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Anurag Jain takes charge as new NITI Aayog CEO

Commercial flight operations begin at Andhra's Bhogapuram as Visakhapatnam airport slips into history

AR Rahman launches search for 'Tamil Idol', auditions to open across Tamil Nadu



SHORT TAKES

Researchers in Australia predict new form of quantum matter

Melbourne, Aug 17 : Researchers in Australia have predicted a new type of quantum matter, challenging decades of thinking about how ultracold particles behave. The study shows that under the right conditions, mixtures of two fundamentally different types of quantum particles -- bosons and fermions -- can form stable, self-bound "quantum droplets," according to a statement released Monday by Australia's Monash University. Until now, scientists believed these exotic droplets were unlikely to exist in strongly interacting Bose-Fermi systems, according to the study, published in Physical Review Letters with collaborators from Heidelberg University in Germany. Researchers said the discovery provides a new theoretical roadmap for experiments around the world and could deepen understanding of quantum materials that underpin future technologies, from ultra-precise sensors to quantum computing, reports Xinhua news agency.

Air India de-rosters two pilots after preliminary drug test results

New Delhi, Aug 17 : Two more Air India pilots have failed preliminary drug tests conducted by the airline as part of an expanded screening programme introduced after a recent in-flight incident on a Phuket-Delhi service, according to a report. A report by NDTV -- citing sources -- said that the final test results are still awaited and both pilots have been de-rostered pending confirmation. The Tata-owned carrier ordered drug testing for all pilots under a new standard operating procedure (SOP) after the pilot-in-command of a Phuket-Delhi flight allegedly failed two urine tests following the aircraft's landing.

73 lakh voters in Telangana marked ASDS, 92 lakh to get notices

Hyderabad, Aug 17 : Over 73 lakh voters in Telangana have been marked ASDS (Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate), while 92 lakh voters will be issued notices for discrepancies during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The Election Commission of India on Monday published the draft voter list following door-to-door enumeration. Out of 3,38,26,448 electors, 73,39,235 have been identified as ASDS. These include 57.46 lakh who had permanently shifted or were found absent. The election authorities also

identified 9.22 lakh deceased, while 6.70 lakh voters were found enrolled at multiple places. Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudharsan Reddy told media persons that 92 lakh electors will be issued notices. As many as 60 lakh voters will get notices for discrepancies in their names or their family members' names, or any inconsistencies in age, etc. Another 32 lakh electors have been identified as unmapped, those who couldn't be linked to 2002 rolls. He said enumeration forms were collected from 2,64,87,213 electors (78.30 per cent).



Booth Level Officers (BLOs) did not find the remaining 73.39 lakh electors (21.7 per cent) or did not get back their enumeration forms because they became electors in other states/

UTs, or were not found in existence, or did not submit the form till August 10, or were not willing to register as an elector for some reason or other. SIR was conducted in the state from

June 25 to August 10. The CEO made it clear that genuine electors can still be added back to the electoral rolls during the claims and objections period from August 17 to September 16 using Form-6 along with the prescribed declaration form. The name of the electors found enrolled at multiple places in the electoral rolls will be retained only at one place. The Draft Electoral Roll has been published by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) concerned for all 119 Assembly Constituencies of the State. Booth-wise lists of absent/shifted/death/

duplicate electors whose names are not included in the Draft Roll have been displayed on the Notice Board of respective ERO/AERO Offices, Grama Panchayat/ Municipal Office Notice Boards, and Polling Stations to enable the general public to have access to the voters' lists along with the probable reasons for non-inclusion of their names. These lists have also been put on the CEO's website along with the respective DEO's website. Claims and objections can be filed from August 17 to September 16. Claims and objections will be disposed of from August

17 to October 15. The final electoral roll will be published on October 19. According to the CEO, the successful completion of the enumeration phase is the result of coordinated efforts of District Election Officers (DEOs) of all 33 districts, 119 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), 892 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), 3,590 BLO Supervisors and 35,985 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) deployed at 35,985 polling stations. Representatives of recognised political parties, including their District Presidents, also actively participated, with as many as 49,018 Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by them.

India world's 2nd-largest fish producer, contributes 8 pc to global output



New Delhi, Aug 17 : India is the world's second-largest fish producer, contributing 8 per cent to global output, ranks second in aquaculture production, leads in shrimp production and export, and is one of the largest producers in capture fisheries, the government said on Monday. Since 2015, the government has made cumulative investments of Rs 39,272 crore through key initiatives such as the Blue Revolution Scheme, Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund

(FIDF), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), and its sub-scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY), to drive sustainable growth and development in the sector. The fisheries and aquaculture sector plays a critical role in India's economy, providing livelihoods to approximately 3 crore fishers and fish farmers while generating significant employment opportunities across the value chain, according to Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

The ministry further said that youth, fishers and fish farmers are central to the future of fisheries sector, bringing enterprise, innovation and dynamism across the fisheries value chain from modern aquaculture practices, digital traceability and cold-chain management to value addition, branding, marketing and exports. Their active participation is expected to further strengthen fisheries as a key pillar of India's Blue Economy. Notably, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), on 8th February 2024 for a period of four years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 PM-MKSSY will be implemented in all the States and Union Territories with an estimated outlay of Rs 6,000 crore.

Fresh 6.0 quake hits Indonesia after deadly 7.7 tremor

Jakarta, Aug 16: A fresh magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck the Gulf of Tomini in Indonesia on Saturday night, hours after a powerful magnitude 7.7 earthquake hit eastern Indonesia, killing at least 38 people and triggering a tsunami warning. The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said the latest earthquake occurred at 9:55 pm IST at a depth of 68 km. "EQ of M: 6.0, On: 15/08/2026 21:55:18 IST, Lat: 0.174 N, Long: 120.312 E, Depth: 68 Km, Location: Gulf of Tomini," the NCS said in a post on X. The Gulf of Tomini earthquake came after a series of tremors struck Indonesia on Saturday.

