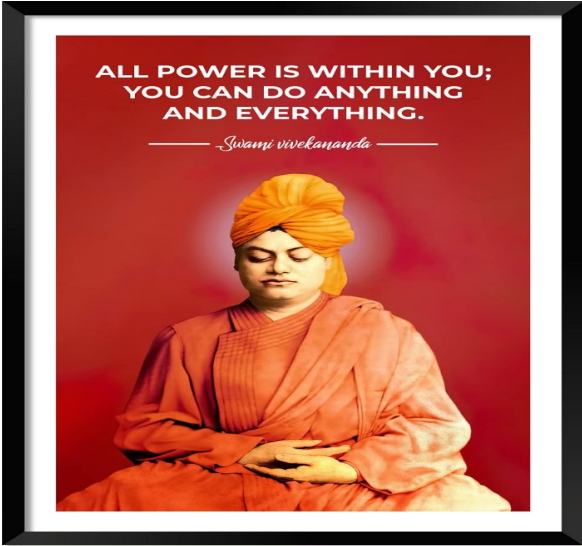
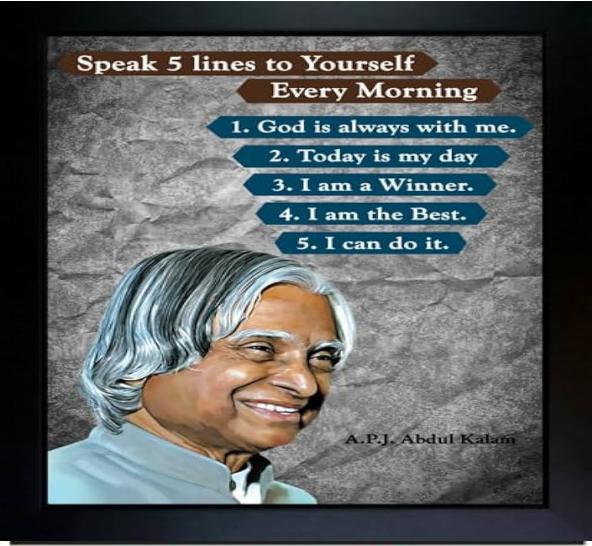




Adilabad Police Bust Inter-State Bike Theft Gang, Arrest 8



Hyderabad: The Adilabad police on Wednesday busted an inter-State bike theft gang with the arrest of eight persons including those who purchased the stolen bikes. The five persons, who had stolen bikes, have been identified as Marampelli Anil (21) and Shaik Shabbir (39), both residents of Chincholi village, Shaik Mustashahid (36) of Keshavapatnam, and Mohammed Zakir (55) and Mohammed Shafi (37), both residents of Sirikonda village. Also Read - T e l a n g a n a ' s Agricultural Policies Draw Interest from Bihar The three persons, who purchased the stolen bikes, are Mujahid and Kareem, both residents of

Keshavapatnam, and Iqbal of Gundala. Adilabad district Superintendent of Police, Akhil Mahajan stated that an interstate gang involved in a series of bike thefts across erstwhile Adilabad district and surrounding areas of Maharashtra has been apprehended putting an end to their activities. Addressing a press conference, he said the police focused specifically on the series of two-wheeler thefts reported within the limits of Ichoda police station and launched an investigation based on CCTV footage, technical evidence and reliable information.

Ration Card Not Conclusive Proof of Citizenship for Telangana SIR

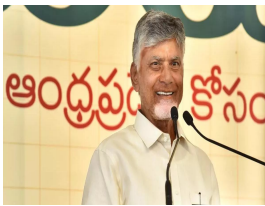


Hyderabad: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday informed that a ration card, unlike a passport or a birth certificate, is certainly not a conclusive proof of citizenship. The choice of proposed documents for verification of electoral rolls and their evidentiary standards necessarily fall within the discretionary domain of the Commission which may not be substituted subject to reasonableness. Also Read - Telangana's Agricultural Policies Draw Interest from Bihar Accordingly, it is hereby clarified that the Family Register Certificate under GO Ms. No. 172 dated July 25, 2026 issued by Telangana government can only be treated as equivalent to a ration card and therefore cannot be accepted as one of the

designated documents during the verification process under SIR, ECI Secretary Navin Kumar said in communication to Chief Electoral Officer, Telangana. However, the Family Member Certificate issued prior to July 25, 2026 under the old regime (Memo dated 25.06.2013) would be accepted during the verification process under SIR.

Naidu Stresses on Establishing Industrial Projects in Rural Areas

Amaravati: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to credit industrial incentives into escrow accounts from December. While incentives are essential to promote industries, the government should also focus on determining the extent of incentives that can realistically be provided, the Chief Minister said. The Chief Minister stressed the need for plans to establish industrial projects in rural areas so that industrialisation contributes to the development of those regions. Also Read - APJUDA Continues Strike over 30 % Stipend Hike, Other Demands The 20th State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meeting



chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu approved investment proposals worth Rs.2,08,406 crore covering 25 projects. These projects are expected to create 21,627 direct jobs. The Chief Minister directed officials to focus on attracting investments in emerging sectors such as green ammonia, lithium batteries and robotics, and to study the measures required to encourage industries in these fields. Conservation with Kumki Elephants, HANUMAN: Pawan He also

called for creating awareness among the public about industrial projects being established across the State. He said misinformation was being spread by some groups by portraying industries as polluting units and creating misconceptions that could obstruct development. The Chief Minister said the data centres being established in North Andhra would require only 3.5 TMC of water and directed officials to take steps to dispel misconceptions regarding data centres. He called for continuous monitoring of industrial development in the State and said fake campaigns were being carried out on social media by some political elements.

Revanth Reddy: Govt Ready to Collaborate with Army on Recruitment



Indian Army Lieutenant General C. Rajesh Pushkar, met Revanth Reddy. During the meeting, Revanth Reddy and the Army official discussed various issues, including army recruitment.

ment. Responding positively to the Chief Minister, Lieutenant General Rajesh Pushkar announced his readiness to set up training centers for youth in various Telangana district headquarters ahead of nationwide army recruitment drives. Also Read - Adilabad Police Bust Inter-State Bike Theft Gang, Arrest 8 Revanth Reddy also discussed the army's role in disaster management and emphasized that the army should play a proactive role in rescue

operations, evacuating people to safety, and rehabilitation efforts in flood-affected areas. Lieutenant General Rajesh Pushkar assured that he would instruct local Army officials to take special initiatives during disaster situations in Telangana. On this occasion, Rajesh Pushkar commended the state government's prestigious Musi River rejuvenation project. Thent and emphasized that the army should play a proactive role in rescue e rejuvenation of the Musi River is the need of the hour to protect Hyderabad by reducing pollution, and restore the city's historical glory.

Sridhar Babu Hits Out at KTR Over Land Allocations



Chandrashekar Rao's farmhouse. Also Read - Revanth Reddy: Govt Ready to Collaborate with Army on Recruitment Responding to KTR's allegations over land allocations, Sridhar Babu said

the Congress government had allotted land strictly in accordance with prescribed rules and regulations. He said land was allotted at Rs.1.50 crore per acre, whereas the previous BRS government had allotted land at ?90 lakh per acre. "We allotted five acres for Rs7.5 crore," he said, asking KTR to explain the basis for the Rs.200 crore figure being quoted by him. The Minister said the HILT policy would benefit the people of Hyderabad

and cautioned KTR against creating fear among industrialists. Also Read - SC Asks States to Frame Policy on Illegal Constructions He said obstructing Telangana's development was not in the interest of the State and urged KTR not to vent his political anger on the people. Sridhar Babu also criticised the BRS for what he described as "Goebbels-style propaganda," saying people had rejected such propaganda in the Lok Sabha and local body elections.

Telanana youth must emulate Uday Nagarju to realise their dreams: Harish Rao



Siddipet: Former Minister T Harish Rao called upon youngsters from Telangana to draw inspiration from the life and journey of Uday Nagaraju, who was elected to the House of Lords in the United Kingdom. Recalling his journey from Shanigaram village in Koheda mandal of Siddipet district, Rao said that Uday Nagaraju had set an example for others to follow with his inspiring journey. Addressing the felicitation programme organised at Vipanchi Kalanilayam on Wednesday, Harish Rao said Uday, the first to get elected to the House from the Telugu states, made Telangana proud with

his achievement. Stating that he had a long association with Uday for over two and a half decades, the former minister recalled the memories of his visit to Uday's residence in the UK. Rao said that Uday also played his part in the Telangana movement by raising his voice for the cause. Speaking after the felicitation, Uday Nagaraju termed the current period as a golden era for relations between India and the UK. Stating that he was part of the talks between the prime ministers of both countries held recently, Uday said that he would play his part in improving all kinds of relations between the countries.

tries. He said that both countries would also play a key role in resolving several issues in the world. Uday assured that he would give utmost priority to issues pertaining to Telangana, apart from working for better relations between India and the UK. Uday also recalled his association with Shanigaram village and festivities such as Bathukamma celebrations, where all sections of people used to gather. As he had his education in Warangal and other towns, Uday said that he had always longed to visit Shanigaram during his childhood days. He thanked the people who backed him during his college days.

