Sangakkara hails Rumesh Pathirage after Sri Lanka's historic Commonwealth Games 2026 javelin gold

London:Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara said Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage winning a historic gold medal in men's Javelin Throw at the 2026 Commonwealth Games here has led to an incredible and proud day for his nation to rejoice. Pathirage, 23, became only the fifth Sri Lankan to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal, after landing a decisive throw of 89.75 metres on his second attempt at the Scotstoun Stadium in Glasgow.Despite registering five fouls across the final, that single legal throw proved sufficient for Pathirage to clinch the gold medal ahead of India's star javelin thrower and Tokyo Olympics champion Neeraj Chopra, claimed the silver medal with a best effort of 85.83m, while India's Yash Vir Singh secured bronze medal with a personal-best 85.41m.South Asians & Diaspora

"Incredible and proud day for Sri Lanka," Sangakkara wrote on his 'X' account on Saturday. Pathirage, a former fast bowler who once clocked 134 kph at the Under-18 level, switched to athletics under coach Tony Prasanna, whom he credits for his transformation.Pathirage's gold ended a 20-year wait for Sri Lanka at the Commonwealth



Games, marking the nation's first gold medal since weightlifter Chinthana Vidanage topped the podium at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. 2024 Paris Olympics bronze medallist Anderson Peters of Grenada narrowly missed out on a medal by finishing fourth with an 83.88m throw. Meanwhile, reigning Olympic champion, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, finished a distant ninth with a best effort of 77.41m.Though he fell short of the automatic qualification mark of 84m during the qualifiers on Thursday, Pathirage still topped the field with a best throw of 82.84m. Now, one can truly say that Sri Lankan cricket's loss has clearly turned out to be athletics' gain, and a moment of immense national pride for the island nation.

Joe Root excited to return as England Test captain, says he is better prepared for second stint

London: Returning to lead England's Test team in a second stint, veteran batter Joe Root on Saturday said he feels very excited for embracing the challenges that lie ahead, adding that he's better equipped for the role as compared to his previous tenure.Root, who stepped down as Test captain in 2022 after a challenging five-year reign, has been handed the reins of the side once again following the retirement of Ben Stokes. In his first spell as captain, Root led England to a record 27 Test wins in 65 matches. He will take charge from the Test series against Pakistan, starting on August 19."Very much the same, to be honest. I don't think that will ever change. Whenever you get the opportunity to lead your country, it's all of those things. I guess, the unique and nice position that I find myself in this time is I've got a wealth of experience in terms of knowing what it takes, knowing what it looks like, having seen success with it and seeing some hard times as well."I've got a lot to fall back on and look at and help me and the team moving forward into this next little while. So, I don't think many captains get that opportunity and certainly not with the amount of games that I have behind me and the experiences that I've had in between now and that period there. So, I'm very much looking forward to it, very excited by the challenge that lies ahead and all the great cricket that we have coming up," said Root in a video on the official ECB website. Reflecting on his personal evolution since he first took up the captaincy in 2017, Root acknowledged that he is a very different person now. "Hugely different. I mean, I think anyone that says in, what would it be, nearly eight-year period, that they're the same person they were is probably lying."So, whether it be within the game, away from it, all of the experiences you have along the way throughout that period, you're going to be shaped into a slightly different person," he added.He added that his intention was to build upon the progress England made under Stokes rather than reverting to old



ways. "I think that will be very similar in terms of how I want to take this team forward, moving into the next little while. So, I think you mentioned the last little period since 2022 – we've done some amazing things."I think more than anything it'll be trying to continue a lot of the good stuff that we've done over that period and not finding ourselves back to where we were before. But as Ben took over and sort of evolving and tweaking things to get us to where we want to be and really competing against the top nations consistently for a long period of time."Recalling the gruelling conditions during the Covid-19 pandemic when players were confined to bio-secure bubbles, Root admitted the period took a heavy toll on him as the side's leader. "Everyone knows how hard it was from a personal aspect, but when you're trying to live a professional lifestyle in the professional cricket world where it's very much results-based, you haven't got a consistent team."You're trying to play all three formats, guys dipping in and out of the sides at different times, teams taking different priorities. Again, just spending a vast amount of time away from your families and loved ones. You see the rest of the world go back to normality around you and you're still living in those bubbles."It takes its toll on you and I think as a team we spent 22-23 games in that environment and over a two-year period, if you're consistent within that, it's going to weigh heavily on you. So to try and manage all that and compete with the two best sides in the world at home and away in India and Australia.

