

Aryanaage

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Maratha Morcha March Paralyzes South Mumbai

PG.3



Alia Bhatt Calls Herself Soni Razdan's 'Biggest Fan' Ahead of Songs of Paradise Release

PG.6



Indian Men's Hockey Team gears up for Men's Asia Cup with World Cup qualification at stake

PG.7



Sensex, Nifty slip as heavyweights drag stock markets amid tariff concerns

PG.8

India's capital doesn't just grow; it multiplies

PM Modi at India-Japan Business Forum

Tokyo/ New Delhi : Highlighting India's strong economic growth and stability, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that capital just does not grow in the country, it multiplies, asserting that the country is on track to become the world's third-largest economy in the near future.

In India's journey of development, Japan has always been an important partner. From metros to manufacturing, semiconductors to start-ups, our partnership in every sector has been a symbol of mutual trust.

PM Modi and Japanese PM Shigeru Ishiba of Japan also addressed the India-Japan Economic Forum. The event saw participation from CEOs and business leaders from various fields, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a tweet.

"PM Modi highlighted the significant potential of India-Japan collaboration in cutting edge technologies, manufacturing & investments and human resource exchanges. He also highlighted that Japan's excellence & India's scale together can create a perfect partnership for Make in India & Viksit Bharat," he said.

While addressing prominent figures from the

business world at the India-Japan Business Forum, PM Modi emphasized the significant role Japan has played as a key partner in India's development journey.

"I am happy to begin my trip with the business giants here in Japan, and I am especially grateful to Prime Minister Ishiba for his participation in this forum," said PM Modi. "India and Japan have always shared a strong bond, and our partnership has flourished across various sectors, from manufacturing to semiconductors and start-ups."

Highlighting the growing economic ties, PM Modi noted that Japanese companies have invested over USD 40 billion in India, with USD 13 billion in private investments alone over the past two years. He also cited reports from JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) and JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization), which highlight India's status as the most promising investment destination.

"India's capital doesn't just grow; it multiplies," PM Modi stated, emphasizing the nation's strong economic growth and stability. "India is currently the world's fastest growing major economy and

is poised to become the third largest economy globally in the near future."

In his address, the Prime Minister outlined key reforms and initiatives that have been driving India's



transformation, including the introduction of the "One Nation, One Tax" policy and the recent simplification of the Income Tax Code. He also mentioned significant reforms in sectors like defence, space, and nuclear energy, which have now been opened to the private sector.

PM Modi proposed several key areas where India and Japan could strengthen their partnership, "Manufacturing: Building on successful collaboration in

the auto sector", the Prime Minister encouraged further cooperation in areas like batteries, robotics, shipbuilding, and nuclear energy. He also urged Japanese companies to invest in India's

With India's ambitious renewable energy goals, PM Modi stressed the potential for collaboration in solar energy and green hydrogen, noting the agreement between India and Japan on the Joint Credit Mechanism for a clean and green future.

The Prime Minister highlighted India's progress in next-generation infrastructure, including doubling port capacity, expanding airports, and building metro networks. He mentioned that Japan's expertise could help further accelerate India's infrastructure growth.

PM Modi also spoke about the importance of skill development, urging Japanese businesses to train Indian talent and create a "Japan-ready" workforce to meet global demands.

Reaffirming the strategic importance of the India-Japan partnership, PM Modi said, "India is the springboard for Japanese businesses to the Global South. Together, we will shape the Asian Century for stability, growth, and prosperity."

The event marked a significant step towards further strengthening India-Japan economic and cultural ties, with PM Modi's vision of shared prosperity resonating strongly with the

audience. The business forum continues to lay the groundwork for future collaboration across a range of sectors, contributing to a growing partnership between the two nations.

To attract investment in India, PM Modi said that Parliament recently also approved a new and simplified Income Tax Code.

"Our reforms are not limited to the tax system alone. We have focused on ease of doing business. We have established a single digital window approval system for businesses. We have rationalized 45,000 compliances. To speed up this process, a high-level committee has been set up to oversee deregulation," he said.

"We have opened up sensitive sectors like defense and space to the private sector. Now, we are also opening the nuclear energy sector," he added. "These reforms reflect our determination to build a developed India. We have commitment, conviction, and strategy, and the world has not just recognized but also appreciated this. S&P Global has upgraded India's credit rating after two decades. The world is not just watching India; it is counting on India".

PM Modi highlights India-Japan economic ties, sees growth potential in key sectors

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised strong economic ties between India and Japan, highlighting key sectors where bilateral cooperation can be further strengthened. In a social media post following his address at the India-Japan Business Forum, PM Modi emphasized the significance of the presence of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, calling it a clear signal of the priority both nations place on enhancing their economic linkages. "Addressed a business event in Tokyo... The presence of Prime Minister Kishida made this even more special, indicating the priority we accord to bilateral economic ties," PM Modi wrote. The Prime Minister outlined specific areas where India and Japan could deepen their collaboration, citing industries like automobiles, robotics, semiconductors, shipbuilding, and nuclear energy. He also spoke of leveraging the synergy between India's talent and Japan's technological excellence. "Spoke about India's deep economic ties with Japan and also listed areas where cooperation can deepen in the years to come: Like we did in automobiles, recreate the same magic in batteries, robotics, semiconductors, shipbuilding, and nuclear energy. Tech-Talent synergy to power this century's technology revolution. Green energy focus for a better future. Next-gen infrastructure, where Japan's excellence and India's scale can do wonders. Skill development and people-to-people ties," PM Modi added. His remarks underscore the