Destroyed ISI-backed Shahzad Bhatti Network ahead of I-Day, arrested 200 operatives: HM Amit Shah



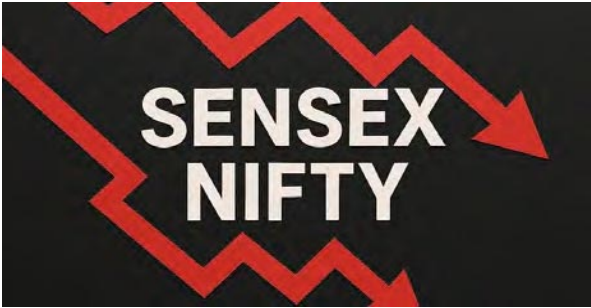
New Delhi, Aug 17 : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday announced that the Indian security forces dismantled the ISI-backed Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN) ahead of Independence Day, by thwarting the terror group's plan of carrying out attacks. The Home Minister mentioned that 200 operatives of the Shahzad Bhatti gang were arrested by the security forces. Taking to X, HM Shah said, "Modi govt destroyed the ISI-backed terror group

Shahzad Bhatti Network ahead of Independence Day and thwarted its plans for subversive attacks by arresting more than 200 operatives." "Indian security forces ripped apart the network by launching coordinated operations across different locations in 14 states, upholding a brilliant example of India's zero-tolerance towards terrorism," he said. The Home Minister also mentioned that substantial recoveries were made from the ISI-funded group during the operations, which

included IEDs, grenades bearing Pakistan Ordnance Factory markings, pistols, live cartridges, and CCTV cameras used for espionage. "The network was involved in several terrorist activities," he added. This comes against the backdrop of recent arrests made in the Shahzad Bhatti case. In late July, the West Bengal Special Task Force (STF) initially arrested two primary suspects in this specific Pakistan-linked terror and espionage module: suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed operative Mohammad Hamim Mondal and his associate/girlfriend Arpita Sarkar. According to officials, the SBN targeted the family members of at least six current members of the West Bengal Cabinet through Arpita Sarkar. The SBN handlers used to maintain regular contact with Arpita Sarkar through encrypted messages on different social media platforms.

Sensex, Nifty end lower as IT stocks drag markets

Mumbai, Aug 17 : The benchmark indices ended lower on Monday, weighed down by selling pressure in IT and FMCG stocks. The Sensex declined 281.09 points, or 0.36 per cent, to close at 77,728.16, while the Nifty fell 78.35 points, or 0.32 per cent, to settle at 24,287.65. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,400 zone remains the immediate resistance area. "A sustained breakout above 24,400 would be required to improve the near-term structure and support a recovery towards the 24,500-24,600 region," an analyst said. "On the downside, the 24,300-24,200 zone now remains an important support. A decisive break below 24,250 could intensify selling pressure and drag the index towards the 24,000 psychological mark," as per the market expert.



The experts further added that overall, the bias is likely to remain volatile. The broader market remained relatively resilient, with the Nifty MidCap index gaining 0.05 per cent and the Nifty SmallCap index rising 0.36 per cent. Among the major Nifty constituents, Infosys, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and HCL Technologies were among the biggest laggards, dragging the headline indices lower. Sectoral performance was mixed, with the Nifty IT index emerging as the worst performer after declining

nearly 2 per cent. In contrast, the Nifty Metal and Nifty Realty indices recorded the strongest gains during the session. Experts said that the market remained subdued as investors adopted a cautious approach, with weakness in key IT stocks offsetting gains in select metal and realty shares. "On the domestic front, bond yields moved higher following elevated crude price and the RBI's decision to advance the closure of the FCNR(B) deposit window," a market expert stated.

SC flags lapses linked to child abuse content on social media, seeks Centre's response

New Delhi, Aug 17 : The Supreme Court has expressed concern over the alleged availability of child abuse content on social media and sought a response from the Centre over alleged violations by intermediaries in reporting such cases. A bench of Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice K.V. Chandran sought replies from the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry and the Law Ministry while hearing petitions seeking criminal action against platforms that fail to comply with mandatory POCSO reporting requirements. The petitions, filed by Just Rights for Children Alliance (JRCA) and the Bachpan Bachao Andolan, also alleged the presence of paid ads on social media platforms, promoting Child Sexual



Exploitation and Abuse Material (CSEAM). Listing the matter for next hearing on September 24, the apex court sought to know the Centre's stand on the petitioner's suggestion to create a centralised online mechanism through which intermediaries can report CSEAM and share digital evidence

with Indian law enforcement agencies. The petitioner alleged that at present platforms report CSEAM cases to the US-based National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) but fail to report them directly to juvenile police units or local police as required

under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The plea also sought a uniform SOP for intermediaries on detection, reporting, evidence preservation and sharing of IP details in matters of child abuse content. The apex court allowed the petitioner to implead

the intermediaries in the matter and press for implementation of its September 23, 2024, directions. The development comes in the backdrop of the Supreme Court's observations in 2024 that intermediaries cannot rely on IT Act safe-harbour protection if they fail to meet mandatory POCSO reporting obligations. The Supreme Court had also said that intermediaries must follow due diligence requirements to claim 'safe harbour' protection, reminding that POCSO would prevail in case of any inconsistency with other laws. The top court had observed that storage of child pornographic material, without deleting or without reporting the same, would indicate an intention to transmit and amount to an offence under the POCSO Act.