CWG 2026: India's Preeti wins women's 54kg boxing gold with 5-0 victory over

Glasgow: India's Preeti produced a commanding performance to win the gold medal in the women's 54kg boxing event at the Commonwealth Games 2026, defeating Canada's S.S. Delgado by a unanimous 5-0 decision in the final at the SEC Hall 5 on Saturday.Preeti dominated the contest from the opening bell, with all five judges scoring each of the three rounds 10-9 in her favour for a perfect 30-27 verdict. She also registered a knockdown during the bout, underlining her superiority over the Canadian boxer.The Indian pugilist displayed excellent footwork, sharp combinations and tactical discipline throughout the contest, denying Delgado any opportunity to stage a comeback. Her aggressive yet controlled approach earned unanimous approval from the judges, sealing one of India's most convincing boxing victories of the



Games.With the gold medal triumph, Preeti added another top podium finish to India's growing medal tally in Glasgow, continuing the country's impressive run in the boxing competition.The victory marks a significant milestone in Preeti's career and reinforces India's strength in women's boxing on the Commonwealth stage, as the Indian contingent continues to deliver standout performances at Glasgow 2026.

Pujara calls Rahane's Melbourne century a 'character-defining' innings after his retirement

New Delhi: Terming Ajinkya Rahane's match-winning century against Australia in the 2020 Boxing Day Test in Melbourne as a 'character-defining' moment, former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara praised his long-time batting partner's leadership and generosity, following him announcing his retirement from international cricket. Rahane played 85 Tests, 90 ODIs and 20 T20Is for India, with his last international appearance coming in a Test match against the West Indies in July 2023. Rahane made 5077 runs in Tests at an average of 38.46 with 12 centuries, while



amassing 2962 ODI runs at average of 35.26 with three hundreds.He also made 375 T20I runs at a strike rate of 113.29. He led India in six Tests, of which they won four and drew two, apart from being in 2015 ODI World Cup and 2014 and 2016 T20 World Cups.

CWG 2026: India's Jaismine defeats Michaela Walsh 5-0 to win women's 57kg boxing gold

Glasgow: India's Jaismine produced a commanding performance to defeat Northern Ireland's Michaela Walsh by a unanimous 5-0 decision and win the women's 57kg boxing gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026 on Saturday.The Indian boxer controlled the contest from the opening bell, using her sharp combinations, superior movement and clean punching to keep Walsh on the back foot throughout the three-round final at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC).All five judges awarded the bout in Jasmine's favour, underlining her dominance in the gold-medal clash. Three judges scored it 29-28, while the remaining two returned 30-27 verdicts, handing the Indian a comprehensive unanimous decision victory. Jaismine maintained her composure in every round, landing the cleaner punches while effectively neutralising Walsh's attacks. Her tactical disci-



pline and ring awareness ensured she remained in control from start to finish, sealing one of India's most convincing boxing victories of the Games.The triumph adds another gold medal to India's boxing campaign at Glasgow 2026 and further strengthens the country's impressive medal haul at the Commonwealth Games.

CWG 2026: Praveen Chitravel claims triple jump silver, Selva Prabhu wins bronze for India

Glasgow: Indian triple jumpers Praveen Chitravel and Selva Prabhu Thirumaran bagged silver and bronze medal respectively in Glasgow Commonwealth Games here on Saturday. Asian Games bronze medallist Chitravel bettered the effort in Glasgow with a silver, which he fetched covering a distance of 16.58m.Compatriot Selva Prabhu was just behind at 16.52m for a bronze — his first medal of note in international competitions.Jamaica's Jor-



dan Scott won the gold medal in the event with a 16.72m jump.Earlier, India's Ramesh Shanmugam ended up seventh, clocking a time of 3:23.59 in the men's T54 1500m final in the para athletics segment.