growing collaboration between the two countries, particularly in sectors critical for both nations' future development. Elaborating on the target set by India to be achieved by 2030, PM Modi said, "India is rapidly moving toward achieving a target of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030. We have also set a goal of 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047. Whether it is solar cells or green hydrogen, there are immense partnership opportunities between India and Japan. By leveraging the joint credit mechanism, we can collaborate in building a clean and green future". Speaking about how India will contribute to meet the global demand, he said, "India's skilled youth talent has the potential to meet global demand, and Japan can also benefit from this. You should train Indian talent in the Japanese language and other skilled areas to create a Japan-ready workforce together. This skilled workforce will fulfill global requirements." Labelling Japan a "Technology Powerhouse", PM Modi said, "Japan is a technology powerhouse, and India is a talent powerhouse. India has taken bold and ambitious initiatives in AI, semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, and space. The combination of Japanese technology and Indian talent can lead the tech revolution of this century." Making trade pitch in Japan, PM Modi described India as a "powerhouse of talent" and called on business leaders in Japan to "make in India, make for the world."

Mumbai to see moderate rains IMD



Mumbai: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) today indicates that Mumbai is expected to witness spells of heavy rain through the day, with temperatures hovering between 26 and 30 degrees Celsius.

While the forecast for Mumbai suggests moderate rainfall, the broader Konkan region is on higher alert, with varying intensities of showers expected across multiple districts.

The IMD issued a yellow alert for all Konkan districts, excluding Mumbai, indicating the likelihood of heavy showers at isolated places. Within the Mumbai metropolitan area, moderate rainfall has been recorded since Thursday morning, ranging between 20 to 40 mm across different localities.

Officials have clarified that while rains will continue intermittently in the city until Monday, they are unlikely to intensify to severe levels.

However, nearby districts such as Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg may experience heavier spells in the coming days.

SC to hear pleas on Bihar electoral roll revision on September 1

New Delhi : The Supreme Court today agreed to hear on September 1 a batch of petitions concerning the Bihar Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls, specifically applications seeking an extension of the deadline for filing claims and objections.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi ordered the matter to be listed

on Monday following an urgent mentioning by Advocate Prashant Bhusan.

He submitted that the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and several other political parties had approached the Court seeking an extension of the September 1 deadline for filing claims and objections to the draft voters' list.

When the Bench asked why the petitioners could not approach the

Election Commission of India (ECI), Bhusan responded that such representations had already been made.

On August 22, the Court had directed the ECI to permit excluded voters to apply for inclusion through online mode by submitting their Aadhaar details.

At that hearing, the Court had also posted the matter for September

8 while orally assuring parties that their request for extension of the deadline could be considered subsequently.

Earlier, the Court had directed the ECI to publish the names of approximately 65 lakh persons excluded from the draft electoral roll, both on its website and at booth-level offices, along with reasons for their exclusion.

Manoj Jarange-Patil reaches Mumbai to demand quota for Marathas



Mumbai: Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil reached Mumbai this morning to hold a rally at Azad Maidan demanding reservation for the Maratha community.

He has been granted conditional permission to hold a protest today between 9am and 6pm, with authorities limiting attendance to 5,000 participants within a designated 7,000 square metre area.

The extensive security arrangements, including

local police forces along with companies from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Rapid Action Force (RAF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Maharashtra Security Force, have been deployed inside the Azad Maidan and outside the protest site.

The activist has strongly criticised the one-day restriction, calling it an insult to the Maratha community and declaring his intention to begin an indefinite hunger strike from today.

Jarange-Patil warns Maha govt as 6,500 vehicles join Maratha march

Mumbai: Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange-Vikhe Patil has warned the state government that if the one-day permission granted for the protest is not extended, a larger number of Marathas will gather in Mumbai.

At least, 6,500 vehicles carrying Maratha protestors joined Jarange-Patil in Mumbai today, police sources said.

Despite the government allowing only a day for the protest, Jarange-Patil has declared his intention to continue his indefinite agitation. He has urged the

state to extend the protest duration.

Jarange-Patil announced the start of the hunger strike this morning at Azad Maidan. The demands include reservation for the Maratha community under the OBC category, implementation of the kinship ordinance, and

withdrawal of cases filed against protestors.

He also appealed to protestors not to cause inconvenience to the public or the government. He also said the Maratha community is ready to flood Mumbai if necessary, but if the government cooperates, protestors should vacate the city within two hours without resorting to violence or arson.

Patil vowed not to end the strike until the Marathas secure reservation. "I will not rise from here until we achieve justice and celebrate with gular on our heads," he said.

MLAs, MPs from Shiv Sena (UBT) join Jarange Patil's protest

Mumbai: Several MLAs and MPs from Shiv Sena (UBT) joined Jarange Patil's protest here on Friday. Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat has also expressed his support for the agitation. Sharadchandra Pawar, leader of the Nationalist Congress Party, has not yet given any reaction on the issue.

Maharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrashekhhar

Bawankule questioned why Sharad Pawar, who speaks



on every other subject, has remained silent on Jarange Patil's agitation. "Should

reservation for the Maratha community be given from the OBC quota? Pawar should clarify his stand on this matter," he said. Bawankule also appealed to Pawar to speak on this issue. He further said that former Chief Ministers Sushilkumar Shinde, Prithviraj Chavan, and Congress leaders Nana Patole and Vijay Wadettiwar should also make their stand clear.

SC to hear MHADA plea against Bombay High Court order on demolition notices

New Delhi: The Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) today sought an urgent hearing before the Supreme Court in its challenge to the Bombay High Court's judgment directing the constitution of a high-level committee to examine the issuance of 935 notices under Section 79-A of the MHAD Act.

The matter was mentioned before a Bench comprising Justices Surya Kant, Joymalya Bagchi, and Vipul M. Pancholi by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who urged for an expedited hearing in view of

the monsoon.

"The finding of the High Court is that MHADA is not competent to demolish dilapidated buildings. The urgency is that because of heavy rains, some buildings have started collapsing, so we would be praying for a stay of the order... it would need an urgent hearing," the SG submitted.

The Bench has listed the matter for September 16.

Section 79-A of the MHAD Act deals with the redevelopment of cessed and dilapidated buildings in Mumbai, particularly those

declared dangerous under Section 354 of the Mumbai Municipal



Corporation Act.

The Bombay High Court, in its order dated July 28 delivered by Justices GS Kulkarni and Arif S. Doctor, held that Executive

Engineers lacked jurisdiction to issue the notices and directed the setting up of a high-level committee, observing that the actions amounted to large-scale abuse of power.

The High Court had earlier noted that issuance of notices under Section 79-A required prior categorisation of buildings as 'dangerous' by the competent authority under Section 65 or by a notice under Section 354, and criticised officials for overstepping statutory limits.

It came down heavily on the Vice-Chairman of MHADA for

failing to apply his mind to the statutory requirements, observing that such arbitrary actions had serious implications on constitutional rights under Articles 14, 21, and 300A.

Aggrieved by this decision, MHADA moved the Supreme Court. On August 4, a Bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Ujjal Bhuyan issued notice on one of MHADA's petitions, and on August 8, a Bench led by Justice Surya Kant issued notice on another connected plea, tagging it with the earlier matter.

Uddhav Thackeray claims "miracle" in upcoming vice-presidential election, asserts INDIA Bloc's unity

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (Thackeray faction) chief Uddhav Thackeray has claimed that a "miracle" is bound to happen in the upcoming Vice-Presidential election, as the opposition alliance, INDIA, unites for a strong electoral challenge. Thackeray emphasized the importance of having a non-partisan Vice-President to safeguard India's democracy, a role he believes should be insulated from political influences.

Thackeray said the INDIA alliance parties are firmly united in their decision to contest the election and are confident in their victory. "The opposition is determined to win and ensure that the country's democracy is protected," he asserted.

The political drama surrounding the Vice-Presidential election gained momentum following the sudden resignation of former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar. Dhankhar stepped down citing health reasons, but speculation quickly swirled about possible external pressures, with allegations suggesting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah

might have forced his resignation. Some counterclaims, however, pointed to Dhankhar's alleged siding with the opposition through internal machinations.



Amidst this, the INDIA alliance has fielded former Justice B. Sudarshan Reddy as its candidate for the Vice-Presidential race. Thackeray, reaffirming the opposition's resolve, stated that all opposition leaders are focused on ensuring Reddy's victory. "The opposition is fully prepared to contest and win this election," Thackeray added.

Meanwhile, the ruling BJP has reportedly made attempts to avoid a contested election by reaching out to leaders like Thackeray and NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) chief Sharad Pawar. However, despite these overtures, the opposition has decided to go ahead with its candidate under the banner of the INDIA alliance.

Yogi govt to take feedback on developed UP-2047 through 'QR code'

Lucknow : The Uttar Pradesh government has developed a 'QR code' to convey its vision for developing UP-2047 to the people and to get their suggestions on the action plan through which the public will be able to know about the government's proposals and give their feedback.

The UP government is also in the process of constituting a team of about 500 retired bureaucrats, teachers, professors and engineers who will work to introduce the government's schemes to the people across UP and get their feedback.

Principal Secretary of the Planning Department Alok Kumar said the QR code was ready, and it would be launched by the first week of September. "Citizens will have about a month to send their suggestions through it," he said.



He said, "We have almost prepared a portal where we will receive these details and compile them. Our aim is to take this QR code to every block and tehsil and ensure wider public participation in this project. By clicking on the QR code, one

will be able to log in to the portal and see what the initial plans of the government are. The proposed works have been divided into 12 heads and one can give suggestions." Besides, work has also begun to identify 500 team

members who will interact with various sections of society. After the formation of the team, there will be a one-day orientation programme for them, after which they will be allotted districts and cities. A senior official said that

a team will include retired bureaucrats, professors, teachers and engineers. They will be given two days to hold meetings where they will make citizens aware of the government's schemes, promote the QR code and seek suggestions. The team will meet associations, institutions, intellectuals and various sections of society, he said.

Kumar said that regular meetings are being held with the potential members of the team. "Our idea is to start the process of engaging with the public by the first week of September and complete it within a month so that the government can start working on these suggestions as soon as possible," he said.

He said these will be integrated with departmental suggestions and an action plan should be ready within the next six months.

