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One thousand robotic surgeries completed at NIMS in two and a half years: CM Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad, August 3 : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has said that one thousand robotic surgeries have been successfully completed at NIMS in two and a half years. He congratulated

cal services available to the common people in government hospitals has been fulfilled. The CM said that it is especially commendable that more than 90 percent of the robotic surgeries conducted at NIMS so far have been conducted free of cost through Aarogyasri and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. He said that NIMS, which recently completed two thousand kidney transplant surgeries, has now set a new record by reaching the milestone of one thousand robotic surgeries. CM Revanth Reddy wished that NIMS achieve more milestones in the medical field.

State-of-the-art medical services in government hospitals: Damodar

Telangana Minister Damodara Rajanarasimha



has commented that 1,000 robotic surgeries have been completed at NIMS in two and a half years. Today (Monday), a NIMS medical team met the minister at the state secretariat. Minister Damodara congratulated them on this occasion. Minister Damodara spoke on the occasion. He said that it is a testament to the state-of-the-art medical services in government hospitals. It was revealed that NIMS

has already completed 2,000 kidney transplant surgeries.

Minister Damodara said that NIMS has done the first robotic kidney transplant in the South Indian government sector. He said that more than 90 percent of robotic surgeries are free through Aarogyasri and CMRF. He explained that 590 robotic surgeries will be performed in Urology, 248 in Gastro, and 162 in Oncology. He said that robotic surgeries are also being successfully performed in MNJ. He revealed that robotic operation theaters are being set up in the new TIMS, Gandhi, and Osmania. Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha said that world-class medical services are being made available.

They cheated by announcing the job calendar in the assembly KTR flags against CM Revanth



Hyderabad, August 3 BRS Working President and former minister Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) has expressed his anger that Congress leaders cheated by announcing the job calendar in the assembly. KTR spoke to the media today (Monday) at Telangana Bhavan. Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti mentioned that a young man named Gaddam Venu attempted suicide in Madhira of Vikramarka constituency. He said that he wrote a two-page suicide note to the CM, Deputy CM, and Rahul Gandhi. He said that he had told them to share this letter with them

in his suicide note. He said that Gaddam Venu's writing was not a suicide note but a charge sheet against the Congress rule. Young people are frustrated and depressed. Did Venu's suicide note reach CM Revanth Reddy? Former minister KTR said that the youth in the state and the country are in despair and hopelessness. He accused them of bringing big people from Delhi in the name of Youth Declaration and building bridges. He questioned whether Congress leaders had said that if KCR and KTR took away jobs, they would provide two lakh

jobs. He questioned why Congress top leader Rahul Gandhi was not responding to this issue. He said that Rahul Gandhi is not seen in states where Congress is in power. He questioned why Bhatti did not respond if a youth in his own constituency wrote a suicide note and attempted suicide. He said that the state government had said in the Assembly that it had provided 16,979 jobs. He mentioned that notifications were given for 2 lakh 32 thousand jobs during his tenure. Revanth Reddy has a habit of passing supplementary exams.

Former Minister KTR flagged why there is no movement in Rahul Gandhi by holding engineering graduates and calling CM Revanth Reddy a criminal waste. He commented that engineering students are excelling in the IT sector in the world. He questioned whether making Revanth Reddy, who has 83 criminal cases, the CM was a criminal waste. Rahul Gandhi sarcastically said that trusting Revanth Reddy was a criminal waste. He criticized

Happy that Singareni got that coal block: Kishan Reddy

Delhi, August 3 : Union Minister Kishan Reddy said that he is happy that the PKOC-2 Deepside Coal Block has been allotted to Singareni. On this occasion, he congratulated the Singareni workers, family members of the workers, representatives of trade unions, Singareni officials and the people of

Telangana. Kishan Reddy issued a statement to this effect. Recently, when Naini Coal Block and Tadicharla-2 Block in Odisha were included in the Singareni Siga, he mentioned that there were demands from the workers and union leaders to take the initiative to ensure that the PKOC-2 Deepside Block also gets to

Singareni. He said that he has taken all the responsibility so that the PKOC-2 Deepside Block comes to Singareni. He said that he has made special efforts not only as a Union Minister but also as a child of Telangana, for the welfare, development and love of Singareni workers. This mine will run for 25 years.