Maruti Suzuki reports 34 per cent rise in July sales



New Delhi: Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India Ltd on Saturday reported a 34 per cent rise in total sales to 2,41,421 units in July, compared with 1,80,526 units in the same month last year. Total domestic passenger vehicle sales stood at 1,96,203 units last month, compared with 1,37,776 units in July 2025, a growth of 43.4 per cent, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing. In July 2026, the company clocked its best-ever passenger vehicle sales in the domestic market. Total domestic sales, including LCVs, reached an all-time high of 2,00,123 units, the company said. Sales of mini cars comprising Alto and S-Presso stood at 12,634 units, compared with 6,822 units in the year-

ago month. Sales of compact cars, including Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift and WagonR, rose to 90,822 units last month from 65,840 units in July 2025. Sales of utility vehicles comprising Brezza, Ertiga, e Vitara, Fronx, Grand Vitara, Invicto, Jimny, Victoris and XL6 stood at 78,851 units, compared with 52,773 units in the same month a year ago. The company said sales of the Eeco van stood at 13,896 units last month, compared with 12,341 units in July 2025. Sales of the Super Carry light commercial vehicle (LCV) stood at 3,920 units, compared with 2,794 units in the same month last year, Maruti Suzuki India added.

Over 5.9 crore ITRs filed by July 31 deadline, says Income Tax Department

New Delhi: More than 5.9 crore income tax returns (ITRs) have been filed for the Assessment Year (AY) 2026-27 by the July 31 deadline, the Income Tax Department said on Saturday, while thanking taxpayers for their timely compliance. In a post on social media platform X, the department said, "Thank you, taxpayers! Over 5.9 crore ITRs were filed for AY 2026-27 by July 31st! Your trust and timely compliance provide the energy that fuels India's growth." The latest figures indicate that over 40 lakh returns were filed on the final day, as taxpayers rushed to meet the July 31 due date for individuals and entities that are not required to get their accounts audited. The filing momentum gathered pace sharply in the final weeks before the deadline. The department had earlier said that more than 1.7 crore ITRs had been filed by July 11 — which rose to over 3 crore by July 22. Later, the number crossed 4 crore by July 27, exceeded 5 crore on July 31 and reached more than 5.5 crore before the close of filing on Friday, before finally crossing the 5.9-crore mark. In addition, the Income Tax Department had repeatedly urged taxpayers not



to wait until the last moment and to complete the filing process well before the deadline to avoid possible technical glitches and heavy traffic on the e-filing portal. For AY 2026-27, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified revised ITR forms incorporating updated disclosure requirements. These include reporting norms relating to long-term capital gains, losses arising from share buybacks and certain trading transactions among other changes aimed at improving transparency and simplifying tax compliance. Last year, more than 9 crore taxpayers filed income tax returns during FY 2024-25, while the Income Tax Department issued refunds worth over Rs 4.35 lakh crore, highlighting the growing scale of India's direct tax administration.

Mahindra reports 26 per cent rise in July auto sales

New Delhi: Automobile manufacturer Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. on Saturday said its overall auto sales for July 2026 stood at 1,03,860 vehicles, a growth of 26 per cent year-on-year, including exports. Utility Vehicles domestic sales touched 60,048 units, up 20 per cent year-on-year, while total UV sales including exports were 60,887 units, the company said in a statement. The domestic sales for commercial vehicles stood at 25,204, marking a growth of 23 per cent.