Ramchander Rao Calls Jharkhand Students Protests Genuine, Seeks CBI Probe

Hyderabad: BJP Telangana State president N Ramchander Rao on Wednesday called the ongoing student protests in Jharkhand a "genuine movement" and urged the Jharkhand government to hand over the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) paper-leak case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Rao made the remarks in Hyderabad amid protests in Ranchi over issues concerning students and the alleged paper leak. Rao alleged that some forces were attempting to create unrest in Delhi and claimed that they were being supported by the INDIA bloc, the Congress and leaders including Hemant Soren. Also Read - Revanth Reddy: Govt Ready to Collaborate with Army on Recruitment "Some forces are trying to create unrest in Delhi are being supported by the INDIA Alliance, Congress, and leaders like Hemant Soren," he said. Rao said the student movement in Jharkhand was not backed by any political party and that the demands being raised by the protesting stu-



dents were legitimate. "The student movement in Jharkhand is a genuine movement with no political party behind it, and the demands are legitimate," Rao said. Also Read - SC Asks States to Frame Policy on Illegal Constructions He also criticised what he described as attempts to view the situation in Ranchi through a political lens. According to Rao, the issue should instead be treated as a matter concerning students and their future. "The situation in Ranchi should not be viewed politically. The Jharkhand government should treat it as a serious issue concerning students," he said. Rao further demanded that the Jharkhand government transfer the

JPSC paper-leak case to the CBI, saying an independent investigation was necessary to ensure justice for the students. "The Jharkhand government should treat it as a serious issue concerning students and hand over the Jharkhand Public Service Commission paper-leak case to the CBI so that the students can get justice," he said. His remarks came amid a wider political exchange over the situation in Jharkhand. Rao, however, drew a distinction between the political developments in Delhi and the student protests in Jharkhand, maintaining that the latter should be addressed on the basis of the grievances raised by students rather than through political confrontation.

BRS Wants Centre Drop TG Projects Subject From GRMB Agenda

KARIMNAGAR : Senior BRS leader B. Vinod Kumar has demanded that the Union government remove the issue of Telangana irrigation projects from the agenda of the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) meeting scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on August 18. Speaking to reporters here on Wednesday, Vinod Kumar said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had written to the Union government seeking cancellation of permissions for seven irrigation projects constructed on the Godavari in Telangana between 2018 and 2025. Also Read - Telangana: Engineers Urged To Develop Tools For Dryland Farming He said the Union govern-

ment had included the issue of Telangana projects in the GRMB agenda based on the AP Chief Minister's letter. He questioned how Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy would respond to the issue and what they would tell the people of Telangana. Vinod Kumar said it was not proper to seek cancellation of permissions for projects that had been constructed after obtaining the required permissions and then include the matter in the GRMB agenda. Also Read - Telangana:



Devotion Swells At Biabani Dargah As Spine-Chilling Rifayi Feats Mark Grand Finale Of Urs He criticised Telangana MPs for remaining silent while

the AP government sought cancellation of permissions for seven irrigation projects in the state. He said cancellation of the projects would have serious consequences for Telangana. The BRS leader urged MPs to visit Delhi immediately, meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and take steps to remove the issue from the GRMB agenda. He also called upon them to raise the matter in Parliament. He warned that the BRS would launch an agitation if the issue was not removed from the agenda.

275-Foot-Long Tricolour Leads Tiranga Rally In Nellore

A Tiranga rally featuring a 275-foot-long national flag was held in Nellore on Wednesday as part of the Independence Day celebrations. Endowments minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy flagged off the rally, organised under the leadership of collector Himanshu Shukla. Students, elected representatives, officials, voluntary organisations and residents participated in the rally and marched towards VRC while raising patriotic slogans. Also Read - ICAI Allotted Site for a Building in Anantapur The minister said the rally marked the beginning of a series of programmes being organised in the district until August 15 under the theme 'Partners in Nation Building', in line with the directions of the Central and state governments. He said tree-planting programmes and social media campaigns would follow, while the main Independence Day celebrations would be held at the Parade Grounds on August 15. Also Read



- Political Activity Picking Up Ahead of Local Body Polls in Tirupati District Ramanarayana Reddy said the Tiranga rally was aimed at fostering patriotism, national unity and respect for the sacrifices of freedom fighters. He called upon people to work together for the glory and prosperity of the nation. The minister appreciated the participation of public representatives, officials, media personnel,

students and voluntary organisations, saying collective involvement would strengthen the spirit of national unity. Zilla parishad chairperson Anam Arunamma, MLAs Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy, Dagumati Venkata Krishna Reddy and Kakarla Suresh, joint collector Mogili Venkateswarlu, DRO Vijay Kumar and MunPicking Up Ahead of Local Body Polls in Tirupati District

Ramanarayana Reddy said the Tiranga rally was aimed at fostering patriotism, national unity and respect for the sacrifices of freedom fighters. He called upon people to work together for the glory and prosperity of the nation. The minister appreciated the participation of public representatives, officials, municipal Commissioner Y.O. Nandan were among those who participated.

Veligonda Evacuation Plan Gets Urgent Push Ahead Of Trial Run

Markapuram: Markapuram collector M. Vijaya Sunitha has directed officials to ensure the safe evacuation of people from villages in the Veligonda project's submergence area ahead of the scheduled water release trial run on August 22. Reviewing rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) arrangements with district officials at the Collectorate on Wednesday, the Collector directed officials to carry out the evacuation without pressure or confrontation and in a cordial atmosphere. She said every eligible displaced family would receive justice in compensation matters. Also Read - ICAI Allotted Site for a Building in Anantapur Special committees have been constituted to oversee the planned evacuation of residents from Sunkesula, Kalanuthala, Gundacherla, Gottipadiya, Chintala Mudipi, Katamaraju Thanda, Lakshimpuram,

Krishnanagar and Akkacheruvu villages. Vijaya Sunitha directed officials to submit daily progress reports on R&R colonies and complete essential facilities, including drinking water, electricity and roads, on a priority basis. She also directed officials to take precautionary measures to prevent difficulties during the relocation process. Joint Collector P. Srinivasulu, RDO Venkata Sivaramireddy and officials from RWS, Transport, Mining, DWMA, Agriculture, Education and other departments attended the meeting. Markapuram collector M. Vijaya Sunitha has directed officials to ensure the safe evacuation of people from villages in the Veligonda project's submergence area ahead of the scheduled water release trial run on August 22. Reviewing rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) arrangements with district offi-



cials at the Markapuram Collectorate on Wednesday, the Collector directed officials to carry out the evacuation without pressure or confrontation and in a cordial atmosphere. She said every eligible displaced family would receive justice in compensation matters. Also Read - ICAI Allotted Site for a Building in Anantapur Special committees have been constituted to oversee the planned evacuation of residents from Sunkesula, Kalanuthala, Gundacherla, Gottipadiya, Chintala Mudipi, Katamaraju Thanda, Lakshimpuram,

Krishnanagar and Akkacheruvu villages. Vijaya Sunitha directed officials to submit daily progress reports on R&R colonies and complete essential facilities, including drinking water, electricity and roads, on a priority basis. She also directed officials to take precautionary measures to prevent difficulties during the relocation process. Joint Collector P. Srinivasulu, RDO Venkata Sivaramireddy and officials from RWS, Transport, Mining, DWMA, Agriculture, Education and other departments attended the meeting.

HC Reserves Verdict on Plea Alleging Norm Violations in Suspended CI's Interrogation

Hyderabad: BRS working president and former IT Minister KT Rama Rao on Wednesday launched a global artificial intelligence knowledge, comparison and compliance platform aimed at helping users, businesses and policymakers navigate the fast-changing AI landscape. The launch event in Hyderabad was attended by AI Hub Switzerland founder Sridhar Gande and other dignitaries, including former Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Mahesh Bigala and NRIs from the UK and the US. AI Hub Switzerland is a hybrid platform (https://ai-hub.host) rather than a software integration service. It does not directly plug AI tools into computer systems. Instead, it func-



tions as a curated directory and intelligence reference layer where users can compare more than 125 AI tools, 62 company and vendor profiles and 51 real-world case studies. The platform also functions as a knowledge base and think tank. It tracks 23 AI compliance and governance frameworks, including the EU AI Act and NIST standards, while building a wider network of companies, researchers and practi-

tioners. The objective is to support users at different stages of AI adoption. For beginners and learners, it offers plain-English explainers, structured learning paths and resource libraries. Builders and developers can access tool comparisons, API breakdowns and integration guides. For managers and executives, the platform provides real-world ROI data, vendor comparison tables and a consulting toolkit with assessment

templates and implementation playbooks. AI Hub Switzerland plans to expand into a global AI think tank through a contributor network of researchers, data scientists and engineers. It will support peer-reviewed benchmarks, whitepapers and technical evaluations, besides practitioner groups in healthcare, fintech and enterprise automation. It will focus on linking AI technology with regulatory guidance, cross-border policy dialogues and on civil society, labour markets and compliance. Sridhar Gande said the initiative aimed at AI innovation and responsible regulation while empowering enterprises and policymakers to build an ethical and efficient AI ecosystem.

Engineers Urged To Develop Tools For Dryland Farming

HYDERABAD : Engineers should develop better instruments suited to dryland agriculture and Indian conditions, Dr Stanford Blade, deputy director general, research and innovation, international crops research institute for the semi-arid tropics, said at Jawaharlal Nehru technological university Hyderabad (JNTUH) on Wednesday. Blade was speaking at the valedictory session of the three-day international conference on artificial intelligence for sustainable future: transforming biotechnology-driven science, technology and society, which brought together nearly 200 registered participants, including scientists, academicians, clinicians, engineers, research scholars, students, industry representatives, innovators, start-ups and incubators. Also Read - Telangana: Devotion Swells At Biabani Dargah As Spine-Chilling Rifayi Feats