EDITORIAL

Smriti Irani Is Back

Politics is rarely about individuals alone. Every important appointment carries a message, and the Bharatiya Janata Party's decision to bring former Union Minister Smriti Irani back into its national organisational leadership is no exception. Two years after her defeat in Amethi, Irani has returned to the BJP's central leadership as a national general secretary under party president Nitin Nabin. Her comeback is politically significant. Irani's defeat in the 2024 Lok Sabha election appeared to mark the end of a particularly successful phase of her electoral career. In 2019, she had emerged as one of the BJP's most formidable campaigners after defeating Rahul Gandhi in Amethi. Five years later, she lost the same seat by more than 1.67 lakh votes. Yet the BJP has demonstrated that an electoral defeat does not necessarily mean political retirement. That distinction is important. Political parties that are serious about building long-term organisations cannot measure a leader's usefulness only through the result of one election. Irani possesses campaign experience, national visibility and an ability to communicate directly with voters. Bringing such a leader back into the organisational structure suggests that the BJP continues to value those strengths. The timing is equally significant. The BJP's new national team combines experienced leaders with newer faces, and the reshuffle comes as the party prepares for another important electoral cycle, including the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election. Reports indicate that Irani has been given a significant role connected with Uttar Pradesh. For the BJP, Uttar Pradesh is not merely another state. Its political weight makes every organisational decision there consequential for national politics. Irani's experience in Amethi and her familiarity with the state's political landscape could therefore prove valuable to the party. Her return may also be an attempt to strengthen the BJP's campaign machinery with leaders who have demonstrated their ability to take on high-profile political opponents. But the real test begins now. A comeback to a key organisational post is not an achievement in itself.

Irani will have to convert political visibility into organisational results. The BJP will expect her to strengthen the cadre, expand the party's social reach, communicate its political message effectively and contribute to electoral victories. There is also a larger lesson in her return. Indian politics often treats electoral defeat as a permanent verdict on a politician's relevance. That approach is unhealthy for democracy. Leaders should be judged not only by whether they win every election but also by their organisational ability, public service, political resilience and capacity to learn from setbacks. Smriti Irani's return demonstrates that political careers can have second acts. Whether this becomes a genuine revival or merely a high-profile organisational appointment will depend on what she delivers from here.

Sarvai Papanna: From Toddy Tapper to a People's Ruler

"No human being lives forever. As long as we live, we must live with courage and dignity, without bowing our heads before anyone."

Sardar Sarvai Papanna was born on August 18 in Khilashapur village of present-day Warangal district, into a Goud family. Having lost his father at a young age, he was raised under the care of his mother, Sarvamma. As a young man, while continuing the traditional toddy-tapping profession, Papanna strongly opposed the authoritarianism, exploitation, and social discrimination perpetrated by landlords and Deshmukhs. Guided by the belief that "no human being lives forever; as long as we live, we must live with courage and dignity without bowing before anyone," Papanna began shaping his resistance. He understood that confronting entrenched social dominance could not be achieved through an individual struggle alone. Therefore, he sought to unite people from various Bahujan communities and build a collective force. He formed a military group in consultation with his associates, including Chakali Sarvanna, Mangali Masanna, Kummari Govindu, Jakkula Perumallu, and Dudekula Peer, among others. Subsequently, he launched attacks on the forts and fortified residences of landlords and zamindars, seizing weapons and wealth. As his influence expanded across northern Telangana, Papanna stood in support of people subjected to exploitation. He captured forts and fortified estates and, according to historical accounts, distributed their wealth among the poor while attempting to liberate people held in captivity or subjected to oppression. In this manner, Papanna's struggle against social domination and feudal exploitation came to occupy a distinctive place in the history of Telangana.

Khilashapur as the Capital:

The force that began with a small group of friends is believed, according to some historical sources, to have grown to approximately 12,000 soldiers within a relatively short period. Papanna gave considerable importance to military training and warfare. Through swift attacks on smaller estates and fortified centres, he gradually expanded his influence. He is believed to have made his native Khilashapur his capital and established a kingdom centred



around Sarvaipet in 1675. He constructed a strategically fortified stronghold there. Subsequently, his influence expanded across areas including Karimnagar, Huzurabad, Elagandula, Warangal, and Nalgonda. He also developed Thatikonda as an important military centre and constructed a fort there from which military operations were conducted. The remains of these forts indicate that elevated hill locations were strategically selected to enable the surveillance of enemy movements from a distance. Papanna was not merely a warrior but was also recognised as an administrator. Historical narratives attribute to him an emphasis on self-sufficiency, agricultural development, and the construction of check dams, along with support for traditional occupations and artisan communities. In 1708, he is believed to have attacked Warangal with a force of around 3,000 soldiers and seized its wealth. He subsequently obtained modern weapons from European traders. Following the death of Aurangzeb and the political instability that emerged within the Mughal Empire, Papanna took advantage of the changing circumstances to expand his influence over several regions, including Bhuvanagiri. Historical accounts state that his influence extended across Kolanupaka, Jaffergadh, Cheriyal, Bairanpalli, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Huzurabad, and towards Papannapet in the Medak region. Beginning with the Sarvaipet fort, he is said to have constructed nearly 20 forts across territories under his control.

Papanna's Challenge to Aurangzeb:
Between 1700 and 1705, Pa-

panna is believed to have constructed another major fort at Khilashapur. By establishing a powerful army trained in warfare and administering his territories from Khilashapur, he weakened Mughal control over parts of the region. The decline in tax revenues and the growing number of territories coming under Papanna's control reportedly caused concern among the Mughal authorities. Aurangzeb ordered Rustundil Khan, the ruler of Kolanupaka, to capture Papanna. Rustundil Khan personally led a large army against Khilashapur. The Mughal forces inflicted significant losses on Papanna's army and destroyed the fort. However, Papanna did not retreat permanently. Historical accounts suggest that he subsequently rebuilt and strengthened the Khilashapur fort.