Nalinikanth Gollagunta, CEO, Automotive Division, M&M Ltd. said the company achieved SUV sales of 60,048 units delivering growth of 20 per cent. Mahindra saw strong performance across light commercial vehicle subsegments, with LCV under 2 tonnes at 3,870 units, surging 40 per cent, and LCV 2 tonnes–3.5 tonnes at 21,334 units, rising 21 per cent. Three-wheeler sales, including electric models, surged 53 per cent to 14,538 units. The company's year-to-date performance through July showed utility vehicle sales of 2,34,793 units, up 16 per cent, and three-wheeler volumes of 50,793, up 69 per cent from the corresponding period in prior year. LCV weigh-



ing under two tonnes saw their sales volumes rise 31 per cent YTD and growth was 19 per cent in the 2 tonne to 3.5 tonne segment, the statement said.

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.'s Farm Equipment Business (FEB) had in July announced that domestic tractor sales in June 2026 stood at 58,177 units, reflecting a 12 per cent year-on-year growth. Total tractor sales during June 2026 were at 59,935 units, as against 53,392 units for the same period last year. Exports for the month stood at 1,758 units. The financial year 2026 concluded with all-time-high volumes of 6,60,276 SUVs and 2,89,597 light commercial vehicles under 3.5 tonnes, delivering robust YoY growth of 20 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively, across both segments.

Iron ore surge in India can help South African producers: Report

New Delhi: The iron ore surge in India is the single most relevant figure for South African producers, according to a new report, as India expands its steelmaking capacity to meet domestic infrastructure and construction demand. South Africa is India's major, and in some segments the leading, buyer of iron and coal. "For South Africa, whose mining sector remains a cornerstone of export earnings, the data carry both commercial opportunity and a cautionary message about logistics and policy consistency," said the report in <https://iol.co.za>. South Africa, as one of the higher-grade suppliers, is well positioned to benefit provided the ore can actually reach the coast, it added. "Observing how India has combined public capital expenditure with private investment and clearer regulatory signals can inform local planning without implying that every Indian approach is directly



transferable," it added. Also Read - Core sector growth hits five-month high in June Advertisement Discover more Digital Newspaper Access Politics News Health News India's infrastructure rebound, led by mining and construction inputs, is more than a domestic story. "It is a demand signal that South African exporters and project developers would do well to monitor closely while simultaneously addressing the domestic constraints that prevent full participation in that demand.

RBI swap scheme draws \$40.8 billion in overseas currency inflows

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Saturday said its concessional foreign exchange swap facility has attracted \$40.816 billion in overseas currency inflows since June when it was launched. India news headlines Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits account for the bulk of the mobilisation, according to data received from authorised dealer banks. Total inflows under the facility stood at \$40.816 billion as of July 31. FCNR (B) deposits contributed \$36.725 billion to the total, while Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) accounted for \$2.575 billion. External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) brought in a further \$1.516 billion. The swap facility has seen avid interest and attracted steady forex inflows since June 8, 2026, the RBI said in a statement. "RBI had announced a facility for offering concessional swaps for fresh FCNR (B) deposits, OFCB and ECB inflows, on June 5, 2026 and the same was operationalised on June 8, 2026, which is available up to September 30, 2026, for the FCNR (B) deposits and up to December 31, 2026, for the OFCBs and ECBs," said Central Bank. According to a latest report, India may receive FCNR (B) deposits in the range of \$65-70 billion by the end of the RBI scheme on September 30, and, overall, \$80-\$85 billion. An SBI Research report said that



"We now estimate that FCNR (B) since then has already crossed 2013 level of \$26 billion in just 45 days". The earlier RBI data indicated that FCNR (B) deposits worth \$17.4 billion have been mobilised till July 17, 2026 and trend suggests that PSBs are major drivers of this mobilisation. "We also believe that significant majority of existing FCNR deposits which are going to mature in August/September 2026 will be renewed under the new scheme (gravitated by higher interest rates) and will boost the FCNR (B) inflows," the report mentioned. Public Sector Banks, front led by larger banks, are apparently anchoring the drive, ensuring incremental flows by leveraging not only the deposits, but also the trust built with materially significant clientele (credit worthiness and risk profile duly factored) spread across various geographies and remaining tacitly agile by shifting their strategy to an optimally blended Onshore-Offshore game plan.