Kishan Reddy commented that it is a matter of great joy that Singareni has achieved success as a result of his cooperation. In this context, he revealed that the auction process has been completed today (August 3, 2026). He said that the Manuguru PKOC-2 dipside block is being allotted to Singareni Company under this procedure.



Fraud in the name of chit business Couple absconds with Rs. 3 crores

Sangareddy, August 3: A huge fraud in the name of chitties was committed in Raghavendra Colony in Biranguda division of Aminpur mandal. Sirisha, who runs a clothing store locally under the name Sai Ganesh Textiles, has been running the chitty business with her husband Sambasiva Rao for several years. The victims allege that they lured several women in the colony with

the hope of making high profits and collected a huge amount of cash from them in installments. It is reported that around Rs. 3 crore was collected in this process. Locals say that Sirisha and Sambasiva Rao sold their own house and fled overnight when the deadline for returning the money was approaching. The women who were deceived by this became extremely worried and filed a



complaint at the Aminpur police station. The police, who registered a case, have started searching for the

couple. The investigation is continuing after collecting complete details from the victims.

Harish Rao accuses Telangana government of failing to ensure power and water supply



Nalgonda: 03, AUGUST; BRS Deputy Floor Leader T Harish Rao alleged that the Congress government has failed to ensure uninterrupted electricity, drinking water and irrigation supply across Telangana. Harish Rao conducted a surprise inspection of the Solepet Electricity Substation in Bommalararam mandal of Aler Assembly constituency along with former Aler MLA Gongidi Sunitha. He examined the substation logbook, interacted with electricity department staff and reviewed records related to agricultural power

supply. Speaking to the media after the inspection, Harish Rao said he had visited the constituency to console the family of a deceased BRS worker. He said local women complained that drinking water was being supplied only once every two days. He charged that despite inheriting a fully functional Mission Bhagiratha network developed by the previous BRS government, the Congress government had failed to maintain the system.

Harish Rao claimed that people in Sangareddy, Narayankhed, Andole,

Zaheerabad, Kamareddy, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar and several other districts were facing severe drinking water shortages, forcing women to fetch water from distant places. He said the inspection at Solepet Substation was prompted by complaints from farmers over prolonged power cuts. According to Harish Rao, the substation operator informed him that farmers had earlier received 14 to 15 hours of electricity, but fresh government instructions had reduced agricultural power supply to 12 hours a day. He alleged that even during these 12 hours, repeated tripping disrupted the supply. Claiming that the Congress had made several promises to farmers before the elections, Harish Rao alleged that the government was instead reducing electricity supply and cutting welfare and agricultural support. He also questioned Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka's recent statement that there were no power cuts in Telangana. "If there are no power cuts, why do the official records at Solepet

Substation show only 12 hours of agricultural supply?" Harish Rao asked. He charged that farmers across Telangana were being forced to protest outside electricity substations due to inadequate power supply during the paddy transplantation season. The BRS Deputy Floor Leader further maintained that the government's failure to maintain adequate coal stocks had kept two units with a combined capacity of 1,600 MW at the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant shut for several months. He added that another 270 MW unit at the Bhadradi Thermal Power Plant had also stopped generation. Despite Telangana having access to Singareni coal, he questioned why 1,870 MW of thermal power generation had been allowed to remain idle. "There is no shortage of electricity. There is only a shortage of political will," he said. Harish Rao demanded that the government immediately restore the stalled 1,870 MW power generation capacity at the Yadadri and Bhadradi.