Row in Himachal Assembly over re-employment, HRTC dues

Shimla: The Himachal Pradesh Assembly today witnessed uproar as BJP members objected to the state government's decision to re-employ a large number of personnel, while salaries and pensions of Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) employees continued to face delays. Raising the matter during question hour, BJP legislators Satpal Singh Satti and Vikram Thakur accused the government of withholding details on re-employment. They questioned the rationale behind inducting so many re-employed officials when the state was unable to ensure timely disbursement of dues to HRTC staff and retirees.

Satti alleged that every month pensioners were left waiting anxiously for their payments, which were often delayed.

He said the government's priorities were misplaced, expanding re-employment while failing to



clear regular salaries and pensions.

Thakur also voiced concern, pointing out that even an executive engineer could not be granted an extension after a court intervention.

Replying to queries, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, who also holds the transport portfolio, defended the government. He said the information on re-employment was "bulky" and would take time to compile, but assured the House that the details would be made available.

On the issue of HRTC

dues, Agnihotri admitted there had been delays but stressed that the Congress government was committed to ensuring regular payments.

"The matter of delayed pensions is being taken up with the Finance Department and efforts are underway to resolve it soon. I want to inform the House that pensions for all HRTC employees have been released today, August 29," he said.

Agnihotri further clarified that while both issues were serious, they should not be equated.

Mayawati elevates nephew as BSP national coordinator in major reshuffle

Lucknow : In a major organisational reshuffle, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati has elevated her nephew Akash Anand to the key position of National Coordinator, making him the second-most powerful leader in the party after her.

This move signals a renewed trust in Akash, who will now oversee the work of all sector heads, central and state coordinators and state presidents. He will report directly to Mayawati.

Previously serving as the party's chief national coordinator, Akash Anand has now been formally promoted to the crucial post of National Coordinator—a role just below the party president in the BSP hierarchy.

His responsibilities will include reviewing the performance of all key organisational positions across the country.

In addition to Akash's elevation, the BSP has expanded its team of national coordinators from four to six. The newly appointed national coordinators are: Ramji Gautam, Rajaram, Randhir Singh Beniwal, Lalji Medhankar, Atar Singh



Rao and Dharmveer Singh Ashok. All of them will report directly to Akash Anand.

Supporting coordinators have also been appointed to work alongside the senior leaders. For instance, Mohan Anand will assist Rajaram, Suresh Arya will support Atar Singh Rao, and Dayachand will assist Dharmveer Singh Ashok.

Ramji Gautam has been given charge of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Bihar.

In the reshuffle, Vishwanath Pal has been reappointed as the Uttar Pradesh state president. Other major state

presidents include: Rajesh Tanwar (Delhi), Ramakant Pippal (Madhya Pradesh), Shyam Tandon (Chhattisgarh), Shankar Mahto (Bihar), Dr Sunil Dongre (Maharashtra).

New appointments have also been made in other states including: Karnataka: M. Krishna Murthy, Tamil Nadu: P. Anand, Kerala: Joy R. Thomas, Haryana: Krishan Jamarpur, Punjab: Avtar Singh Karipuri and Rajasthan: Prem Barupal.

Jharkhand: Shiv Pujan Mehta, West Bengal: Manoj Hawaldar, Odisha: Saroj Kumar Nayak, Andhra Pradesh:

Bandela Gautam, Telangana: Ibram Shekhar, Gujarat: Bhagubhai Parmar, Himachal Pradesh: Vikram Singh Nayar, Jammu & Kashmir: Darshan Rana, Chandigarh: Brijpal, and Uttarakhand: Amarjeet Singh.

This development comes months after Mayawati expelled Akash Anand from all party posts in March, citing continued influence by his father-in-law and former BSP leader Ashok Siddharth, who was removed for alleged anti-party activities. Mayawati had then stated that Akash needed to show maturity and remorse.

However, in April, Akash was reinstated as the Chief National Coordinator, and now in August, he has been officially promoted to the top leadership role. The decision marks a significant comeback for the young leader and suggests Mayawati is grooming him again as her political heir. This sweeping reorganisation appears to be a strategic move ahead of upcoming elections, signaling BSP's intent to rejuvenate the party with a new generation of leadership under Akash Anand's guidance.

Nobody should be dispossessed after decades of possession: Sajad Lone backs Gulmarg leaseholders

Srinagar : Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference President Sajad Lone today backed incumbent leaseholders in Gulmarg, declaring support for their continued possession of government land and calling out what he described as "systematic corruption" that led to the current lease crisis.

In a statement, Lone asserted, "In the case of extension of leases on government land in Gulmarg and other areas, I in my humble capacity am firmly on the side of the incumbent allottees. Nobody should be dispossessed from their properties after decades of

possession." The PC President revealed how this issue became personal when a school classmate told him their lease had expired and the government refused an extension.

"As I grew up and joined politics, I could see that the lease issue is more than a lease," he said, questioning why governments never established clear, transparent lease policies.

Lone identified the core problem as successive governments deliberately keeping leaseholders in limbo rather than choosing between extending leases or implementing uniform vacation poli-

cies.

"What surprises me is that successive governments opted for neither option 1 nor option 2. They went in for option 3, which meant keeping the leaseholders in limbo," he stated.