Nissan Motor India reports 66.5 per cent jump in July sales

New Delhi: Nissan Motor India Pvt Ltd on Saturday reported a 66.5 per cent increase in total wholesale sales at 9,339 units in July, compared with 5,608 units in the same month last year. Domestic wholesale sales stood at 4,518 units last month, compared with 1,420 units in July 2025, Nissan Motor India Pvt Ltd (NMIPL) said in a statement. Exports stood at 4,821 units, compared with 4,188 units in July 2025, it added.



JSW MG Motor India reports 22 per cent sales growth in July

New Delhi: JSW MG Motor India on Saturday reported a 22 per cent rise in dispatches to dealers at 8,158 units in July, posting its highest-ever monthly wholesale sales. The new energy vehicle (NEV) portfolio recorded its highest-ever wholesale volumes in July 2026, contributing more than 80 per cent of the company's total wholesale sales, JSW MG Motor India said in a statement. "This strong performance, coupled with another month



of robust retail sales, demonstrates the strength of our diverse portfolio and our ability to meet evolving customer aspirations," JSW MG Motor India Managing Director Anurag Mehrotra said.

Minister Kondapalli Inspects Food Arrangements

Minister Personally Served Food To Cadres



Vizianagaram, August 1:“Minister For Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Eradication And Nri Empowerment And Relations Kondapalli Srinivas inspected the food arrangements made for the people of Gajapathinagaram Constituency who came to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting.On Saturday, after the Prime Minister's meeting concluded, the Minister directly went to Kvr Sri Golden City and Kvr Sarwan Niwas Estate and personally served food to the people there. Later, he interacted with party leaders and cadres and congratulated Constituency Coalition Leaders and the public for making the meeting a success. The Minister lauded coalition party leaders for working hard for the past one week to make the meeting successful. He said that women and youth

leaving early in the morning with great enthusiasm to participate in the Airport Inauguration Programme which was held in a festive and jubilant atmosphere reflects the people's interest in the development of this region. The Minister said he was happy that even common people in North Andhra are expressing happiness over the airport and several industries coming to North Andhra. He thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for bringing Google Data Center, Arcelor Mittal Steel Plant, Jindal and many other companies to this region for the development of North Andhra. Minister Kondapalli requested people to stand as a support to the Coalition Government in the coming days and cooperate to further develop our region.

Ntr Bharosa For Social Security Of Poor

Government Welfare Benefits At The Doorstep Of Eligible People
Rs. 98.12 Crore To 2,24,793 Beneficiaries In District
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha, Mla Gadde Ramamohan Rao Participate In Pension Distribution



Vijayawada, August 1:“District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha and Vijayawada East Constituency Mla Gadde Ramamohan Rao said Ntr Bharosa Pension benefits are being delivered at the doorstep of eligible people to provide social security to the poor in line with the goals of Swarna Andhra and Viksit Bharat.Collector Lakshmisha and Mla Gadde Ramamohan Rao participated in the Ntr Bharosa Pension Distribution Programme held on Saturday at Jd Nagar near Autonagar. They spoke affectionately with beneficiaries and enquired about their welfare.Speaking on the occasion, the Mla said top priority is being given to

transparency and accountability in the implementation of every welfare scheme. He said people should make use of welfare along with development programmes and grow to higher levels.Collector Lakshmisha said Rs. 98.12 Crore is being distributed to 2,24,793 beneficiaries in the district. She explained that government employees and staff are delivering pensions at the doorstep itself to elderly, persons with disabilities and other beneficiaries without causing any inconvenience. The Collector said officials are continuously monitoring at the field level to ensure no problems arise during distribution.