ICIE delegation meets India's new Consul General in Dubai



Hyderabad: - 3 August 2026, ; Chairman of the International Council for Innovators and Entrepre-

neurs (ICIE) and TConsult Global, Sundeep Kumar Makthala, along with a delegation, called on Dr E

Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, IFS, the newly appointed Consul General of India to Dubai. The delegation comprised prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, including Thota Ramkumar, a Dubai-based industrialist, S V Reddy, Vura Krishna and other representatives from the business and innovation ecosystem, a press release said on Monday. During the meeting, Makthala briefed the Consul General on the global initiatives led by ICIE, TConsult Global and other innovation platforms focused on fostering cross-border collaboration among governments, industry, academia, investors,

startups and entrepreneurs. The delegation explored opportunities to strengthen strategic partnerships between India and the United Arab Emirates by facilitating innovation-led investments, business expansion, technology exchange and international market access for entrepreneurs and enterprises from both countries. Congratulating Dr Vishnu Vardhan Reddy on assuming office, Makthala expressed confidence that his leadership would further strengthen the strategic partnership between India and the UAE.

Murmu pitches stronger India-Uzbekistan ties in rare earths, agriculture and IT

New Delhi: 3 August President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said there is immense potential for cooperation between India and Uzbekistan in the mining sector, particularly in rare earth minerals, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and information technology. During a meeting with Saidov Bakhtiyor Odilovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, who had called on the president at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, Murmu said that the two nations share deep historical, cultural, and civilisational ties, rooted in ancient trade routes. She said that the shared heritage in architecture, language, cuisine, music, and religious traditions has further strengthened bilateral partnership. The president said that the presence of high-level leaders in the visiting



Uzbek delegation and the organisation of an India-Uzbekistan Business Forum on the sidelines of the visit reflect the growing confidence of businesses of both sides in each other's

markets. She also highlighted the immense potential for cooperation between India and Uzbekistan in the mining sector, particularly in rare earth minerals, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and

information technology, according to a statement issued by the President's office. Murmu was happy to note that more than 3,000 officials, professionals and students from Uzbekistan have benefited from our ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) training courses and other scholarship programs. At the same time over 16,000 Indian students are pursuing higher studies in Uzbekistan, the president said. She underlined that they act as a bridge between the two countries and foster mutual understanding and strong people-to-people ties. The two leaders agreed that discussions held during this visit will further strengthen the bonds of friendship, trust, and cooperation between our two nations, the statement said.

EDITORIAL

NTA's shortcomings are a curse for students

After the NEET paper leak scandal erupted like wildfire, the central government woke up from its stupor and took two major decisions. It appointed an expert committee to clean up the National Testing Agency (NTA). It further tightened the law to prevent leakage. The NTA is responsible for conducting entrance exams for admissions to the highest educational institutions in the country. But the NTA is full of shortcomings. It is a system that does not have a proper foundation and does not function properly. The government is only working to correct the problems that arise from time to time without correcting the roots of the system. After the NEET exam question paper was leaked in 2024, the Dr. K. Radhakrishnan Committee identified the shortcomings in the performance of the NTA and issued a report with 101 suggestions. According to that report, if reforms were made in the NTA, there would have been no chance of NEET exam leakage now. But the government has limited that report to just papers. There are systems like the National Testing Agency and the Union Public Service Commission. There are 10 active departments working under the Director General and two Additional Director Generals. This includes cyber security, psychometrics, forensics, a thousand standardized test centers, a biometric-based digital security system with facial recognition, fingerprint verification, Aadhaar verification, and other processes to verify the identity of candidates participating in the tests. Despite all these features, the systemic challenges remain. Even though notifications are issued for filling jobs, recruitments that work for only 6 to 12 months, fixed salaries, all these make it impossible to compete with the private sector. The approval of the legislature or parliament is mandatory for the appointment of jobs. The NTA does not employ permanent employees with specialized skills. It relies on contract staff. Data analysis and other key tasks are outsourced. Day-to-day operations are handled by deputation staff. In addition, the fact that NEET is scheduled to be held in 2027 is a matter of concern. If the Radhakrishnan panel recommendations are to be fully implemented, the current system will have to be reformed towards the most modern methods to suit future needs. Standardized entrance tests like the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) play a key role for MS or PhD admissions in the US. One of the recommendations made by the Radhakrishnan committee is that such an approach should be followed in the case of NTA. The panel noted that the National Medical Commission and IITs are seen as mere spectators rather than active participants in the examination mechanism. Experienced academicians and evaluation researchers are now directly questioning the shortcomings of the NEET exam administration. What are these tests intended to assess? Are they relevant to the current needs? Doubts are being raised. However, the government is acting as if this problem has been solved.