Bahujan Flag over Golconda:

Following Aurangzeb's death, Mughal authority in the Deccan weakened considerably. Recognising this political situation, Sarvai Papanna Goud prepared to attack Golconda Fort. According to accounts cited in the writings of T. W. Haig, Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah invited Papanna for negotiations and received him with royal honours. Papanna is said to have accepted a proposal under which he could govern Golconda as a semi-autonomous ruler while paying tribute to the Mughal authority. Subsequently, he raised the flag of the Bahujan people over Golconda Fort.

Conspiracies of Deshmukhs:

The rise of Papanna was opposed by landlords, Deshmukhs, and Jagirdars who were unwilling to accept his growing power. They reportedly complained

about him to Bahadur Shah, following which orders were issued to the Mughal forces to capture him. In a fierce battle with an army led by Yusuf Khan Ruzbahani, Papanna was seriously wounded and escaped. He subsequently lived in hiding in the Huzurabad region. Mughal forces continued their efforts to locate and capture him. He is generally said to have died in 1709, although historical sources contain differing accounts regarding the circumstances and exact details of his death. Despite differences among historical accounts, Papanna has remained deeply embedded in the collective memory of the people of Telangana as a warrior who challenged feudal exploitation and Mughal domination. His rise from a humble toddy-tapping background and his attempt to establish an independent kingdom constitute a distinctive chapter in the history of Telangana.

Indelible Mark on Deccan :

Sarvai Papanna left an enduring mark on the Deccan as a people's warrior who challenged Mughal authority and the authoritarianism of contemporary feudal powers. He took upon himself the responsibility of protecting local communities, united oppressed and marginalised groups, and sought to establish a Bahujan state. Known as "Sarvai Papanna," reportedly in honour of his mother Sarvamma, Papanna has been remembered as a prominent historical figure and ruler. His story represents an extraordinary journey from an ordinary social background to a position where he could challenge powerful political and military establishments of his time. Papanna's struggle for social equality, Bahujan empowerment, and social justice continues to hold significance for future generations. True tribute to Sardar Sarvai Papanna lies not merely in remembering his name, but in striving for a society free from caste, religious, and class discrimination, where every person has equal opportunities for education, employment, dignity, respectful life.



- Mahesh Goud
Research scholar
Public administration
Osmania University

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Bangladesh make history with first-ever Test cricket win in Australia

Hasan Mahmud's 9-wicket haul sinks Aussies

Darwin, Aug 17 Bangladesh has completed one of the most stunning up-sets in men's Test cricket history on Sunday by thrashing top-ranked Australia by nine wickets in the series opener at Marrara Oval on Sunday.

Pacer Hasan Mahmud delivered a match-winning nine-wicket haul as Bangladesh secured their first-ever Test victory against Australia, achieving the feat on Australian soil in Darwin. The win marks Bangladesh as the third Asian team, after India and Pakistan, to defeat Australia in their homeland.

Chasing a modest target of 57 runs on day four's play, Mominul Haque (30 not out) cut Beau Webster through the square boundary on the off-side to seal a monumental victory for the visitors. Shadman Islam remained unbeaten on 25 as Bangladesh comfortably completed the chase in the second session and take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. The victory marked Bangladesh's first-ever Test win on Australian soil in only their third attempt, especially coming after their first red-ball appearance in the country in 23 years. Najmul Hossain Shanto's men arrived as overwhelming underdogs after suffering an innings defeat to a Cricket Australia XI, including being bowled out for 54.

But every time Australia threatened to drag themselves back into the contest, Bangladesh found heroes to thwart those

attempts. Resuming their second innings on day four, Australia's rearguard was led by seam-bowling all-rounder Cameron Green, who scored a defiant 108 - his maiden Test century at home.

Green ground out the touring attack across nearly five hours before fast bowler Hasan Mahmud claimed him by skidding one low to crash into his stumps. Pacer Mahmud, who took Player of the Match award, was the star of the match for Bangladesh by collecting figures of 9-111, including a match-defining six-for in the first innings to bowl out Australia for 198 on day one.

Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz tore through Australia's middle and lower order, exploiting footmarks created by Mitchell Starc to claim 5-52 - his 15th career five-wicket haul, as the hosts were bowled out for 284 in their second innings and set the stage for an easy and memorable chase for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh had batting heroes too - posting a formidable first-innings total of 426 was possible due to a maiden Test century from opener Tanzid Hasan and a crucial 65 from Mehidy. The result marks only Bangladesh's second Test victory over Australia, eclipsing their 2017 triumph in Dhaka, and also ensures they cannot lose the two-match series. The second Test begins next week at the Great Barrier Reef Arena in Mackay.

Jamshedpur FC face tough Mohun Bagan test



Mail News Service

Kolkata/Jamshedpur, Aug 17: Jamshedpur FC will face Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the third quarterfinal of the 135th Indian Oil Durand Cup at the Vivekananda Yub Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on Monday. A semifinal berth will be at stake. Jamshedpur FC entered the knockout stage after finishing second in Group C with six points. Victories were recorded against Defenders FC and the Indian Air Force Football Team. A 6-0 win over the Airmen in the final group match helped the team qualify.

The emergence of young players has been one of the major highlights of the campaign. Academy graduate Lawmsangzuala scored a hat-trick against the Air Force team, while Rayan C. also found the net.