Nutrition Sector.. Golden Gateway To Employment

Innovative Ways For Women's Economic Empowerment : District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha



Ibrahimpatnam, August 1:“District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said there are vast opportunities for women in sectors like nutritional products, value-added food products manufacturing, processing, packaging and marketing, and that women should utilize them for their economic empowerment.A special training programme for Self Help Group Women was held on Saturday at Rise Centre, Guntupalli, Ibrahimpatnam Mandal with the partnership of Ntr District-Rise, Native Table and Ficci Flo Vijayawada. Awareness was created on methods of producing Brown Eggs rich in nutrients. Natural methods of poultry farming, production of nutrient-rich eggs and marketing aspects were explained. It was explained how to raise chickens with only natural feed and high nutrients without using antibiotics. Training was given on precautions to be taken for production of eggs which are a source of nutri-



ents that improve health and boost immunity.Speaking on the occasion, Collector Lakshmisha said naturally grown grains, millets, pulses, fruits, vegetables and value-added food products provide abundant nutrients required for the body along with boosting immunity. She said Native Table is working to make eggs, which are a big support for nutrition, into a treasure trove of more nutrients with abundant Vitamin D and B12. She said along with ensuring sustainable income with natural food products, the local economy will also be strengthened. Collector Lakshmisha said women can grow into successful entrepreneurs by manufacturing quality products and supplying them to the market.Drda Pd Anv Nanchararao, Sumabindu Atluri (Praman Poultry), Native Table Managing Partner Charita Moolpuri and others participated in the programme.

Good News For All Farmers.. Crop Insurance Enrollment Deadline Extended Till August 15

Former Minister, Krishna District Cooperative Central Bank Chairman Nettam Raghuram

Jaggayyapeta, August 1:“Former Minister And Krishna District Cooperative Central Bank (Kdcc Bank) Chairman Nettam Raghuram said the extension of crop insurance enrollment deadline till August 15 under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Pmbfy) for all notified crops except paddy for Kharif-2026 season is a very reassuring decision for farmers.Speaking at a press meet held at Krishna Society office in Jaggayyapeta on Saturday, he said the Coalition Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is working with farmer welfare as top priority. He said the extension of deadline by State Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu in coordination with Central Agriculture Department and insurance companies, considering farmers' request, is proof of the government's commitment towards farmers.He said given the current rain deficit situation, climate changes and natural disasters in the state, farmers must necessarily enroll for crop insurance. He explained that crop insurance is like a safety shield for farmers and it will greatly help farming families to stand financially strong even if crop is lost due to unforeseen circumstances.He appealed to every eligible farmer, whether loanee or non-loanee, to enroll crop insurance for every acre cultivated before August 15.Kdcc Bank Stands By Farmers Nettam Raghuram said all farmers associated with Krishna District Cooperative Central Bank can enroll for crop insurance through our bank's 59 Branches and 425 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (Pacs). He said Kdcc Bank machinery is fully ready to provide complete assistance in the insurance enrollment process without causing any inconvenience to farmers.He directed bank branch managers, staff and Pacs Ceos



to create awareness among farmers in every village and take measures to ensure that not a single eligible farmer is left out of crop insurance. He said services like application enrollment, verification of required documents and technical assistance will be provided through the bank.He said farmers can complete crop insurance enrollment with the help of banks, Pacs, Common Service Centers (Cscs), Rythu Seva Kendras, Ncip Mobile App or Agriculture Department officials.Suggesting not to wait till the last day and to enroll in advance, he warned that farmers who do not enroll for crop insurance may lose government protection in case of loss due to natural disasters.Nettam Raghuram said farmer welfare is the objective of the Coalition Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and the government is taking every necessary decision in coordination with the Central Government on matters related to farmers' interests.Finally, he called upon all farmers of Krishna District to make use of this rare opportunity and mandatorily complete crop insurance enrollment before August 15. He said for any doubts, farmers should contact the nearest Kdcc Bank Branch or Pacs.Pochampalli Society President Mullangi Ramakrishna Reddy, Gouravaram Society President Katta Venkata Narasimha Rao, Krishna Pharma Society President Yanala Gopichand, Penuganchiprolu Society President Karla Venkatanarayana and others participated in the programme.