Mark Grand Finale Of Urs Guest of honour Dr Qi Yang spoke about how AI intervention was improving precision in pharmaceutical and agricultural applications, while Dr Namrata Pathak, scientist-G and adviser, PCMP division, department of science and technology (DST), Government of India, outlined the DST's role in promoting scientific research, innovation and translational ecosystems. Pathak also interacted with representatives of 22 Telangana incubators at the TGIC incubators meet. Held under the theme, "From technology to commer-

cialisation," it focused on technology validation, intellectual property, incubation, funding, scale-up and commercialisation. Also Read - BRS Wants Centre Drop TG Projects Subject From GRMB Agenda JNTUH vice-chancellor Dr T. Kishen Kumar Reddy, chief patron of the conference, said state universities were contributing to the latest developments in science and technology. He pointed to the potential of ancient bioformulations in traditional medicine and said biotechnology solutions needed to be sustainable. He also described Hyderabad as

a favourable location for the biotechnology industry. Also Read - Record-Breaking Paddy Produce During Congress Govt in Telangana: Revanth Reddy The conference, held from August 10 to 12, covered AI in healthcare, precision medicine and diagnostics, sustainable agriculture and food security, bioprocessing and bioentrepreneurship, environment, climate and clean energy, marine, space and defence biotechnology, and AI in policy, governance and society. A panel on AI in biopharma, with RICH CEO Rashmi Pimpale, examined AI applications across the biopharmaceutical value chain, from discovery and development to manufacturing, commercialisation and patient delivery. Also Read - Telangana Government Cracks A Whip On Defaulted Rice Millers At the inaugural session, Dr Sarvesh Singh, CEO, Telangana Life Sciences,

Telangana: 27 Kg Mephedrone Worth 54 Crore Seized, Four Held

NALGONDA: Bibinagar police and the special operations team (SOT) of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district on Sunday arrested four persons and seized 27 kg of mephedrone, a synthetic stimulant covered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, valued at around 54 crore, along with 40 kg of acetone used in drug manufacturing. The arrested were identified as Chetan Madhukar Meshram, 49, of Nagpur, Maharashtra; Muvjamal Hoque, 25, of Marigaon, Assam; Akash Ashok Gawande, 31, of Nagpur; and Upadrasht Ramana Murthy, 65, of Chanderanagar, Hyderabad. Also Read - Bonalu Celebrated With Fervour In Hyderabad; Telangana CM, Kishan Reddy Greet People Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district Superintendent of Police Akshansh Yadav said the arrests followed credible information about the transportation of drugs.



Bibinagar police and SOT personnel intercepted a SuV on the outskirts of Kondamadugu and found the mephedrone and acetone in the vehicle. During interrogation, the accused allegedly told police that mephedrone had been manufactured at Vetukuri Labs in Kondamadugu between August 5 and 7, with the help of other associates. The drug was allegedly being transported from

Kondamadugu to Nagpur for further distribution. Against Cyber Frauds subsequently searched the laboratory and seized a reactor, centrifuge and other equipment allegedly used in the manufacture of the drug. Further action would be taken against the laboratory in accordance with law, the SP said. Police identified Chetan Madhukar Meshram as the alleged organiser and financier

of the operation, while Upadrasht Ramana Murthy, who was in charge of Vetukuri Labs, was allegedly involved in the manufacturing process. The SP said special teams had been formed to trace four other suspects who were absconding. They were identified as Md. Ayub Ali of Assam, Chanda Pradeep Thakur and Gopal Sirpat Patelia of Nagpur, and Yeatucuri of Hyderabad.

159 Sites Identified To Recharge Groundwater, Sustain Ganga Flow During Summers, Ganga Mission Tells NGT

New Delhi: The Centre has said that it is undertaking scientific, technical and institutional measures to restore and maintain the integral relationship between the Ganga river's surface water flow and groundwater systems. It has formed that a study identified over 159 potential managed aquifer recharge (MAR) sites to enhance groundwater storage, sustain river baseflows during lean seasons, and improve the hydrological connectivity between groundwater and the Ganga river. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, made this statement before the National Green Tribunal, in the wake of its directive to it submit a response in a matter relating to issues arising out of a study concerning the contribution of groundwater and glacier melt to the summer flows of the Ganga, and the importance of maintaining the interrelationship between surface water and groundwater systems in the Ganga Basin. The Tribunal had registered a suo motu case in August last year, following a news report that claimed a study by IIT-



Roorkee had found that groundwater, and not glacier melt, is the main source maintaining the summer flow of the river, especially beyond the Himalayan foothills and up to Patna. The report mentioned that glacier melt contributes very little to the river's flow beyond the hilly regions, while groundwater discharge enhances the volume in the plains. The report suggested that programmes like Namami Gange and Jal Shakti Abhiyan should focus on recharging groundwater, managing aquifer use, restoring wetlands, and reviving tributaries to ensure a steady flow in the river. In its recent reply submitted before the Tribunal, a copy

of which was accessed by ETV Bharat, the NMCG stated that it is a nodal agency for the effective abatement of pollution and rejuvenation, protection and management of the Ganga river and its tributaries. The agency also said that it had undertaken a pioneering initiative to understand and strengthen groundwater-surface water interactions in the Ganga Basin through advanced hydro-geophysical investigations and scientific aquifer mapping, in collaboration with CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute. "The study identified an extensive buried paleochannel network in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab (Prayagraj-Kanpur stretch), using

Airborne Electro-magnetic (AEM) surveys and hydrogeological modelling. The study identified over 159 potential MAR sites, enabling targeted recharge interventions to enhance groundwater storage, sustain river baseflows during lean seasons, and improve the hydrological connectivity between groundwater and the Ganga river," the NMCG said in its additional reply filed before it. It has initiated a Rs 2.36-crore project to manage aquifer recharge along the identified paleochannel system of the Ganga main stem (Kaushambi-Kanpur stretch) in Uttar Pradesh. It said the project implementation agency is Uttar Pradesh Ground Water

Department (UPGWD), in collaboration with CSIR-NGRI. The project includes construction of engineered recharge structures, real-time groundwater monitoring, hydro-geophysical investigations, and development of a standard operating procedure (SOP) for scientific aquifer recharge. "The study identified an extensive buried paleochannel network in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab (Prayagraj-Kanpur stretch), using Airborne Electro-magnetic (AEM) surveys and hydrogeological modelling. The study identified over 159 potential MAR sites, enabling targeted recharge interventions to enhance groundwater storage, sustain river baseflows during lean seasons, and improve the hydrological connectivity between groundwater and the Ganga river," the NMCG said in its additional reply filed before the NGT. Based on these, the NMCG said it has initiated a Rs 2.36-crore project to manage aquifer recharge along the identified paleochannel system of the Ganga main stem (Kaushambi-Kanpur stretch) in Uttar Pradesh. It said the project imple-

Beyond The Fence, Fear Stalks Indian Farmers On Their Own Land In West Bengal's Jalpaiguri



Jalpaiguri: The wait for Dipankar Gop's return has left his family distraught. A small tea grower from the Chaulhati area of Rajganj in Jalpaiguri, Dipankar is missing ever since he crossed Gate No. 30 on August 8 this year to spray his tea plants in a garden situated on Indian land beyond the fence. His family alleges he was taken away by Bangladeshi nationals and later handed over to the Border Guard Bangladesh. They also claim that he was detained for nearly a day and a half before Bangladesh Police arrested him on charges of 'illegal infiltration'. "Please bring my husband back. We have a small child. I don't know what to do," is all that his wife Mahamaya Gop appeals. His father, Mistrilal Gop, said, "People from Bangladesh abducted my son and held him

captive. Later, they handed him over to the BGB. I appeal to the Indian government to bring my son back." For farmers in parts of North Bengal, the journey to farmlands through the border gate has become an unending uncertainty. Adding to it is Dipankar's disappearance. It has also revived memories of a similar incident involving Ukil Barman, a farmer from Sitalkuchi in Cooch Behar. On April 16, 2025, Ukil had gone to his agricultural land, which is within Indian territory but lies beyond the fence. He was allegedly abducted by people from Bangladesh, detained by the BGB and subsequently handed over to Bangladesh Police. He was booked on charges of 'illegal infiltration' and he spent around 29 days in a Bangladeshi jail before returning home following inter-

vention by the Indian government. His release brought relief, but that did not end the ordeal he faced. Due to constant fear, he has stopped going to his land. Farmers in the region worry that others may keep away from their fields for the fear of facing consequences. A reality the farmers here are aware of, the fields they cultivate lie within India, but it is on the other side of the barbed-wire fence. Reaching their crops means crossing the fence through designated gates - and farmers allege, this makes them open for abduction, assault and even arrest in Bangladesh. The two instances have deepened the already existing unease, particularly among small tea growers, with nearly 200 tea gardens. It has put the livelihoods of around 25,000 growers linked to land located beyond the fence, in a quandary. For those living along the border, the threat is not confined to abductions and arrests. Farmers have reported assaults, destruction of standing crops and the theft of paddy and tea leaves by people allegedly

: UP Plans Helicopter Flower Showers For Kanwariyas Across 7 Western Districts

Dhanbad: The police remand of three hardcore Maoists, including CPI (Maoist) Politburo member and Rs 2.20-crore bounty Naxal leader Misir Besra alias Sagar, ended on Wednesday. After the completion of their remand, all three were brought to Dhanbad under tight security. Following medical examinations at Sadar Hospital, they were produced before a court, which sent them to judicial custody. Besra, also known as Sagar Da or Bhaskar Da, is a senior CPI (Maoist) Politburo and Central Committee member who was arrested by security forces in Jharkhand. His arrest was a significant development in anti-Naxal operations and affected the



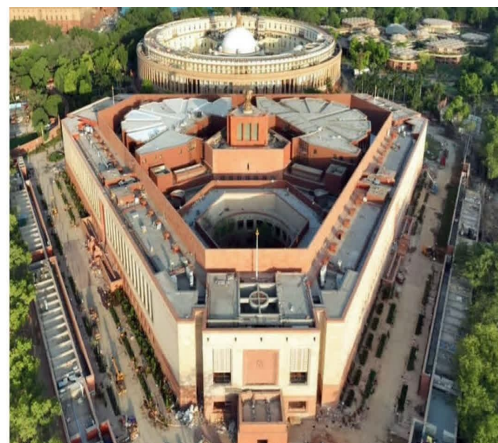
top command structure of the banned Left-Wing Extremist organisation. The three Maoists were taken to Ranchi after being granted police remand on July 31. During

the remand period, teams from the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Intelligence Jharkhand Police questioned them. The agencies sought infor-

mation about Maoist activities, sources of financial support, weapons supplies and associates linked to the organisation. They also examined several important links in the Maoist network. Besides Misir Besra, the two others sent to jail are Mehnat alias Mochhu alias Vibhishan, who carried a Rs 15-lakh bounty and Gaurav alias Virendra Hansda alias Saurabh. Security forces had identified all three as long-wanted Maoists. Elaborate security arrangements were made when the three were brought to Dhanbad's Sadar Hospital for medical examination. Additional SSP said the police remand had ended and the three were produced before the court after their medical examination.

deployed inside the hospital premises and in surrounding areas. After the medical examination, the police escorted the three to the court, where they all three as long-wanted Maoists. Elaborate security arrangements were made when the three were brought to Dhanbad's Sadar Hospital for medical examination. Additional SSP said the police remand had ended and the three were produced before the court after their medical examination.