Mohun Bagan SG reached the quarterfinal after winning all three Group A matches without conceding a goal. A strong defensive unit led by Subhasish Bose, Mehtab Singh and Alberto Rodriguez has been maintained, with goalkeeper Vishal Kaith also yet to concede.

Jamshedpur FC will be expected to rely on Raynier Fernandes, Aman C.K. and Lawmsangzuala in attack, while experience will be provided by Pronay Halder and Pratik Chaudhari. Under coach Kaizad Ambapardiwalla, academy graduates have been successfully combined with senior players. The team has scored 13 goals in three matches and will be expected to carry its attacking momentum into the quarterfinal.

Samira wins APR Nair chess tournament



Jamshedpur, Aug 17: A two-day APR Nair Chess Tournament was organised at APJ Abdul Kalam High School, Mango, with 56 participants taking part.

Samira was declared the champion, while Rohan secured the runner-up position. Manish and Mohsin jointly finished third. The winners were felicitated with trophies and cash prizes by chief guest Dr Afroz Shakeel on the occasion of Independence Day.

A cash prize of Rs 2,700 was awarded to the champion. Rs 1,700 to the runner-up and Rs 1,000 each to the third-place winners.

Mohammad Tahir Hussain, Rafat Ara Shahid and Sunil Kushwaha were also present at the prize distribution ceremony.

JSCA pays tribute to Amitabh Chaudhary



Jamshedpur, Aug 17: The Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) paid tribute to former cricket administrator Amitabh Chaudhary on his fourth death anniversary. JSCA Secretary Saurabh Tiwari, Treasurer Amitabh Ghosh, former Secretary Rajesh Verma, former Treasurer Rajeev Badhan and former Joint Secretary Aseem Singh were present.

JSCA committee members and presidents and secretaries of Jamshedpur's A and B Division clubs were also present. The contributions of the late Amitabh Chaudhary to the development of cricket in Jharkhand were recalled during the programme. His role in strengthening and promoting the sport in the state was remembered by those present. A humble tribute was paid by the JSCA family to the late administrator.

Debanjan Sinha wins Kolhan Open Rapid chess tournament



Jamshedpur, Aug 17: The Kolhan Open Rapid Chess Tournament 2026 was organised by the East Singhbhum District Chess Association (ESDCA) at JRD Tata Sports Complex on August 15. A total of 296 players participated in the one-day tournament.

Debanjan Sinha was declared the champion after scoring 7.5 points, while Navika Jaiswal secured the second position with an identical score. Harsh Kumar Jha finished third with seven points. All three players are associated with ESDCA.

Social worker Bimal Jalan attended the event as the Chief Guest. ESDCA office-bearers and members were also present. Vishal Kumar Minz served as the Chief Arbiter.

A total prize money of Rs 24,500 was distributed, while trophies were awarded to winners in various age-group categories.

Hockey WC: India women hold favourites China to 2-2 stalemate in opener

Amstelveen, Aug 17 India women held reigning Olympic silver medallists China to a hard-fought 2-2 draw in their opening match of the Hockey World Cup 2026 on Sunday. Navneet and Deepika scored for India as they had a lead twice in the game, but ultimately salvaged a point in the clash at the Wagner Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen.

India started well with Lalremsiami giving them a penalty corner in the fifth minute. Navneet went for the shot, but she was denied. However, she opened the scoring sheet in the eighth minute when she tapped one into the goal after a pass from Neha. The Paris Olympic silver medallists then achieved parity when Zhang Ying converted a penalty stroke after India's Shilpi Dabas was penalised for a foul inside the circle.

India got back into the lead when Deepika converted a PC in the 25th minute. The Salima Tete-led Indian side had a chance before too in the 21st minute when it earned a PC but was denied. However, four minutes later, Deepika stormed from the right flank to earn a PC and smashed it into the goal. The goal was referred to the video umpire after a Chinese defender was struck by the drag-flick from Deepika; however, the goal was allowed. India headed into the halftime with a 2-1 lead and a chance to stun the favourites. But the Chinese returned with aggression and tested India's defence in the third quarter, with a few of their runs threatening parity again. They achieved it ultimately in the 39th minute when Ma Ning sounded the board with a penalty corner to beat the Indian goalkeeper and make it 2-2. Things remained intense for the remainder of the quarter as India were forced to defend, and they managed it well.

The fourth one saw the two sides battling for the winner, but neither could find one. Navneet produced a strong pass in the 51st minute across the Chinese goal, but India were denied when Lalremsiami remained a little away from the ball. Chinese player Zou Meirong was shown a green card in the 53rd minute as they were down to 10 players for two minutes, but India could not score. China had another chance in the 57th minute through a PC. The first attempt went in vain before they got another PC. Fan Yunxia went for the hit, but it was away, as the two teams ended the match 2-2.



Haryana, Jharkhand make winning starts in Junior Women's Nationals

Pune, Aug 17: Haryana, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh registered wins, while Uttar Pradesh and Manipur played out a 1-1 draw in their respective pool matches as Division A action got underway in the Junior Women's National Hockey Championship here on Sunday.

Division B also saw two matches being played, with Delhi and Uttarakhand securing comprehensive victories.

Haryana made a dominant start to their Division A campaign, defeating Bengal 10-1 in Pool B.

In Pool A, Jharkhand began their campaign with a commanding 6-0 victory over Chandigarh.

Chhattisgarh edged out Himachal in a 10-goal thriller in Pool D.

Pool C witnessed a closely-contested encounter as Uttar Pradesh and Manipur played out a 1-1 draw.

In Division B', Pool A, Delhi registered a comprehensive 6-0 victory over Assam, while Uttarakhand defeated Tamil Nadu 3-1.