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Karthi's Sardar 2 Teaser: Packs Action & Mystery!



The promotional campaign for Karthi's spy action thriller Sardar 2, directed by PS Mithran, has begun, with the makers unveiling the film's action-packed

teaser. It's a sequel to the blockbuster Sardar, in the same combination of Karthi and Mithran. The teaser smartly sets the stage for an intense spy thriller. It be-

gins on an intriguing note, with both the protagonist and the antagonist uttering the word silence in contrasting situations, while the visuals erupt with relentless

violence. At the heart of the story lies an unconventional clash between a father-son duo of spies and an antagonist who firmly believes he is the good guy. Karthi effortlessly switches between two contrasting personas. The veteran spy exudes wisdom and experience, while the younger character carries a stylish, fearless attitude. SJ Suryah, on the other hand, looks stylish, yet menacing and promises to be a worthy opponent. PS Mithran expanded the scale considerably, delivering slick action, international-style visuals and suspense-filled storytelling. George C Williams captures the action with striking visuals, while Sam CS injects the teaser with energy through his powerful score. Mounted on a lavish scale by Prince Pictures, the film boasts rich production values. Without revealing its biggest surprises, the teaser succeeds in building curiosity and further strengthens expectations surrounding Sardar 2.

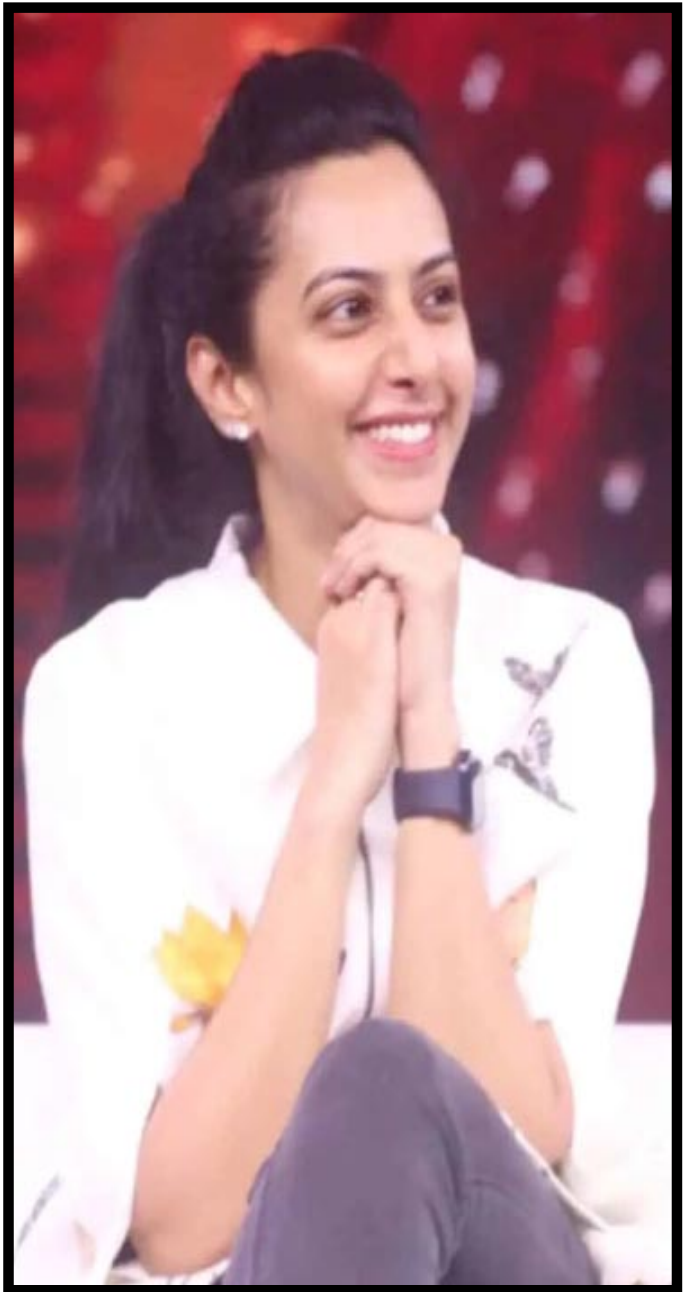
Mahesh Babu's Calculated Distance: Stardom Over Family?