This third option, according to Lone, transformed leased land into a "milking cow," where legitimate government fees became "underhand money paid to the person in power." He pointed out that most leases expired between the early 2000s and now, yet previous governments with full powers chose inaction over resolution.

Legislators across party lines want HP' calamity declared a national disaster

Shimla: Cutting across party lines, legislators in the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on Thursday unanimously voiced concern over the devastation caused by incessant monsoon rains and urged the Centre to declare the calamity in the state as a national disaster.

Moving a resolution under Rule 102, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan said Himachal Pradesh has suffered unprecedented destruction, and the Assembly must appeal to the Centre for urgent financial assistance.

"This is a disaster of such magnitude that it must be declared a national calamity," Chauhan said. The resolution was passed by voice vote, with even the Opposition supporting it.

Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, replying to the debate, accused the BJP of trying to politicise the tragedy. He said that 38 people had been evacuated from Chamba and in Saloon village,

where all houses were washed away, there was no loss of life.

Negi alleged that the Centre had not released any additional aid beyond routine funding despite repeated pleas.

Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, while extending support to the resolution, urged the government to requisition IAF helicopters for rescue and relief in cut-off regions like Lahaul-Spiti.

"The situation is extremely critical, especially in Chamba and Mandi, where roads and communication lines have been snapped. Immediate air rescue and ration drops are the need of the hour," he said.

Several legislators, including Barsar MLA ID Lakhnpal, Banjar MLA Surinder Shourie, Churah MLA Hans Raj, Bharmour MLA Janak Raj, and Lahaul-Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana, highlighted ground-level distress.

Public Works Minister Vikramad-

itya Singh stressed the need for a new, sustainable development model, while Rural Development Minister Anirudh Singh held NHA responsible for triggering landslides through faulty road construction.

The Opposition, however, also targeted Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu for his absence from the state during the crisis.

"At such a critical juncture, the CM should have been here rather than attending a political event in Bihar," LoP Thakur said, drawing sharp rebuttals from Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, who asserted that the government was working round the clock.

As tempers ran high, the Speaker adjourned the House amidst sloganeering. Still, there was near unanimity on one point: Himachal Pradesh is facing an extraordinary situation, and the Centre must step in with immediate special assistance.

53.87pc of pending files cleared under 'File Adalat' in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: More than half of the pending files across government departments in Kerala have been cleared under the ongoing 'File Adalat' initiative, launched on July 1, with the overall disposal rate reported at 53.87 per cent. As per the latest official data, 46.63 per cent of files were cleared in the Secretariat, 55.7 per cent in Directorates, and 73.03 per cent in Public Utility and Regulatory institutions.

Of the 304,960 files pending in the Secretariat, 142,201 have been disposed of. In the Directorates, 506,718 files were cleared from a total of 909,678, while 20,668 of the 28,301 pending files were settled in other institutions.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in a message, said that 11 Secretariat departments have cleared more than 60 per cent of their backlog, while 30 departments recorded progress between 40 and 50 per cent. Eight de-

partments managed to dispose of only 20–40 per cent of pending files. In the Directorates, 48 departments achieved over 60 per cent progress, while 36 others cleared at least 40 per cent. The Chief Minister pointed out that the initiative, aimed at disposing of at least 60 per cent of pending files before the Adalat concludes on August 31, had made notable progress with the active cooperation of government employees. He added that the performance of lagging departments, especially those directly dealing with the public, would be reviewed in detail.

Progress under the scheme will continue to be monitored in monthly review meetings chaired by the Chief Secretary. The dedicated portal created for the Adalat will be retained as a permanent mechanism, and a fresh review will be undertaken after three months, the Chief Minister added

Pensioners Convention in Shimla demands early implementation of 8th pay commission, repeal of Pension Validation Bill

Shimla: The Joint Forum of Pensioners Association, Shimla, today organized a state-level convention at Kali Badi Hall where retired employees of the Central Government, including pensioners from the Department of Posts, Labour Bureau, Indian Telecommunications, Accountant General of India, Himachal Pradesh MES and other departments, participated in large numbers.

The convention expressed deep concern over the delay in the constitution of the 8th Pay Commission. Although the Government of India announced the commission in January 2025 and notified its establishment in April, the chairmen and members have not yet been appointed. Speakers feared that the delay would make it impossible to implement financial benefits from January 1, 2026, as

announced earlier, and the report may not be finalised before 2028. The convention also strongly opposed the Pension Validation Amendment Bill, 2025, passed along with the union Budget, which allows classification of pensioners into separate categories—those retired before 2025 and after 2026. The forum termed this move unconstitutional, citing the Supreme Court's landmark D.S. Nakara judgment which held that any discrimination among pensioners violates Articles 14 and 16. A resolution was unanimously passed demanding the repeal of the Bill and early notification of the Pay Commission members. Speakers also raised the issue of pending Dearness Allowance (DA/DR). The forum demanded restoration of the 11p c DA/DR frozen during the Covid period.

Punjab Reels under worst floods in decades; 150 villages submerged, crops ravaged

Chandigarh: Punjab is battling one of its worst floods in 37 years, with vast tracts of farmland, villages and security posts under water. Heavy discharge from Ranjit Sagar and Pong dams have left at least seven districts badly affected, submerging nearly 150 villages along the state's border belt.