Private Hospital Room Cost Must Not Exceed 3-Star Hotel Room Tariff In Cities: Parl Panel



New Delhi: A private hospital room in a metropolitan city should not cost more than the average tariff of a three-star hotel room in the vicinity, a parliamentary committee has recommended as part of a series of measures to make healthcare more affordable and curb out-of-pocket expenditure. The 176th Report of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, titled "Affordability and Accessibility of Healthcare Facilities in Public and Private Sector" said room charges in private hospitals, particularly in metropolitan cities, need to be rationalised on an "emergent basis". The report was presented in the Rajya Sabha and tabled in Lok Sabha on August 7. The panel recommended making the three-star hotel tariff benchmark mandatory for all private hospitals in large metropolitan cities. Resident doctor, nursing, disposable consumable, meal and laundry costs may be added to the

basic room tariff, it said. It also recommended that the government mandate all tertiary care hospitals to provide patients with a comprehensive and legally binding upfront cost estimate before starting any complex or prolonged medical intervention. Hospitals should also deploy dedicated financial navigators to help patients and their families understand treatment costs, available philanthropic assistance and health assurance limits, it said. The committee noted that households continue to face significant financial stress while accessing private healthcare, with average out-of-pocket expenditure per hospitalisation episode pegged at Rs 34,064. It also flagged medical inflation of 10-13 per cent and differential billing practices linked to room categories. The panel recommended eliminating room-rent-linked inflation models for standard procedures across private hospitals and putting in place standardised

treatment guidelines and mechanisms to cap arbitrary price variations. It further called for "continuum of care" packages that bundle preventive screening, diagnostics, curative treatment and palliative care under a single capped financial umbrella, saying financial protection should extend beyond acute treatment and surgery to follow-up, rehabilitation and end-of-life care. For expensive cancer and rare-disease therapies, immunotherapy, genomic and targeted treatments, the committee proposed creation of a regulated National or State Healthcare Corpus Fund by pooling CSR (corporate social responsibility) contributions, philanthropic donations and charitable grants. It should be used to subsidise or fully fund high-cost therapies for eligible patients, it said. The committee also recommended that psychological counselling, emotional support and patient support groups be made mandatory, zero-cost components of approved treatment protocols and capped packages for severe, chronic and terminal diseases in both public and private sectors. On medicines and medical devices, it recommended mandatory AMRIT and Jan Aushadhi pharmacies within all hospitals

Bihar Man Posing As Fake IAS Officer Held; Property Estimated At Rs 100 Crore

Khagaria: A man posing as a fake IAS officer was arrested by the police in Jamalpur Bazaar, under the Gogri police station area of Khagaria district of Bihar on Saturday night. Following a tip-off, a raid was conducted at the residence of the accused, identified as Manish Kumar Gupta. The operation was carried out by a joint team comprising the district intelligence unit (DIU), Gogri DSP Chandan Thakur, and personnel from the Gogri police station, under the instructions of Khagaria SP Bhanu Pratap Singh. The team found two SUVs with "Government of India" signboards parked outside Gupta's house. During questioning, Gupta claimed to own the vehicles but could not provide a satisfactory explanation for displaying the official boards. Gupta identified himself as an IAS officer and showed an alleged identity card on his mobile



phone. The police seized a printout of the card. Additionally, he claimed to be an undercover agent for National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. Preliminary verification by police revealed this claim to be false. During the raid, 23 credit cards and approximately eight debit cards of

various banks and companies were recovered from the house. The police also seized chequebooks from four banks and the DVR system for the 11 CCTV cameras installed in the house, which are being examined. The item seized from the accused. The items seized from the accused. (ETV Bharat)

Two antlers of a Barasingha (swamp deer) have also been recovered from the house, which could lead to legal action under wildlife protection laws. SP Singh said 31 litres of expensive foreign liquor and five iPhones were also found from the accused's possession. A detailed inventory of the

seized items is being prepared. "Manish Gupta used to swindle people by posing as an IAS officer. An IAS identity card was also recovered from his possession. During interrogation, he claimed to be an undercover agent for Ajit Doval. The police have seized several items, including a Tesla car," he added. Singh said the accused amassed immense wealth, estimated to be Rs 100 crore, by intimidating and defrauding people. A team from the Economic Offences Unit in Patna will be summoned to investigate the entire matter, he added. Gogri police station house officer (SHO) Arvind Kumar said an FIR has been registered naming Manish Kumar Gupta. "The police are examining the recovered documents, cards, vehicles, and CCTV footage to determine the purpose for which the official identity was being used," he added.

way security staff are following the established security protocol, while strengthening deployment "this year to ensure a rapid response to any suspicious activity or security threat." "QRT and commando teams have been kept ready to respond swiftly to any emerging situation. The combination of additional manpower, ground-based teams and aerial surveillance is aimed at ensuring a proper security cover across the railway network," an RPF official said.

Passenger Advisory
The railway authorities have advised travellers that in view of enhanced security arrangements being strengthened from August to 16, Passengers have been advised to plan their journey accordingly, reach stations early, cooperate with the security personnel and contact Rail Madad Day, security checks will be strengthened from August to 16. Passengers have been advised to plan their journey accordingly.

Colombians Dig Through Rubble As Quake Death Toll Surpasses 240

Pereira: Rescuers, soldiers and volunteers searched through collapsed apartment blocks and office buildings Tuesday across western Colombia, racing to find survivors after the country's strongest earthquake in a century killed at least 241 people and left many more homeless. In Pereira and Cali, families slept in parks as aftershocks rattled damaged neighborhoods where entire blocks had been reduced to rubble. Emergency crews used cranes, dogs and heavy machinery to search ruined buildings while volunteers formed human chains to clear debris by hand, hoping to reach people still trapped beneath collapsed structures. The 7.4-magnitude quake injured more than 1,670 people, according to a tally by municipal authorities. It overwhelmed parts of the health system, turning the rescue effort into one of Colombia's largest disaster responses in years. "The house came down on top of us. I wasn't able to get out," said Beatriz Arcos, who was trapped with her



husband and mother beneath their collapsed condominium. "It took about an hour to get us out," Arcos said she was hospitalized after a concrete block fell on her back. Her husband and mother were also injured. In Cali, residents armed with picks, shovels and their bare hands joined firefighters in digging through collapsed buildings. Rescuers stopped every few minutes to call into the rubble and listen for any response. "One of the rescuers asked anyone trapped to whistle, and someone whistled back," volunteer Andres Felipe Mejia said. Rescuers later pulled a man and a baby from a

pancaked building, though the man's wife remained trapped, he said. In Pereira, army units and sniffer dogs combed through twisted concrete and exposed steel. At one site, a rescue squad leader abruptly raised his fist, stopping workers so they could listen for signs of life. Volunteers formed human chains, passing bricks and chunks of masonry hand-to-hand to clear paths into collapsed structures. For many families, the desperate search was becoming a vigil. "My aunt lived there. She's under the rubble," said Jorge Gonzalez, standing beside a collapsed building in Pereira. "I

arrived yesterday and I haven't left, and until they find her body I don't intend to leave here." While some families waited for news of missing relatives, others were grappling with the loss of homes, possessions and livelihoods. "We lost everything," said Stella Galvis, fighting back tears after escaping the collapse of her home. "We survived by a miracle, since I managed to get my little boy out and my partner managed to get out too." From the air, neighborhoods in Cali appeared flattened, with piles of grey rubble replacing entire blocks of homes and apartment buildings.

Over 16,000 Civilians Detained By Russia During The War In Ukraine Are Still Held, UN Estimates

London: An Indian-origin writer has been appointed to the board of the UK's National Lottery Community Fund, one of the country's key funding bodies that facilitate community projects through lucrative grants.

Sunder Katwala, founder of the think tank British Future, began his new role this week, which involves the effective delivery of the strategy and performance of the community fund. The 52-year-old author of 'How to Be a Patriot' will work with chair Dame Julia Cleverdon and other board members over a four-year term. "Sunder Katwala is the Director of British Future, an independent, non-partisan think tank and charity," said the UK government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), announcing the new appointment. "The organisation engages with questions of identity, immigration and integration, seeking to build confidence and common



ground in a changing Britain. "Since May 2026, Sunder has been a Commissioner of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and is a member of the Commission on Community and Cohesion," it stated. A prominent commentator on immigration issues, Katwala has been associated with the Fabian Society and Foreign Policy Centre. "British Future works to understand public atti-

tudes and inform debates on issues that can often seem noisy and polarised," said Katwala. "We listen to people's views, finding common ground and offering constructive solutions – building consensus for reforms to immigration and integration policy that can work for all of us," he said. The National Lottery Community Fund awards money raised by National Lottery players to communities across the UK, working with

local groups and charities. It is an executive non-departmental public body overseen by the Secretary of State at DCMS, a portfolio currently held by British Indian minister Lisa Nandy. According to the fund's latest report for 2025-26, it distributed 939.7 million pounds through over 14,063 grants across the country to support activities that are expected to benefit local communities in the long term and help them thrive.