Mahesh Babu's nephew, Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni's debut film, Srinivasa Mangapuram has released the other day and has got mixed talk. The movie will end up as a disaster to the makers. Jaya Krishna is the son of Late Ramesh Babu, brother of Mahesh Babu. Everyone expected Mahesh Babu to throw his weight behind the actor so that the movie will get good visibility and opening. But then, the Superstar confined himself to a video and a couple of tweets. He did not attend the Pre-release event and that has cemented whatsoever chances the movie have got. Ramesh Babu is Mahesh Babu's own brother and he spent a lot of money to help Mahesh's career initially. Mahesh, on many occasions, claimed to be very close to his brother. So, it is shocking how Jaya Krishna did not receive necessary support from Mahesh. In industry, there is this growing trend of actors being calculative in supporting each others. Gone are the days, we used to see audience going freely to each other's functions. But now, everything is commercial and calculation. There was a rumor that a Vishwaroopam scene was planned in AI for Ashok Galla's Devaki Nandana Vasudeva. The Lord's face will have Mahesh Babu's resemblance. The team did not even need Mahesh's date. But then, Mahesh Babu's team reportedly demanded remuneration for that AI Cameo and the producer who is already shattered backed out. And now, some other calculations may have prompted Mahesh to stay away from Srinivasa Mangapuram. Attending a small film's event, may or may not benefit that film. We can not quantify the impact. But it will certainly enhance the goodwill of the Star. Megastar Chiranjeevi attended the Pre-release event of Kiran Abbavaram's Chennai Love Story. They are small actors, small director, and small producers. Attending the event showed the World Megastar's Magnanimity. Chiranjeevi supported every single hero from his family for his debut film. We do not know if Srinivasa Mangapuram would have benefitted really if Mahesh Babu came to an event, but it would have shown the Star in a high regard. Some people can say there may be contractual obligations with Varanasi and look of the film maybe



revealed. A day before the film's release, Mahesh was spotted at AMB Cinemas with Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas for a movie screening. Many are questioning why Mahesh made a public appearance ahead of the release, especially since the photos were officially shared by AMB Cinemas. On the other hand, there will not be a look reveal than what the Airport Videos would reveal. Rajamouli would certainly understand if Mahesh really wanted to attend. We have seen NTR and Ram Charan attend functions when they were shooting for RRR.

Buzz: Not Mokshagna, But His Sister to Debut First?



Fresh buzz from Tollywood has caught the attention of Nandamuri fans. Reports suggest that Nandamuri Balakrishna's younger daughter, Tejaswini, could soon make her acting debut. For years, fans have been eagerly waiting for Balakrishna's son Mokshagna to enter films. But now, the spotlight has shifted to Tejaswini, with industry buzz claiming she could become the next member of the Nandamuri family to face the camera. Over the past few years, Tejaswini has played an active role behind the scenes in Balakrishna's career. Industry insiders say she has been involved in planning and coordinating projects, including AHA's Unstoppable and the promotions of Balakrishna's recent films. Though she has stayed away from the limelight, many in the industry are aware of her contribution. The rumours grew stronger after Tejaswini appeared in a commercial and shared a few dance reels on social media. Her graceful screen presence received a positive response from fans, with many praising her confidence and natural charm. According to the latest buzz, a woman centric film is being planned as her launch project. The makers are said to be developing a strong emotional story with a meaningful message. Reports also suggest that the team is giving top priority to the script before finalising the director and the rest of the cast. Industry circles also claim Balakrishna is personally guiding the project and sharing his suggestions to ensure his daughter's debut is memorable.

The Telugu film industry has rarely seen daughters of star heroes enter acting. While Niharika Konidela from the Mega family tried her luck, very few star daughters have chosen films as a career. If the latest buzz turns out to be true, Tejaswini's debut could become one of the most talked about launches in Tollywood. There has been no official announcement from Balakrishna or his family so far. Until then, it remains industry buzz. But the speculation has already created excitement among fans, who are now waiting to see whether Tejaswini will make her silver screen debut before Mokshagna.