Officials estimate that around 1.5 lakh acres of standing crops mainly paddy, sugarcane and maize are underwater. Farmers' houses and cattle sheds have been destroyed, while livestock remain stranded in waist-deep waters. In several areas, water levels range between 5 and 10 feet, leaving communities cut off from relief operations.

In Tarn Taran district, even Border Security Force (BSF) outposts have been inundated, with about 360 personnel trapped. More than 50 border villages have yet to receive relief supplies due to

blocked access routes.

Residents compared the calamity to the devastating floods of 1988, though many say the current deluge struck more suddenly. Unlike last year, when waterlogging submerged over 2.5 lakh acres of crops gradually, this year's floodwaters rose rapidly after continuous dam releases.

The Meteorological Department has issued a flash red alert till September 2 for four districts, warning of further heavy downpours. Yellow and red alerts are also in place across Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, Ropar, Mohali and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar. Officials cautioned that intense rainfall in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh both under weather alerts could further raise water levels downstream in Punjab.

Tragedy struck in Tarn Taran when two young brothers, aged 9 and 11,

drowned in rain-filled pits near a brick kiln after taking horses for grazing. In Pathankot, the body of a young girl was recovered while three others remain missing. Rising rivers in Madhopur and Gurdaspur claimed at least three lives.

State authorities said all district administrations have been placed on high alert. Senior officials are inspecting flood-hit regions and rescue operations are underway, though access remains difficult in several pockets. "The government stands with the people in this crisis. Breaches in embankments will be investigated and accountability fixed," a minister stated.

According to records, the 1988 floods inundated nearly 10% of Punjab's landmass, affecting over 4,000 villages. In 2023, about 2.2 lakh hectares around 8% of the state's area went underwater.

Forest encroachment undermined, Meet on 'Human–Wildlife Conflict' in Kerala on Aug 30

Thiruvananthapuram: With forest encroachment emerging as a major yet under-discussed trigger for human–wildlife conflict in Kerala, a high-level regional conference on 'Human–Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence: Legal and Policy Perspectives' will begin at the Kerala Legislative Assembly complex here on August 30.

The two-day deliberation, jointly organised by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KeLSA), will bring together members of the judiciary, policymakers, legal experts, farmers' representatives and students to address the escalating human–animal conflict across the southern region.

The event will be inaugurated by Justice Surya Kant, Judge of the Supreme



Court of India and Executive Chairman of NALSA. Dignitaries addressing the inaugural session include Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar, Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court and Patron-in-Chief of KeLSA; Supreme Court Judges Justice M. M.

Sundaresh and Justice B. V. Nagarathna; Justice Vikram Nath, Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee; Justice A. Mohamed Mustaque, Senior Judge of the Kerala High Court and Executive Chairman of KeLSA; Justice C. S.

Dias, Judge of the Kerala High Court; Attorney General R. Venkataramani; and Kerala Law Minister P. Rajeev.

Delegates from six southern states and two union Territories will participate, including Chief Jus-

tices and Judges of the High Courts of Madras, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Member secretaries of state legal services authorities, district judges, DLSA secretaries, practising lawyers, law students and farmer representatives will also take part. As part of the programme, NALSA will roll out several initiatives under its "Legal Services for Human–Wildlife Conflict Victims 2025" scheme. These include a permanent Lok Adalat portal on district websites, e-filing and video-conferencing facilities for litigants, and "Samanvaya", a coordination project to ensure easier access to justice for conflict-affected communities. The valedictory session on August 31 will feature a keynote address by Chief Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar.

Maratha Morcha March Paralyzes South Mumbai

Mumbai : South Mumbai descended into gridlock on Friday as thousands of Maratha quota supporters led by Manoj Jarange Patil rallied towards Azad Maidan, disrupting traffic and overwhelming public transport systems.

Key thoroughfares including the Eastern Freeway and the Coastal Road were jammed with vehicles. The situation worsened around CSMT, Fort, and Nariman Point, where traffic slowed to a crawl under the pressure of marching protesters.

The Mumbai Traffic Police urged people to stay away from South Mumbai and avoid the freeway.



Meanwhile, BEST buses halted around CSMT and Fort due to road closures,

leading to a suspension of services in the area.

Massive crowds gathered near CSMT and on its platforms, adding to the turmoil. From early morning, police had set up barricades at entry points like JJ Flyover, diverting convoys and compounding congestion at Mohammad Ali Road.

The timing of the protest, just as Ganeshotsav commenced and with Union Home Minister Amit Shah visiting the city, created additional challenges for law enforcement. Manoj Jarange Patil's planned hunger strike during the festival has only intensified the spotlight on the ongoing agitation.

Torrential Rain Floods Navi Mumbai, Disrupts Daily Life

Navi Mumbai : Intense rainfall on Friday afternoon brought Navi Mumbai to a near halt as waterlogging spread across key areas, causing severe traffic disruptions and halting market operations. The Sanpada underpass was completely waterlogged, forcing vehicles into long standstills, while sections of the Turbhe MIDC Road vanished under sheets of water. At the bustling APMC vegetable market, vendors and customers struggled through flooded aisles, causing significant delays to business. The India Meteorological Department predicted continued cloudy



skies with moderate rainfall in the city over the next 24 hours. Rainfall data from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation recorded 20.36 mm in Mumbai's island city,

17.55 mm in the western suburbs, and 14.68 mm in the eastern parts over a 24-hour period ending Friday morning. Forecasts indicate similar weather patterns from August 30 to September 1, with cloud cover and scattered rainfall expected but no alerts or heavy weather warnings in place. Officials do not anticipate major disruptions beyond the inconvenience already caused by steady showers.