Drone Strikes Hit Libya's Key Western Oil Town And A Car Bomb Kills An Officer In The East



Cairo: Firefighters in western Libya battled on Tuesday to extinguish a massive fire caused by a drone strike on an oil facility the day before, when their town on the Mediterranean coast came under a wave of drone attacks targeting key oil installations. Drone strikes continued on Tuesday, hitting the town's power plant and oil refinery, the state-run National Oil Corporation said. The attacks underscored the fragile state of security at Libya's critical infrastructure. In the country's east, in the city of Benghazi, a car bomb killed a senior military officer with a self-styled military force on Monday, the latest such bombing in the violence-stricken North African nation. No group has so far claimed responsibility for either the drone strikes in the town of Zawiya, about 47 kilometers (about 30 miles) west of the capital of Tripoli, or the Benghazi bombing. Monday's first drone strike ignited a massive blaze at the refinery's gasoline-storage tank that burned through the night and into Tuesday afternoon, according to the Civil Defense, a first responders agency. There were no reports of casualties, health authorities said. Footage aired by local media showed massive flames and fireballs erupting from the tank, with black and orange smoke rising in the sky as firefighters sprayed what appeared to be foam or water in efforts to extinguish the blaze.

As the firefighters fought the flames, another drone hit close to a key oil tank nearby but did not cause any casualties, the company said. It said the tank, which held 4.5 million liters of fuel when it was hit, collapsed and the company declared a state of maximum emergency at the facility. On Tuesday, two drones hit the town's power plant, with one damaging its firefighting system while the second landed close to the facility's main fuel storage, setting it on fire. The national oil company said firefighters quickly got that fire under control and there were no casualties. Oil infrastructure in Zawiya — which houses critical energy infrastructure, including Libya's largest oil refinery, an export terminal and a power plant — has come under frequent attacks, including over the weekend when the national oil company said drones hit a fuel tank and a desalination plant linked to the oil facilities. It said the tank was damaged. By late Tuesday evening, the national oil company said all the fires had been extinguished. The attacks come as tensions are rising between the government of western Libya who controls the city of Zawiya. Much of western Libya is ruled by local militias loosely allied to Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah's government in Tripoli. Jalel Harchaoui, an analyst affiliated with the Royal United Services Institute in London, said

the warlord has been cornered by the government and his forces "are likely to resort to desperate measures." The Benghazi bombing on Monday evening killed a senior officer with the forces of powerful commander Khalifa Hifter. Maj. Gen. Fawzy al-Mansouri, director of the military intelligence of Hifter's self-styled Libyan National Army, was killed when an explosive-laden vehicle detonated near his car in the Sayyida Aisha neighborhood in Benghazi, the LNA said. The LNA is allied with one of Libya's two rival governments, which controls the country's eastern and southern parts. Libya, a largely lawless Mediterranean country, has been plunged into chaos and division following the 2011 uprising-turned-civil war, which toppled and later killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Amid the chaos, militias grew in wealth and power, particularly in Tripoli and the western part of the country. The country has been divided for years between rival administrations in the east and west, each backed by armed groups and foreign governments. Currently, it is governed by Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah's government in the west and by the administration of Prime Minister Oussama Hammad in the east. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who is to arrive in Libya for a visit this week, is due to visit both Tripoli and Benghazi.

Indian Co-Owner Of LPL Franchise Arrested In Sri Lanka In Player Bribery Case

Colombo: A former Indian under-19 cricketer, who is a co-owner of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) franchise Jaffna Kings, was arrested by Sri Lanka's sports anti-corruption investigators on Friday over allegations of attempting to bribe a player. The arrest took place hours before the sixth edition of the tournament kicked off. The suspect, Manjot Kalra, remembered for his match-winning century in the final of the 2018 Under-19 Cricket World Cup, was arrested by the Police Special

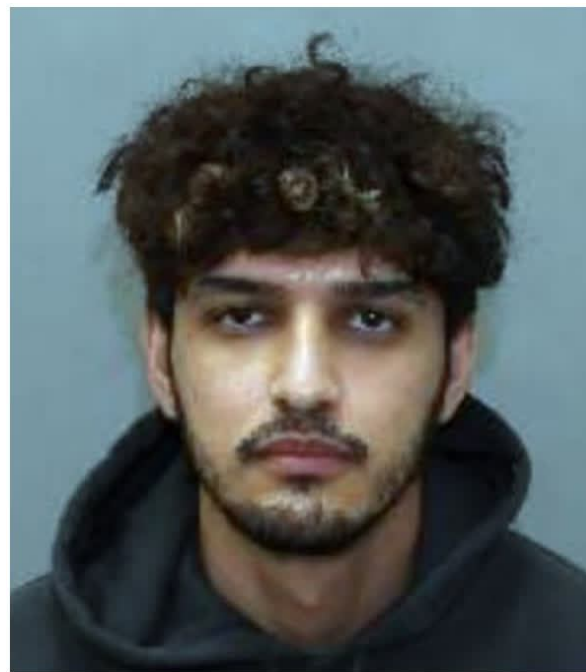


Investigation Unit for the Prevention of Offences Relating to Sports and later produced before a magistrate. Kalra, 27, who transitioned into sports entrepreneurship, invested in the Jaffna Kings franchise earlier this

year. According to the Sri Lankan police, Kalra is accused of attempting to induce a player with money in connection with the tournament. Investigators said the player had alerted the authorities after being approached around 10 days earlier, leading to the arrest on Friday. The complaint was lodged by Sri Lanka players Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Avishka Fernando and Dunith Wellalage, the police said. All three of them

play for the Jaffna Kings franchise. The arrest came on the opening day of the LPL 2026 with Jaffna Kings taking on Galle Gallants at the SSC Grounds in Colombo. The five-team tournament features 24 matches and is scheduled to conclude on August 8. The LPL has faced scrutiny over allegations of match fixing, bribery and corruption for a while. Earlier this year, a Sri Lankan court handed a four-year suspended prison sentence to the owner of another LPL

Man Arrested 7 Months After Indian Woman's Murder In Canada



Toronto: A 32-year-old man has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death of an Indian national in Canada last December, local media reported. Abdul Ghafoori was arrested at a Toronto airport on Friday after returning to Canada following more than seven months on the run, CBC News reported. The case relates to the death of

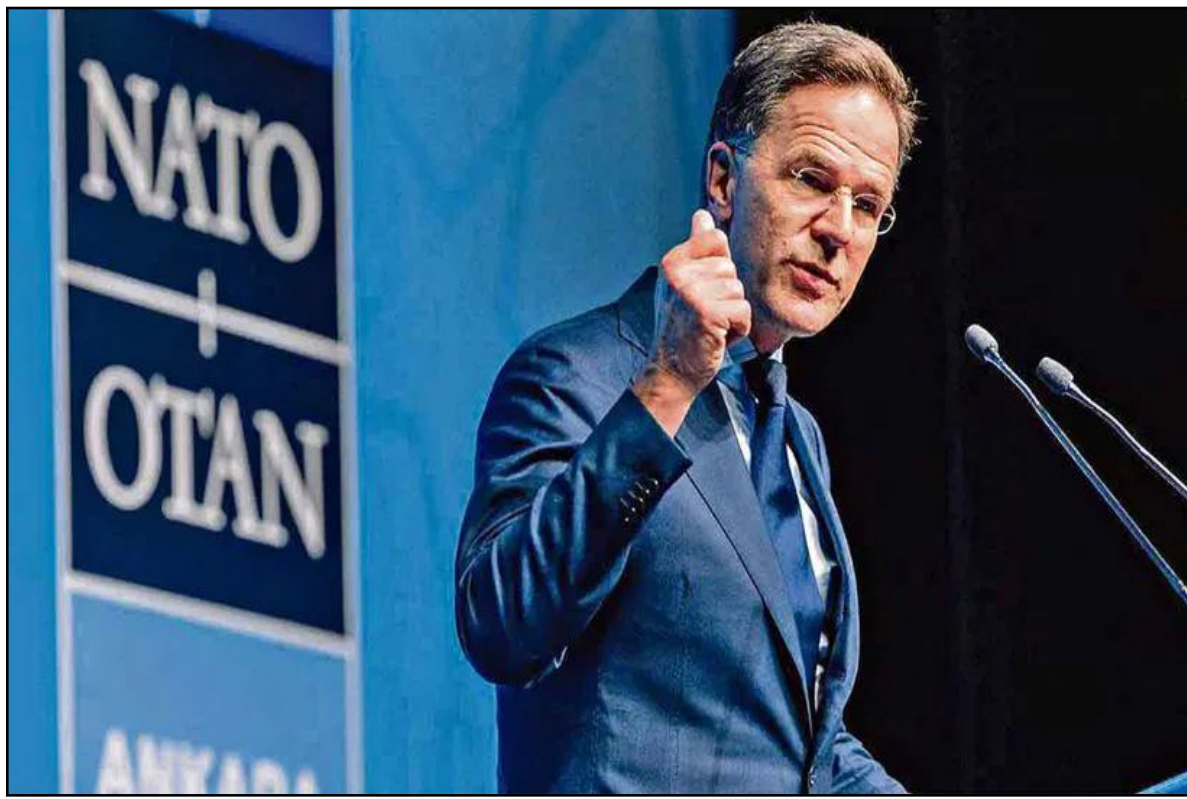
30-year-old Himanshi Khurana, who was found dead inside a Toronto residence in December last year. Police had earlier determined that her death was a homicide and said she was in an intimate partner relationship with Ghafoori. Officers with the force's Fugitive Squad and Homicide and Missing Persons Unit worked with national and international



law enforcement agencies to facilitate Ghafoori's return without specifying the country from which he was brought back, the report said. After the murder was reported, Canadian law enforcement had issued a countrywide warrant for Ghafoori's arrest last year. Ghafoori was charged with first-degree murder. He was scheduled to appear before the Toronto

Regional Bail Centre on Saturday, the Toronto Sun reported. The Consulate General of India in Toronto had earlier expressed shock and grief over Khurana's death. In a post on X on December 24, the Consulate said Khurana was a "young Indian national" and that it was extending all possible assistance to her family in coordination with local authorities.