Pic Talk: Kiara Advani looks dazzling in Toxic



Yash starrer Toxic: Fairytale for GrownUps, is one of the most anticipated and most craziest film of Indian Cinema. The movie has immaculate amount of craze, buzz, hype and anticipation that people are eager to watch it in theatres from 26th August. KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations are producing the film on a never-seen-before scale. Geethu Mohandas is directing the film and teasers, trailer, two songs – Tabaahi, Madhoshi have become big chartbusters. Now, celebrating the birthday of leading lady, Kiara Advani, the makers have revealed a stunning and dazzling new poster of her from the movie. She looks like an International regal beauty in this one. Raising the excitement to sky high with each promotional update, Toxic is proving to be a box office monster waiting to unleash. Yash has become the talk of the industry with his bold and daring action, performance. Nayanthara, Tara Sutaria, Huma Qureshi and Rukmini Vasanth are playing prominent leading roles in this period action epic.

Ram Charan & NTR To Enter Theatre Business?



The film stars earn a lot of money through films, and then they invest it back in the movies. Especially, the trend of investing in the theatre business is growing. Mahesh Babu started it off with AMB Cinemas in partnership with Asian Cinemas. Now, NTR and Ram Charan are reportedly planning to join the trend. According to reports in the film circles, Ram Charan is also reportedly planning to set up ARC Cinemas in partnership with Asian Cinemas. The planning and execution are reportedly in progress. Additionally, reports have been circulating that NTR is planning to set up a premium multiplex in the Gachibowli area. However, sources close to the NTR team say no such development has taken place yet. Apart from Mahesh Babu, Allu Arjun is also into this business with Allu Cinemas and AAA Cinemas. Ravi Teja also set up ART Cinemas in Vanasthalipuram. Vijay Deverakonda is also in the business. If Ram Charan and NTR also join the bandwagon, Hyderabad's exhibition business is set to become even more competitive. The motive behind all this is that the audiences are craving a premium movie-watching experience, giving a tough fight to the traditional PVR-Inox multiplex chain. AMB and Allu Cinemas have best-in-class experiences, large screens, and affordable F&B prices. With this, the brand value and the image of the actor also grows leaps and bounds.

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 pan-

demie 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, it made it very difficult for us," he added. Root signed off by saying that the mental exhaustion and results not being favourable eventually prompted his resignation in 2022, but reassured fans that he is now in a much better headspace. "Clearly we could have been better and we could have performed better, but it got to a point where that got a little bit too much for me and that it's time to step away. As we sit here right now, the world's very different. I'm in a very different place and I feel very energised and excited about the opportunity that lies ahead."

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 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 Rishabh Rikhiram Sharma. The performance plans to pay tribute to the state of Gujarat, which will be hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games. Shankar Mahadevan is believed to headline the performance, along with his two sons Siddharth and Shivam Mahadevan. These three will be accompanied by the Gujarati playback singer Bhoomi Trivedi.

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. "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 wei



htlifter Chinthana Vidanage topped the podium at the 2006

Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

Patidar retained as Central Zone captain, Rinku Singh named vice-captain for Duleep Trophy



New Delhi: India batter Rajat Patidar has been retained as the captain of the Central Zone squad for the upcoming Duleep Trophy, which starts on August 23 at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru. With Patidar again leading defending champions Central Zone, left-handed batter Rinku Singh has been appointed as the vice-captain. Defending champions Central Zone, who secured their seventh title after defeating South Zone by six wickets in the previous edition's final in Bengaluru, have announced a strong 15-member squad aimed at retaining the crown. In the batting line-up, Patidar, the leading run-getter in last year's Duleep Trophy and a two-time IPL-winning skipper, will have the likes of Rinku, Aman Mokhad, Kunal Chandel, Ayush Pandey, Aryan Juyal and Yash Rathod, Player of the Match in last year's final with a majestic 194, to outclass oppo-