Protests Grind Mumbai To A Halt Near CSMT And Azad Maidan

Mumbai : Massive protests near Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and Azad Maidan brought Mumbai traffic to a crawl on Friday, leaving thousands of commuters stranded across South Mumbai.

As crowds swelled near the CSMT area, the Central Railway issued an advisory urging people to avoid the station unless absolutely necessary. The warning left many office-goers anxious about their evening commute amid the chaos. Simultaneously, the Mumbai Traffic Police issued alerts to steer clear of the Eastern Freeway, citing disruptions caused by demonstrators at Azad

Maidan. Traffic snarls spread rapidly, choking arterial routes and frustrating daily travelers. On social media, citizens voiced their anger at authorities for allowing protests on working days, calling it unfair to the city's workforce. Some also urged for better crowd management and cleanliness around the heritage CSMT station.

Commuters emphasized the need for improved coordination between police and civic bodies during such events. With the election season approaching, residents fear more disruptions unless stricter planning is enforced.

Blaze Sparks Panic in Borivali High-Rise

Mumbai : A fire erupted on Thursday afternoon at a residential skyscraper in Borivali West, sending thick smoke through multiple floors and prompting a swift emergency response.

The incident occurred at Dattani Tower, located on Kora Kendra Road, around 2:18 PM.

The ground-plus-12-storey building saw flames concentrated on the sev-

enth and eighth floors, causing smoke-logging and alarm among occupants.

Witnesses reported dense plumes of smoke emerging from the affected levels as the blaze spread internally.

Fire brigade units responded quickly, initiating both firefighting and evacuation procedures.

Teams were seen

assisting residents and attempting to contain the situation floor by floor.

Although the situation caused widespread concern among residents, officials confirmed that no injuries or fatalities had occurred.

The exact cause of the fire remains under investigation as authorities work to determine what triggered the sudden outbreak.

Jio Showcases AI-Powered Digital Leap At Annual Meet

Mumbai : At its Annual General Meeting on Friday, Reliance Jio unveiled a sweeping range of AI-driven technologies aimed at revolutionizing digital access, cloud computing, and personal tech for Indian users.

Among its standout innovations is the Digital Twin — a live 3D map of India's infrastructure — enabling engineers to deploy gigabit-speed broadband within 24 hours across the country.

The Jio AI Cloud also saw a major upgrade, offering smart memory features that allow users to find personal files and photos simply by speaking in their native languages. Documents are automatically sorted into categories like 'Bills' or 'Identity Documents' for easy access.

JioPC, another new offering, turns any TV into a virtual desktop by connecting a keyboard to the Jio Set-Top Box, delivering full PC capabilities via the cloud.

JioFrames, the company's first AI-integrated smart glasses, promise hands-free photo and video capture, live streaming, and cloud sync, all powered by multilingual voice assistants tailored for Indian lifestyles.

Through its latest innovations, Jio aims to redefine connectivity and computing in India — making cutting-edge tools accessible, affordable, and deeply localized.

Hospital Struggles With Patient Neglect



Mumbai : A disturbing delay in emergency care at Shatabdi Hospital in Kandivli has reignited concerns over mismanagement and poor conditions at one of Mumbai's key civic-run medical facilities.

A fracture patient was left unattended for nearly two hours as hospital staff debated over whose responsibility it was to apply a plaster slab. Intervention by senior officials was required before the patient finally received care.

This incident adds to the hospital's troubled history. In 2017, patients were bitten by rats, highlighting severe hygiene issues.

Despite BMC notices, problems persist, including overcrowding, filthy wards, and stray animals roaming the premises. Dogs, cats, and even rats are reportedly common within hospital corridors, raising safety and sanitation concerns.

Although designed as a modern facility in 2013, Shatabdi now suffers from chronic overcrowding, serving

patients from across western suburbs and extended regions like Mira-Bhayandar and Palghar. With bed occupancy exceeding 120% during monsoon, patients are often forced to share beds.

The hospital handles over 2,500 OPD cases daily and has seen nearly 40,000 admissions in 2024 alone. Yet, basic medicines are often unavailable, and the blood bank runs only one shift, forcing relatives to seek emergency blood from private sources at night.

Air conditioning failures, water seepage, and delayed infrastructure upgrades have worsened the situation. Security too remains lax, as evidenced by a recent phone theft inside the general ward with no immediate CCTV access offered.

While the administration claims improvements are underway, social activists argue that genuine change requires structural overhaul, improved staffing, and higher accountability from management and civic authorities.

Malad's Eco-Friendly Ganesha Made From Nutshells And Paper

Mumbai : In a creative celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi, Malad's Shri Sai Darshan Mitra Mandal unveiled a 9.5-foot-tall Ganesha idol crafted entirely from eco-conscious materials like paper, cardboard, and discarded nutshells.

Weighing 110 kilograms, the idol was assembled over 45 days using shells of almonds, cashews, walnuts, pistachios, and macadamia nuts sourced from homes and markets. The mandal, known for its sustainable efforts since 2011, continues to promote environmental awareness through its festive installations.