A new burden-sharing compact for NATO



The latest NATO summit underscored a strategic reality that the Alliance can no longer afford to ignore: European security cannot continue to rest disproportionately on American military power. For decades, successive US administrations have argued that many European allies benefited from Washington's security umbrella while devoting relatively greater resources to domestic welfare than to defence.

mp's Arctic obsession President Donald Trump's longstanding insistence that Europe shoulder a larger share of collective defence has accelerated a debate that Russia's invasion of Ukraine had already made unavoidable. The commitments adopted at the 2025 Hague Summit, including raising core defence spending to 3.5 per cent of GDP along with an additional 1.5 per cent for defence and security-related investments, marked a watershed in NATO's long-running burden-sharing debate. Together, they signal the Alliance's gradual shift towards a more balanced distribution of responsibilities, even though translating these commitments into military capability will remain politically and economically demanding.

Defence Expenditure The decision to raise defence expenditure reflects far more than American pressure. Russia's war in Ukraine has fundamentally altered threat perceptions across Europe, exposing critical deficiencies in ammunition stocks, missile defence, logistics, industrial capacity and military readiness.

European governments increasingly recognise that credible deterrence cannot be sustained without long-term investment in modern military capabilities, including drones, long-range missiles, cyber defence, intelligence assets and integrated air defence systems. Equally important is the political objective of reassuring Washington that Europe is prepared to assume greater responsibility for its own security, thereby preserving transatlantic cohesion at a time of heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

The evolving debate within NATO reinforces an enduring strategic lesson: lasting security ultimately rests on sustained national investment rather than permanent reliance on external partners.

Yet strategic consensus does not automatically translate into political consensus. The greatest obstacle to higher defence spending is likely to be domestic politics rather than strategic necessity. Increasing military expenditure inevitably revives the classic dilemma of "guns versus butter". Higher defence budgets require difficult fiscal choices, such as increased taxation, additional public borrowing, or reductions in spending on healthcare, pensions, and welfare programmes.

Social Priorities Public demonstrations in countries such as Italy illustrate the political sensitivity of shifting resources from social priorities to defence. Major economies, including Britain and France, continue to face fiscal constraints, while Spain and Portugal remain cautious about substantially increasing military expenditure. The challenge for European governments will therefore be to convince their electorates that long-term security is itself a prerequisite for sustained prosperity and social stability. Without credible defence, both economic resilience and welfare become increasingly vulnerable.

Threat perceptions, however, remain far from uniform across Europe. Geography continues to shape strategic priorities. Frontline states such as Poland, Finland and the Baltic republics view Russian military power not as a distant geopolitical concern but as an immediate national security challenge. Consequently, they have demonstrated greater willingness to increase taxes, rationalise public expenditure and accelerate military modernisation. Lithuania has introduced additional security-related taxation, while several northern European countries are expanding investments in air defence, ammunition production and force readiness. In these countries, public opinion broadly accepts that

higher defence spending is the price of national survival. By contrast, countries farther from Russia's borders generally perceive lower levels of immediate risk, making it politically more difficult to prioritise defence over welfare. The divergence illustrates that NATO's burden-sharing debate is shaped as much by differing threat perceptions as by economic constraints.

US Role The evolving role of NATO's leadership has also been significant. Secretary General Mark Rutte's public engagement with President Trump has attracted criticism in some quarters for appearing unusually accommodating. Yet it can equally be viewed as pragmatic diplomacy aimed at preserving American commitment while Europe rebuilds its military capabilities. At a time when uncertainty surrounds Washington's long-term security guarantees, maintaining Alliance cohesion has become a strategic imperative rather than a matter of diplomatic convenience.

Equally important has been Ukraine's continued resistance against Russian forces. By absorbing the principal military pressure from Russia, Ukraine has effectively bought valuable time for European countries to replenish ammunition stocks, expand defence production, procure advanced weapon systems and strengthen military readiness. Kyiv's battlefield resilience has therefore become an important enabling factor in Europe's broader rearmament effort, allowing European governments to undertake structural reforms in defence planning that would have been considerably more difficult under conditions of direct military pressure. Taken together, these developments suggest that NATO is entering a new phase in which European members are expected to assume substantially greater responsibility for their own defence, while the United States increasingly functions as a strategic enabler rather than the Alliance's unquestioned security provider. Washington will remain indispensable in areas such as intel-

ligence, strategic lift and nuclear deterrence.

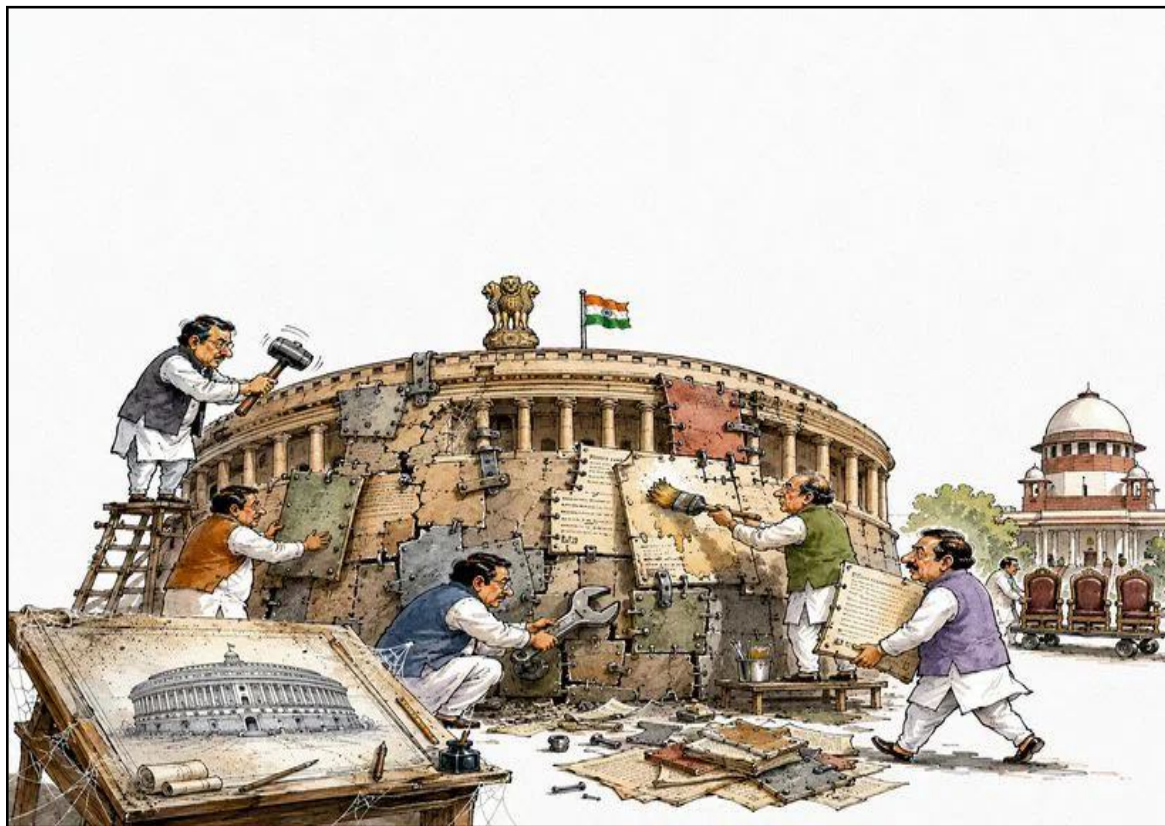
Nevertheless, Europe's growing investments seek to reduce long-term dependence on American military capabilities and foster a more balanced transatlantic partnership. Whether this transition succeeds will depend less on summit declarations than on sustained political commitment, industrial capacity and financial investment over the coming decade.

For India, the significance of these developments extends well beyond Europe. The evolving debate within NATO reinforces an enduring strategic lesson: lasting security ultimately rests on sustained national investment rather than permanent reliance on external partners.

As geopolitical competition intensifies across the Indo-Pacific, India must continue strengthening indigenous defence production, modernising its armed forces and investing in emerging technologies while preserving strategic autonomy in its external partnerships. Diversified defence capabilities, resilient supply chains and sustained military preparedness are not merely pillars of national resilience.

Europe's experience also offers a timely reminder that credible defence have been considerably more difficult under conditions of direct military pressure. Taken together, these that NATO is entering a new phase in which European members are expected to assume substantially greater responsibility for their own defence, while the United States increasingly functions as a strategic enabler rather than the Alliance's unquestioned security provider. Washington will remain indispensable in areas such as intel-

The Amendment Republic— are we legislating through constant repairs?



Parliament is often described as the nation's foremost law-making institution. Yet, an increasing number of legislative sessions reveal a different reality: Parliament is spending as much time repairing its own laws as it is creating new ones. Amendment Bills have become a recurring feature of India's legislative calendar, cutting across governments, ministries, and policy areas. From criminal law and taxation to company law, environmental regulation, and judicial administration, legislation is frequently revisited within months—or a few years—of its enactment. equent amendments evidence of a responsive legislature adapting to changing circumstances, or do they expose deeper deficiencies in India's law-making process?

Flexibility vs Legislative Instability Democracy certainly requires flexibility. No statute is immune from revision, and Parliament must possess the authority to respond to judicial decisions, technological developments, economic transformations, and administrative experience. Constitutionalism does not demand legislative rigidity. However, when amendments become routine rather than exceptional, they invite scrutiny of the quality of the original legislative process itself. The recently passed Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, which increases the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 37 judges, illustrates this dilemma. The objective is difficult to dispute. India's apex court faces an enormous backlog of cases, and expanding judicial capacity appears to be a reasonable institutional response. Yet the legislation also Parliament's growing preference for incremental structural adjustments over comprehensive institutional reform.