sition bowlers. The bowling unit boasts a blend of pace and spin, led by seamers Yash Thakur, Arshad Khan, Aryan Pandey, and Nachiket Bhute. The spin department will be spearheaded by off-spinner Saransh Jain, who was the leading wicket-taker in last year's competition with 16 scalps, and left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Harsh Dubey, along with leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari. IANS understands that Jain, who's in India's squad for the upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, has been kept in the line-up with an expectation that he could make it to Central Zone's game, which will be the semi-final clash against the winner of quarter-final 1 from August 30 to September 2. The Central Zone selection committee has also named a six-member stand-by players list featuring Amandeep Khare, Mayank Amandeep Khare, Mayank Mishra, Saurabh Rawat, Bhargav Merai, Kunal Yadav,

and Kumar Kartikeya to cover for any potential injuries to any main squad members during the tournament. Ex-Rajasthan player Nikhil Doru has been named as the side's head coach, with Manish Jha appointed as the assistant coach. Zuffri Zakeria has been appointed as the team manager while Chandrashekhar Rao is named the video analyst. The medical and physical conditioning team includes physio Deshraj Chouhan, trainer Mayank Agarwal, and masseur Mohit Kumar. Central Zone squad: Rajat Patidar (captain), Rinku Singh (vice-captain), Aryan Juyal (wicketkeeper), Saransh Jain, Aman Mokhad, Kunal Chandel, Zeeshan Ansari, Aryan Pandey, Arshad Khan, Ayush Pandey, Yash Rathod, Harsh Dubey, Kunal Singh Rathod (wk), Yash Thakur and Nachiket Bhute Stand-by players: Amandeep Khare, Mayank Amandeep Khare, Mayank Mishra, Saurabh Rawat, Bhargav Merai, Kunal Yadav and Kumar Kartikeya

2026 Durand Cup: NorthEast United thrash Bodoland FC 6-0 as Ajaraie scores hat-trick



Guwahati: Defending champions NorthEast United FC began the Guwahati chapter of the 135th IndianOil Durand Cup in emphatic fashion, registering a commanding 6-0 victory over Bodoland FC in the opening Group F fixture at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati. Returning talisman Alaaeddine Ajaraie stole the show with a brilliant hat-trick, while Lalrinzuala Lalbiaknia, Redeem Tlang and Antonio Moyano also found the scoresheet as the Highlanders made the perfect start to their title defence. Despite their dominance, the Highlanders had to wait until first-half stoppage time to break the deadlock. After Bodoland surrendered possession inside their own half, Ajaraie displayed sublime composure inside the penalty area, cushioning the ball before calmly rolling a left-footed finish beyond the advancing goalkeeper to give his side a deserved lead. Bodoland began

the second half brightly, winning an early corner and showing greater attacking intent. Substitute Manabir Basumatary impressed with some strong tackles, while Rituraj Mohan and Diengdoh looked to probe the Highlanders' defence from the right. However, NorthEast soon regained complete control and doubled their lead in the 58th minute. Mohammed Arshaf threaded an excellent through ball into the path of Jithin on the right, whose low cross into the six-yard box was turned home by Lalrinzuala from close range. Ajaraie grabbed his second just nine minutes later after Macarton Louis Nickson's delivery caused confusion inside the Bodoland penalty area. A defensive misjudgement left the ball loose, and the Moroccan forward reacted quickest before delicately lifting his finish over the advancing Daimary to make it 3-0. The Highlanders continued to attack relentlessly. Substitute Parthib Gogoi came close

with a near-post header before another incisive move produced the fourth goal in the 70th minute. Macarton once again turned provider, threading a perfectly weighted pass between the two central defenders for Redeem Tlang, who calmly slotted home his first goal of the tournament. Ajaraie completed a memorable hat-trick in the 86th minute with another piece of individual brilliance. Beating two defenders with quick footwork after being released by a defence-splitting pass from deep, he calmly guided a right-footed finish into the far corner to put the result beyond any doubt. There was still time for one more goal in stoppage time. Ajaraie turned provider with a delightful lofted pass to Parthib Gogoi on the left, and the winger unselfishly squared the ball across goal for substitute Antonio Moyano, who applied the simplest of finishes to complete a resounding 6-0 victory.