Padikkal, Rahul, Jurel carry India to 460/9 despite Sri Lanka's spin fightback



1st Test

Galle, Aug 17 India seized total command in the first Test against Sri Lanka after closing a rain-truncated day two on 460/9 in 116 overs after Devdutt Padikkal's magnificent 167 laid the groundwork for the visitors to extend their domination over the hosts.

Only 43 overs were possible after wet weather wiped out the first session and a

half. When play resumed, India plundered 172 runs before stumps arrived. At stumps, Kuldeep Yadav (12 not out) and Prasad Krishna (1 not out) remain at the crease, and it would be interesting to see if an overnight declaration comes from them in order to have a crack at the Sri Lankan batting line-up.

Apart from Padikkal, KL Rahul (82) and Dhruv Jurel (51) added vital runs to

India's total. For Sri Lanka, debutant off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha gave a much better account of himself by picking three scalps, while left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya returned with 4-109, as the second new ball brought them vital breakthroughs.

Resuming the final session under overcast skies and with reserve umpire Raveendra Wimalasiri stepping in for an unwell Rod

Tucker, Sri Lanka's spinners initially found success with tight lines. Nuwantha struck early by trapping Ravindra Jadeja lbw for 13 with an arm ball that skidded through and confirmed via a close umpire's call on review.

But Jurel seized the momentum back for India. Playing with quiet efficiency, he crafted a breezy 51 off 68 deliveries, laced with four boundaries and a six. He helped India cross the 400-mark alongside Manav Suthar, who pulled Lahiru Kumara ruthlessly into the damp outfield for four before stepping out to launch Nuwantha over cow corner for six.

Jurel, though, fell immediately after to a moment of brilliant athleticism. Closing his bat-face off Jayasuriya, Jurel yielded a leading edge that Sri Lankan captain Dhananjaya de Silva grabbed with a magnificent one-handed diving catch at first slip. Mohammed Siraj clobbered a 79-kph delivery from Nuwantha high over long-on for six, before he miscued a slower ball from Asitha Fernando to mid-off. Jayasuriya picked up his fourth wicket by luring Suthar (24) down the track and was caught at long-on. Kuldeep and Prasad negotiated the last 17 balls to take India to 460 before the day ended in favour of the visitors.

Brief Scores: India 460/9 in 116 overs (Devidutt Padikkal 167, KL Rahul 82; Prabath Jayasuriya 4-109, Keshara Nuwantha 3-175) against Sri Lanka.

SC Delhi storm into Durand Cup semifinals with 5-1 win



Ranchi, Aug 17: SC Delhi produced a stunning second-half comeback to defeat Durand Cup debutants FC Raengdai 5-1 in the first quarter-final of the 135th Indian Oil Durand Cup at Birsamunda Football Stadium on Sunday.

FC Raengdai took an early lead through Chongtham Kishan Singh, who scored with a powerful long-range strike in the ninth minute. Despite several attempts, SC Delhi could not find an equaliser before half-time as Raengdai maintained a disciplined defensive shape.

The game changed after

the break through the introduction of substitute Joseph Sunny. He equalised in the 57th minute with a low finish after being released by Juan Sebastian Peña. Ten minutes later, Sunny completed the comeback after being played through by another fine pass from Peña.

Rodriguinho then ex-

tended SC Delhi's lead in the 82nd minute after beating two defenders before finding the net. Peña made it 4-1 in stoppage time with a composed finish following a brilliant individual run.

Augustine Lalrochana completed the scoring in the eighth minute of added time with a stylish finish into the far corner. FC Raengdai, playing in their maiden Durand Cup campaign, were unable to recover after SC Delhi took control of the match in the second half. SC Delhi will face the winner of the quarter-final between Indian Army Football Team and East Bengal FC in the semi-final on August 19 at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata.

Meanwhile, Indian Air Force Football Team players Samuel K Vanlalpeka and Naorem Somananda Singh were presented the Emerging Player Awards for Group C. Each player received a cash award of Rs 1 lakh.

Social Buzz

E2o Janta party
This is just the beginning
The revolution against
anti-people policies has
begun.
@E2oJantaparty



Arvind Kejriwal
Congratulations to the entire
country on Dharmendra
Pradhan's resignation. Big win
for democracy.
@Arvindkejriwal



Rahul Gandhi
Dharmendra Pradhan's res-
ignation is a huge step towards
reshaping our education system.
Well done to students across
the country; we are proud of all
of you.
@RahulGandhi

Sonam Wangchuk
It's a victory of Democracy direct
democracy... straight from the streets.
It's a victory of peace, patience & pe-
severance. Congratulations CJP, Gen
Z of the nation and thank you all cit-
izens for shedding fear and the fear
of fear and rising up from every corner
of the nation.
@Wangchuk66



Yogendra Yadav
Congratulations! This is not
just the victory of one person's
resignation, it is the victory of
struggle. Arrogance has been
brought low. Once again, the
people have forced the system to
bend.
@_Yogendrayadav

Markandey Katju
What did the protest of
coackroaches at Jantar
Mantar achieve?
@mkatju



Kajol shares rare glimpses of her parents and in-laws, reflects on sacrifices



Mumbai, July 27: Actress Kajol shared a heartfelt Parents' Day tribute to her parents and parents-in-law, expressing gratitude for their love, sacrifices, and the lessons she learned from them. Taking to social media, the 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' actress reflected on the love, sacrifices, and responsibilities that come with parenthood. Kajol dropped rare glimpses of her family, featuring pictures of her mother, Tanuja, and father, Shomu Mukherjee, and her in-laws. <Alongside the monochrome pictures, the actress penned an emotional note about how becoming a parent changes one's perspective towards their own parents. Kajol wrote, "#HappyParentDay.. We are all parents now and the sheer responsibility of being a parent is something that u truly don't understand till it happens to you.. and u never know how much ur parents love u and have sacrificed for u till it happens to u. So this is a gratitude post to all my parents for loving me so much. I'm so very loved and therefore so very blessed." (sic)

The first black-and-white image shows little Kajol posing with her parents and sister Tanishaa Mukerji. The "Dilwale" actress, as a young girl, is seen dressed in a white outfit and smiling while posing. The next picture features her in-laws, Ajay Devgn's parents Veeru Devgn and film producer Veena Devgan.