Increasing the number of judges may improve the Court's capacity, but it cannot, by itself, resolve persistent challenges such as inconsistent listing practices, delays in constituting Constitution Benches, the overwhelming use of Article

136 jurisdiction, and the absence of a coherent case-management system. Numerical expansion addresses symptoms more readily than structural causes. Legislative amendments that merely fine-tune institutions without confronting underlying systemic issues risk becoming temporary repairs rather than lasting solutions. A Pattern Across Legal Domain The problem extends well beyond judicial administration. India's legislative landscape increasingly resembles a continuous cycle of enactment, amendment, clarification, and further amendment. Tax statutes undergo frequent revisions through successive Finance Acts. Corporate legislation has witnessed repeated modifications following the Companies Act, 2013. Insolvency law has been amended several times since the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code came into force in 2016. Even the recently enacted criminal law framework has already prompted calls for legislative clarification regarding its interpretation and implementation.

Amendment Bills should reflect legislative responsiveness—not repeatedly remind us that Parliament is repairing laws it could have built more carefully in the first place. Some degree of legislative evolution is inevitable. Law cannot remain static in a rapidly changing society. Yet the frequency with which Parliament returns to recently enacted legislation suggests that many statutes enter the legal system before receiving sufficiently rigorous scrutiny. The Decline of Committee Scrutiny One explanation lies in the changing nature of parliamentary deliberation. Parliamentary committees have historically served as the institutional laboratories of legislation. They receive expert testimony, hear from stakeholders, identify drafting inconsistencies, and examine constitutional implications, all away from partisan political theatre. Their reports often improve legislative precision while reducing the likelihood of future amendments.

However, an increasing number of Bills have bypassed detailed committee examination altogether. Legislative debates have also become progressively shorter, with important Bills sometimes passed within limited periods of discussion. The result is that defects which could have been identified during pre-legislative scrutiny instead emerge during implementation, requiring Parliament to revisit the law through subsequent amendments. This trend carries constitutional implications beyond legislative efficiency. The Supreme Court has repeatedly recognised that while Parliament enjoys broad legislative competence, constitutional democracy depends upon reasoned deliberation and institutional accountability. Law-making is not merely the production of statutory text; it is a constitutional process requiring informed debate, public participation, and careful evaluation of competing interests. Poorly scrutinised legislation generates uncertainty for citizens, businesses, administrators, and courts alike. Frequent amendments complicate compliance, increase litigation, and impose significant costs on governance. Instead of providing legal certainty—a fundamental objective of the rule of law—the legal system begins to resemble a moving target.

Democratic Costs of Constant Correction There is also an important democratic dimension. Every amendment effectively acknowledges that the original legislation required correction. While correction is preferable to legislative stubbornness, repeated corrections may gradually erode public confidence in Parliament's capacity to produce durable and coherent laws. Citizens expect legislation to be carefully considered before enactment, not perfected through successive rounds of repair.

Comparative constitutional experience offers useful lessons. In the United Kingdom, Green Papers, White Papers, Law Commission reports, and extensive

committee consultations often precede major legislative reforms. Australia similarly relies upon significant public consultation and parliamentary committee engagement before introducing substantial statutory changes. Amendments certainly occur in these jurisdictions, but they generally follow implementation experience rather than compensate for inadequate legislative preparation. Bridging the Gap Between Design and Practice India already possesses many of these institutional mechanisms. The difficulty lies not in constitutional design but in institutional practice. Pre-legislative consultation policies are inconsistently followed. Stakeholder engagement varies significantly across ministries. Committee referrals remain discretionary rather than routine. Legislative impact assessments are rarely comprehensive. As a consequence, Parliament often legislates under considerable time pressure while expecting subsequent amendments to resolve foreseeable shortcomings.

Reforming the Amendment Culture The answer is not fewer Democracies must retain the capacity to improve their laws. Indeed, refusing to amend defective legislation would be far more damaging than acknowledging the need for correction. The challenge is ensuring that amendments remain instruments of genuine policy refinement rather than substitutes for inadequate legislative craftsmanship.

Several reforms deserve serious consideration. Significant Bills should ordinarily undergo mandatory committee scrutiny unless exceptional urgency is demonstrated. Draft legislation should be accompanied by comprehensive legislative impact assessments explaining anticipated constitutional, economic, and administrative consequences. Ministries should institutionalise meaningful public consultation before introducing major reforms. Parliament should also devote greater time to legislative deliberation rather

New South Africa Skipper To Lead On Namibia Tour; Two Players Earn Maiden Call-Ups



South Africa have announced a 15-member squad for the tri-series involving Namibia and Zimbabwe starting from August 28 in Windhoek. The team will then take on the hosts in a three-match ODI series. South Africa have announced a new-look squad with Bjorn Fortuin set to lead the side for the first time. Two players get senior call-up. Two of the players in the squad have earned their maiden call-ups. South Africa's left-arm pacer Marco Jansen's twin brother Duan Jansen has been given a chance after showcasing impressive performance in the domestic circuit. The 26-year-old was the leading wicket-taker for Titans with 16 scalps at an average of 18. Also, he

played a knock of 61 runs in the final against DP World Lions. He was also a standout performer in the CSA T20 Challenge. All-rounder Eathan Bosch has also earned a maiden call-up in the senior team. Three players get maiden ODI call-ups. Connor Esterhuizen, Jordan Hermann and Ngobani Mokoena have earned their maiden ODI experience of playing five T20Is. Jordan has Mokoena has played three T20I matches. Head coach Shukri Conrad on squad selection "We've selected one squad for both series as we feel we have all departments well covered and it provides a great opportunity for players to build on their international caps."

South Africa head coach Shukri Conrad said. "We saw glimpses of what Connor and Ngobani can offer during the T20I series against New Zealand earlier this year. It was unfortunate that Jordan picked up an injury in the opening match of that series, so we're looking forward to seeing him get another opportunity at this level," he added. 28 August: Namibia v South Africa, Namibia Cricket Ground, Windhoek. 29 August: South Africa v Zimbabwe, Namibia Cricket Ground, Windhoek. 31 August: Namibia v Zimbabwe, Namibia Cricket Ground, Windhoek.

Windhoek. 1 September: Zimbabwe v South Africa, Namibia Cricket Ground, Windhoek. 3 September: Namibia v Zimbabwe, Namibia Cricket Ground, Windhoek. 4 September: Namibia v South Africa, Namibia Cricket Ground, Windhoek. 6 September: Final TBC vs TBC, Namibia Cricket Ground, Windhoek. ODI series schedule. 1st ODI: 9 September, Namibia Cricket Ground, Windhoek. 2nd ODI: 11 September, Namibia Cricket Ground, Windhoek. 3rd ODI: 13 September, Namibia Cricket Ground, Windhoek.

IPL Cricketer Abhishek Porel Arrested In Rape Case After Calcutta High Court Orders



Bengal cricketer Abhishek Porel, who represents Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League, was arrested by the police on Tuesday. Porel was arrested in a criminal case including charges of rape, criminal intimidation, and other serious offences. Mogra police arrested him on Tuesday on charges of sexual harassment. Abhishek Porel was presented in the Chunchura District Court today. On June 23, a young medical student from Karnataka went to the Mogra police station in Hooghly and filed a complaint against Abhishek. She claimed that the cricketer had

been in a relationship with the girl for three and a half years. It was also decided that they would get married. They had even travelled abroad together. But later Abhishek denied the relationship. After that, the girl claimed that she had approached the police. This is not the first time. A year and a half ago, there was a dispute the young woman escalated to the police station. However, no complaint was filed at that time. Later, at the end of June, the young woman filed a complaint against Abhishek Porel at the Mogra police station. Realising the importance of this inci-

dent, Superintendent Kumar Bhushan Singh of Hooghly Rural Police came to the Mogra police station that day. There, DSP Crime Abhijit Sinha Mohapatra discussed the young woman with the IC Mogra and gave necessary instructions on what to do. The Mogra police station started an investigation. The investigators went to the cricketer's Chandannagar house several times. Abhishek Porel could not be found. After some time, the young woman approached the Calcutta High Court. The High Court ordered the police to arrest the cricketer. After that, the Mogra

police station arrested Abhishek Porel. A case has been registered against him under sections 69, 311, 318, 66/72 of the IT Act and several sections of the BNS. Earlier, the young woman Abhishek had denied all the allegations. In the earlier hearing, Calcutta High Court Justice Saugata Bhattacharjee had directed the police to be more proactive while investigating the case. Also, he had directed the police to immediately seize all the electronic devices which contained several pictures of the young woman so that girl's picture is not circulated in any way.

Global Tax Reform Talks At UN: India Pushes For Stronger Taxing Rights

United Nations member states have begun a crucial round of talks in New York to create a fairer global tax system that works for all countries, especially developing nations. The negotiations focus on a proposed UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and two related protocols covering cross-border services and tax disputes. The Fifth session, which is underway till August 13, is the first time countries are discussing concrete draft texts for all three agreements. The decisions could affect how countries collect taxes, settle tax disputes and also share taxing rights, with major implications for development funding. This process is supported by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Financing for Sustainable Development Office. This process is led by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with a dedicated workstream advancing each of the three instruments (on the Framework and the two protocols). Working within a tight timeline of nine sessions across



three years, the INC aims to deliver final texts to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) by 2027. Since the fourth session concluded in New York on 13 February 2026, the negotiators have been preparing the zero drafts that will anchor the next round of talks. As the member states are for the first time expected to engage with a concrete draft text across all three workstreams, ETV Bharat spoke to experts to know its impact on India. Indian tax experts see the proposed UN global tax convention as a major opportunity to strengthen India's taxing rights over multinational companies and curb profit shifting.