For the uninitiated, National Parents' Day 2026 is being observed on Sunday, July 26. The day celebrates the love, dedication, and countless sacrifices of parents while recognising the important role they play in shaping families and society. The observance was established in 1994 by US President Bill Clinton to promote the importance of strong family bonds.

On the professional front, Kajol was last seen in the mythological horror-thriller film "Maa," directed by Vishal Furia, in which she portrayed the titular role.

Armaan Malik's father shares life advice : 'Don't invest in relationships that seek benefits'



Mumbai, July 27: Armaan Malik's father and music composer Daboo Malik shared life lessons on relationships. He urged people to value genuine bonds built on respect, loyalty, and mutual effort more than those based on benefits. Taking to Instagram, Daboo shared his candid photo and wrote, "Sunday Morning Life Lessons. Watch out if your friendship and relationship are turned into a business deal. Watch out When Friends and your relationships survive only if you give Emotional support. Constant attention. Financial investment. But when it's time for peace, loyalty, or real partnership?..." They disappear. Watch Out A relationship built on money instead of meaning always collapses. When the money stops, the affection fades. When you stop paying, all stop caring. That's not friendship or relationship. That's a transaction. Don't invest in relationships who only show up for the benefits." The singer added, "Invest in those who bring peace, respect, and real effort to build with you. Stop letting anyone guilt-trip you into thinking relationship is measured by how much you spend. It's not your job to finance relationships just because you care. Your job is to protect your peace and invest in relationships who values you for whatever you are. Now look around and evaluate all around you and think. Sorry for the typos." In April, Daboo Malik made headlines after he clarified that he was not replaced by Salman Khan in the film "Maine Pyaar Kiya."

Chennai, July 27: The makers of director Shahad's eagerly awaited Malayalam investigative thriller, 'Pradhama Dhrishtya Kuttakkar', featuring actress Parvathy Thiruvothu in the lead, have now released the first look motion poster of the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Releasing the first look motion poster of the film using the film's official handle on Instagram, the makers of the film, 11 Icons Film Productions, wrote, "The FIR is filed. The charge sheet will get you soon! Unveiling the First Look Motion Poster of @pradhamaadhrishtyakuttakkar. In CINEMAS in September 2026." The first look motion poster shows four cops -- two male and two fe-

Venkatesh's character in 'Aadarsha Kutumbam House No: 47' revealed



Hyderabad, July 27: The makers of director Trivikram's eagerly awaited entertainer, 'Aadarsha Kutumbam House No: 47 - AK47', featuring one of Telugu cinema's top stars Venkatesh in the lead, have now revealed that the actor plays a character called Chitti Babu in the film. Production house Haarika & Hassine Creations, which is producing the film, took to its X timeline to announce that it would be sharing from July 27 details of the characters each actor plays in the film. It wrote, "The

time has come to step into the world of #AadarshaKutumbam. Starting this Monday, 27th July, we will introduce you to our world one character at a time. Starting with our dearest @VenkyMama garu as Chitti Babu. Followed by @SrinidhiShetty7 as Swarna. #YuvinaParthavi as Sampoorna. #RajaPrajwal as Sarwa." On Saturday, the production house had wished actor Rohith Nara a happy birthday and disclosed that he had come onboard the unit of the film. It wrote, "Here's wishing the dynamic

#NaraRohith garu a very Happy Birthday! - Team #AadarshaKutumbam. We're excited to have you on board for #AK47 and looking forward to an exciting journey! #HBDNaraRohith #AK47OnOCT2nd #Venky77 VenkateshXTrivikram." The makers also shared a poster of Rohith Nara from the film on the occasion. The poster shared gave the impression that the actor plays a cop in the upcoming film. It may be recalled that the makers had released the title of the film in December last year. The title poster re-

leased by the makers had showed Venkatesh standing in the middle of the road, with a smile on his face. He was seen holding a leather bag in his left hand with his right hand raised. The makers have already disclosed that the film will hit screens on October 2 this year. The film, which was being tentatively referred to as #Venky77 initially, has triggered huge expectations as actor Venkatesh, whose most recent release 'Sankranthiki Vasthunam' was a blockbuster, has joined hands with one of his favourite directors

Trivikram. This is the first time that Trivikram is directing a film featuring actor Venkatesh in the lead. Although Trivikram has not directed a film with Venkatesh prior to this project, he has worked as a writer with actor Venkatesh. In fact, Trivikram had penned the story and dialogues for the superhit film 'Nuvvu Naaku Nachav', which was directed by K Vijaya Bhaskar and which featured Venkatesh and Aarthi Agarwal in the lead. The film also marked Aarthi Agarwal's debut in Telugu cinema.

Anu Malik recalls how Shah Rukh Khan's expressions took his song 'Dil Ki Tanhai Ko' to a whole new level

Mumbai, July 27: Veteran music composer Anu Malik revisited memories of his iconic song "Dil Ki Tanhai Ko" and praised Shah Rukh Khan for adding a special touch to the track with his powerful expressions. Taking to Instagram, Anu, on Sunday, shared a heartfelt note celebrating the timeless appeal of the song, which completed 30 years. Sharing a video featuring Shah Rukh Khan from the track, he wrote, "Dil ki tanhai ko awaaz bana lete hain..." Shah Rukh, your expressions took my song to a completely different level. Shah Rukh... kal bhi, aaj bhi, aur kal bhi... forever timeless!" "30 years later, and the magic is still going strong. Mahesh Bhatt always had a way of tapping into my innermost emotions and bringing them to life through music. And Sanu Da... What a voice, what a journey, what beautiful memories! Some songs don't just stay in your playlist... they stay in your heart forever."



The popular song is from the 1996 film "Chaahe" It was sung by Kumar Sanu and composed by Anu Malik. The 1996 Hindi

romantic action thriller, directed by Mahesh Bhatt, also featured Pooja Bhatt, Naseeruddin Shah, Ramya Krishnan, and Anupam Kher in pivotal roles. In October 2013, Shah Rukh Khan acquired the rights to the film under his production banner, Red Chillies Entertainment. The film was later remade in Odia as "Prem Rogi" in 2009.

In the film, Shah Rukh Khan played the role of Roop Singh Rathod, while Pooja Bhatt portrayed Nurse Pooja Singh Rathod, Roop's love interest and wife. Anu Malik composed several memorable soundtracks for Shah Rukh Khan's films, including "Baazigar" (1993), "Baadshah" (1999), "Asoka" (2001), and "Main Hoon Na" (2004). His musical collaborations with the superstar produced some timeless chartbusters such as "Baazigar O Baazigar," "Tumse Milke Dil Ka," and "Chalte Chalte."

G V Prakash-starrer 'Idi Muzhakkam' director Seenu Ramasamy releases lyrical videos of two songs from film



Chennai, July 27: National Award winning filmmaker Seenu Ramasamy, best known for having directed critically acclaimed films such as Vijay Sethupathi's 'Thenmerkku Paruvakattru' and 'Dharmadurai', on Sunday released the lyrical videos of two songs from his long-awaited film, 'Idi Muzhakkam', featuring G V Prakash and Gayathrie in the lead.

Taking to his X timeline to release the lyrical videos of the songs, 'Kaana Vilakku Mayile' and 'Adi Theni Santhaiyil', Seenu Ramasamy wrote, "Greetings friends, Here is the lyrical video of two songs from the Tamil film 'Idimuzhakkam', directed by me, starring G.V. Prakash Kumar and Gayathrie Shankar in the lead roles, along with Saranya Ponvannan, M.S. Bhaskar, Karuppu Raja (Kanja Karuppu), Isakki Raghav, singer Anthony Daasan, Alan Tolstoy, Vetri Kumaran, Billa David, Yogi Devaraj, late actor Marimuthu, and brother Manobala, with Soundararaja playing a prominent role, among many others."

He went on to give details of film unit, saying the film had music by N.R. Raghunathan and that the lyrics for the songs had been penned by Vairamuthu.

Katy Perry lashes out at US President Trump for using her song without her permission



Los Angeles, July 27: Singer-songwriter Katy Perry has expressed her anger at the US President Donald Trump. The singer shared that she is "deeply appalled and angry" after President Trump used her song 'Firework' to accompany footage of US strikes on Iran. A TikTok video in circulation teamed clips of military action with her 2010 single. The video was shared on the platform earlier this week. The singer has said that she hadn't been consulted about the use of the track. She took to her X, formerly Twitter, and wrote, "I am deeply appalled and angry to see 'Firework' used on the White House TikTok as a backing track for video footage of military strikes. I did not approve this, I was not asked, and I absolutely do not condone it." She said that a song designed to promote "self-worth and upliftment" had been used on such a clip. "I wrote this song to be an anthem of hope, healing, and inner strength for people going through their darkest personal moments. To see a message of self-worth and upliftment weaponised to soundtrack destruction and violence is a complete violation of everything my song stands for", she added.

Parvathy Thiruvothu-starrer Pradhama Dhrishtya Kuttakkar's first look motion poster released

Chennai, July 27: The makers of director Shahad's eagerly awaited Malayalam investigative thriller, 'Pradhama Dhrishtya Kuttakkar', featuring actress Parvathy Thiruvothu in the lead, have now released the first look motion poster of the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Releasing the first look motion poster of the film using the film's official handle on Instagram, the makers of the film, 11 Icons Film Productions, wrote, "The FIR is filed. The charge sheet will get you soon! Unveiling the First Look Motion Poster of @pradhamaadhrishtyakuttakkar. In CINEMAS in September 2026." The first look motion poster shows four cops -- two male and two fe-



male-- seated next to each other, with an anxious and a worried look on their faces. Parvathy is seen as one of the four cops. Sources in the industry claim that Parvathy plays the role of a woman, who gets a posting in the police department after the demise of her husband who was a cop. The film is now slated to hit screens worldwide on September 11. Apart from Parvathy, the film will also feature actors Mathew Thomas, Unnimaya Prasad, Vijaya Raghavan, Sidharth Bharathan and Azees Nedumangad in pivotal roles. Directed by Shahad, best known for having directed the family drama 'Prakashan Parakkatte', the film's story has been written by P S

Subramanian and Vijesh Thottungal. Sources say the shooting for the film had taken place at a number of locations including Kottayam, Changanassery, and Kuttanad. The film boasts of an equally impressive technical team. Produced by Arjun Selva, the film has music by Mubeeb Majeed and cinematography by Ruby Varghese Raj. Editing for the film has been handled by Chaman Chakko. Costumes in the film have been designed by Sameera Saneesh while the stunts have been choreographed by Action Sandhosh, Kalai Kingdon and Vicky Master. Sound design for the film is by Jayadevan Chakkadath and production design is by Magesh Mohanan.