They opined that international tax rules must evolve with modern business models. They also stressed the need for greater information sharing and stronger checks against tax avoidance and evasion. The ongoing UN talks could reshape how countries tax cross-border business and settle disputes, particularly in developing economies. Tax expert and Chartered accountant Gauri Chadha stated that the UN global tax convention could bring a significant change in how multinational companies are taxed globally. "The existing international tax system was designed when businesses had a more physical presence. Today, compa-

nies can have customers, employees and profits spread across countries without having a traditional physical presence, she said. The focus, she added, should increasingly be on where the actual business activity, customers and economic value are. Chadha further said, "For India, this could strengthen our ability to tax MNCs earning significant income from the Indian market and make artificial profit shifting and use of tax havens more difficult. However, it is equally important to avoid double taxation and excessive disputes." "The biggest challenge will be balancing the interests of developed and developing countries. For India, a suc-

Fitch Retains India's BBB- Rating On Robust Growth Outlook, Flags Fiscal Risks From Youth Protests



Fitch Ratings on Tuesday retained India's sovereign credit rating at 'BBB-' for the 20th year in a row, but flagged risks of pressure on fiscal spending amid youth protest over jobs. Fitch said despite headwinds from the energy shock due to the West Asia conflict, India's economy remains strong with robust growth = and solid external finance. The ratings agency forecast a 6.4 per cent GDP growth in the current fiscal year. The growth is, however, slower than the average 7.4 per cent growth clocked over the past three years. "Fitch Ratings has affirmed India's Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) at BBB- with a stable outlook," Fitch said in its rating action. India's rating has remained unchanged at 'BBB-', the lowest investment grade, since 2006. Fitch said the gains of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in state-level elections would support implementation of policy pri-

orities at the Centre. Fitch, however, cautioned that the recent youth protests could put pressure on the government to hike spending on education-related measures, generation of jobs, including skill development. "Recent protests, stemming from leaked medical exams, may point to rising concerns among youth over employment opportunities, risking fiscal spending pressures over time," Fitch said. Last month, students had staged a massive protest in the capital over paper leak in medical entrance exam NEET and demanded transparency in competitive exams. The protests and the subsequent police action on students have been raised by the Opposition in Parliament, disrupting its proceedings in the ongoing monsoon session. Fitch said India's economy has been resilient to shocks in recent years, a trend it expects to continue. "There are residual risks from uncertainty related

to the US-Iran conflict, given India's position as a large net energy importer position, but we do not expect a durable risk to growth prospects," Fitch said. India imports 87 per cent of its crude requirement, of which 46 per cent transits through or near the Strait of Hormuz, which is blocked on account of the US-Iran war which began on February 28. Fitch said India's rating reflects its robust growth outlook and solid external finance fundamentals. A strengthening record of delivering macroeconomic stability and improving policy credibility should underpin continued robust growth and enhance economic resilience, despite near-term macroeconomic headwinds from the energy shock. High growth should also support a sustained improvement in structural credit metrics and increase the likelihood that government debt will trend down, Fitch said. In the FY27

Budget, the government estimated the debt-to-GDP ratio at 55.6 per cent of GDP, lower than 56.1 per cent of GDP in FY26. The government has set a target to bring down its debt-to-GDP ratio to 50 per cent by March 2031. Fitch estimates India's medium potential GDP growth of 6.4 per cent, led by public capex, a private investment pick-up and favourable demographics. It said India's external finances remain solid, with a low current account deficit (CAD), net external creditor position and still high forex reserves. Fitch forecast a slight widening of CAD to 1.4 per cent of GDP in FY27 from 0.6 per cent in FY26, from the energy shock. Forecast reserves of USD 733 billion (7.4 months of external payments) by FY27 end. Capital outflows picked up in the June quarter of FY27, amid already subdued FDI and portfolio flows, but have reversed following the recent RBI and measures.

Bhumi Pednekar Faces Backlash For Asking Protesters To Avoid Abusive Language, Netizens Ask 'What About



: Actor Bhumi Pednekar has faced criticism on social media after speaking about the language used by some protesters during the ongoing NEET-UG 2026 protests. The actor recently shared a video on Instagram in which she asked young protesters to express their anger without using abusive or insulting language. She said that such behaviour does not represent the values and culture of the country. However, her comments quickly divided social media users.

Many people questioned why she chose to speak about the language used by protesters but did not address the alleged police action against students during the protests. Bhumi said she had been watching several videos from the demonstrations and was concerned about the way some young people were speaking, particularly the abusive language directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She pointed out that Modi holds the highest constitutional office in the

country and asked whether people would speak in the same way to elders in their own families. "Would we ever speak like this to the elders in our own homes?" she asked, while making her appeal for more respectful public discussion. The actor also spoke about India's culture and said that people should be able to express disagreement without resorting to abusive language. According to her, moving away from these values could make meaningful conversa-

tions and progress more difficult. Bhumi ended her message by calling for unity. She also referred to issues such as gender-based violence and education, saying that these matters need to be addressed in a productive and effective manner. Her message, however, did not receive the response she may have expected. Several social media users criticised the actor for what they described as a selective response to the protests. They argued that while abusive language can be questioned, the alleged use of force against students should also be discussed. One user questioned whether people should be more concerned about a protester using a swear word or the alleged use of serious force against demonstrators. Another user said that respect cannot simply be demanded and has to be earned. Some others asked Bhumi to also speak when politicians use offensive or abusive language. A few comments accused her of judging the protesters without addressing the reasons that brought students onto the streets. The criticism comes against the backdrop of the NEET-UG 2026 protests, which have attracted attention over concerns surrounding education, student welfare and demands for reforms. The demonstrations in Delhi became particularly tense on July 20, when protesters attempted to march towards Parliament. Videos circulating online showed clashes between protesters and police.

Vidyut Jammwal, Disha Patani, Ali Fazal And With Global Projects Ahead



Indian actors have been making their presence felt in Hollywood for years. But in recent times, the journey has become even more interesting. From established global stars taking on new roles to actors making their official Hollywood debuts, several Indian names are now part of international projects. The upcoming slate has a mix of action, thriller, science fiction and drama. Some actors are joining big studio productions, while others are choosing international independent films. Here is a look at some Indian actors who have interesting Hollywood projects lined up.

Vidyut Jammwal - Street Fighter Vidyut Jammwal is set to take a major step in his career with Street Fighter. The Bollywood martial arts star will make his official Hollywood debut in the live-action adaptation backed by Legendary Entertainment. Vidyut will play Dhalsim, the iconic peaceful yogi fighter known for his ability to stretch his body and use fire-based attacks. The role seems like a natural fit for the actor, who is known for his martial arts skills and action performances. The film has a big international cast, including Jason Momoa, Roman Reigns and Noah

Centineo. Principal photography has already been completed, and the movie is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on October 16, 2026. Priyanka Chopra Jonas - Reset and more Priyanka Chopra Jonas is already one of the recognised Indian names in the international entertainment industry. She continues to add new projects to her Hollywood lineup. One of her upcoming films is Reset, a survival thriller in which she will star alongside Orlando Bloom. Directed by Matt Smukler, the project was officially announced earlier this year. Production is

expected to begin in August 2026. Priyanka is also part of an upcoming Amazon MGM Studios comedy featuring Will Ferrell and Zac Efron. The film was Priyanka is earlier known as Judgment Day and is directed by Nicholas Stoller. The movie has already completed filming and is currently in post-production. The story reportedly follows a young man who takes a television courtroom hostage after blaming a judge for ruining his life. Priyanka is part of a large cast that also includes Regina Hall, Michael Pena and Billy Eichner.



A.Kavitha & Srinivas Yadav

Wishing You A Day
as Special as You Are!

HAPPY
Birthday
A.Meghana

May your life be
filled with love,
happiness, success
and endless blessings.

With Love,
Near & Dear

Polish Guitarist Marcin Patrzalek Arrives In Shillong For Live Concert



Guwahati: World-famous Polish guitarist Marcin Patrzalek reached Shillong on Tuesday for a scheduled concert at the Lari Performing Centre as part of the 'Marcin, Art of Guitar Tour 2026'. "All the way from the airport to Shillong, I have been taking videos of the scene outside the window with my mobile phone. Nature is beautiful. It feels like I have entered a different world," he told reporters. The tour will not only include concerts but also the lively music and culture of Meghalaya. Patrzalek will also participate in special workshops and jam sessions with local artists under the Chief Minister's Meghalaya Grassroots Music Program (CM-MGMP). Three popular bands from Meghalaya — Segim Durama of Garo Hills, Leo Boys of Khasi Hills and Larger Day 90 of Jaintia Hills — will perform at the concert before Patrzalek at the main event on

Wednesday, aimed at introducing young talent from the state to the world stage. The international concert is jointly organised by the Department of Tourism and CM-MGMP to further strengthen the state's identity as the 'country of guitars'. Appreciating the warm welcome by the Indian audience, the world-renowned artist praised the Meghalaya government for taking such an exceptional step to promote young talent. The state government hopes that the live show will bring a new wave to the cultural and tourism sector of Shillong. Guwahati: World-famous Polish guitarist Marcin Patrzalek reached Shillong on Tuesday for a scheduled concert at the Lari Performing Centre as part of the 'Marcin, Art of Guitar Tour 2026'. "All the way from the airport to Shillong, I have been taking videos of the scene outside the window with my mobile phone. Nature is beautiful. It feels

like I have entered a different world," he told reporters. The tour will not only include concerts but also the lively music and culture of Meghalaya. Patrzalek will also participate in special workshops and jam sessions with local artists under the Chief Minister's Meghalaya Grassroots Music Program (CM-MGMP). Three popular bands from Meghalaya — Segim Durama of Garo Hills, Leo Boys of Khasi Hills and Larger Day 90 of Jaintia Hills — will perform at the concert before Patrzalek at the main event on Wednesday, aimed at introducing young talent from the state to the world stage. The international concert is jointly organised by the Department of Tourism and CM-MGMP to further strengthen the state's identity as the 'country of guitars'.

Appreciating the warm welcome by the Indian audience, the world-