This year's idol will be immersed at Marve Beach, maintaining the group's long-standing

tradition of celebrating Ganeshotsav with a message of ecological responsibility.

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD.
Registered Office : Unit No. 1101, 11th Floor, Cignus, Plot No 71 A, Powai, Pascoli, Mumbai 400087
PUBLIC NOTICE E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
15 days' Notice of Sale of Immovable Secured Assets is hereby given by **Fedbank Financial Services Limited** (Secured Creditor) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The undersigned as Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor has taken over the possession of the Secured Asset(s) under SARFAESI Act 2002. Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Co – Borrowers/Guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Fedbank Financial Services Limited, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Secured Creditor**, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "wherever there is" on the date and time mentioned herein below, for recovery of the dues mentioned herein below and further interest and other expenses thereon till the date of realization, due to Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Secured Creditor from the Borrowers and Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below.

LAST DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS WITH SEALED OFFER/ TENDER WITH EMD Till 10th September,2025 latest by 05:00 P.M. at – Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Unit No. 1101, 11th Floor, Cignus, Plot No. 71 A, Powai, Pascoli, Mumbai - 400087 | BID INCREMENTAL AMOUNT Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)

LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT OF 25% OF ACCEPTED HIGHEST BID FOR CONFIRMED SUCCESSFUL BIDDER(INCLUSIVE OF EMD)
The payment should be made latest by next working day from the date of bid confirmation
LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT OF BALANCE 75% OF HIGHEST BID Within 15 days from the date of bid Confirmation

INSPECTION OF PROPERTY(IES) 8th September, 2025 Before 5 PM | Auction Date 12/09/2025 from 10 am to 10.30 am

Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)/ Loan Account	Total Outstanding	RESERVE PRICE & EMD AMOUNT
1 (1) Rakesh Rajaram Phatak (Borrower); (2) Prajakta Rajaram Phatak (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. FEDVAAOHL0507515	Rs. 27,12,000/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Twelve Thousand Only) as on 01/07/2025 with interest and expenses thereon from 02/07/2025	RESERVE PRICE (IN RS.),Rs. 18,40,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Forty Thousand Only) EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (IN RS.) THROUGH DD/PO/RTGS IN FAVOR OF 'FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED' Rs. 1,84,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Only)
Description of the Immovable property : All that Flat bearing No. 401, on the Fourth Floor, admeasuring 515 Square Feet i.e., admeasuring 47.86 Square Meters (saleable area), in the Building No. 1, known as "OM SAI APARTMENT", in the building of the Society known as "OM SAI APARTMENT CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY LTD", constructed on land bearing Survey No. 1A, Hissa No. 4, lying being and situated at Village Bolinj, Virar West, Tal. Vasai, Dist. Palghar – 401303, within the area of jurisdiction of Vasai – Virar City Municipal Corporation, Sub – Registrar of Vasal No. 1 to 6.		
2 (1) RUPESH TANAJI CHAUDHARI (Borrower); (2) YOGITA TANAJI CHAUDHARI (Co - Borrower). Loan Account No. FEDVAASTL0499709	Rs. 34,05,789/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Nine Only) as on 31/05/2025 with interest and expenses thereon from 01/06/2025	RESERVE PRICE (IN RS.),Rs. 11,84,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Only) Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.) Through DD/po/rtps In Favor Of 'fedbank Financial Services Limited' Rs. 1,18,400/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred Only)
Description of the Immovable property : Shop No. 03, admeasuring 325 Sq. Ft., built-up on Ground Floor, in the Building "ATMASHAKTI APARTMENT" on land bearing Survey No. 11, Uppibhag 8, Plot No. 6, Village Pasthal, Tal & Dist Palghar, within the area of Sub – Registrar Palghar		
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Fedbank Financial Services Limited (FEDFINA) Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.fedfina.com & Link https://www.fedfina.com/public-notice-for-auction-cum-sale/ under Auction For any enquiry, information, support, procedure and training kindly coordinate with Authorised Officer of Fedbank Financial Services Limited is/ are Mr. Zahid Sultan – 8879835517, Email Id- zahid@fedfina.com & Mr. Intizar Mehdi Sayed – 9940374755, Email Id- intizar.sayed@fedfina.com		
Date : 30.08.2025. Place: MAHARASHTRA		Sd/- Authorised Officer Fedbank Financial Services Limited



AGARWAL INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: L99999MH1995PLC084618
Registered Office: Eastern Court, Unit No. 201-202, Plot No. 12, V.N. Puray Marg, S.T. Road, Chembur, Mumbai – 400071
Phone Nos: +91-22-25291149/50. Fax: +91-22-25291147
Website: www.aicld.in ; E-mail: contact@aicld.in

NOTICE OF 31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AGARWAL INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION LIMITED
1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 31st Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Agarwal Industrial Corporation Limited ("Company") for the Financial Year 2024-2025 would be held through Video Conferencing on Monday, September 22, 2025 at 12.00 Noon in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules made thereunder read with Ministry of Corporate Affairs("MCA") General Circular No. 20/2020 dated may 05, 2020 and subsequent Circulars issued in this regard, the latest one being Circular No. 09/2024 and SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMO1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020, and SEBI/HO/DDHS/P/CIR/2023/0164 dated October 06, 2023 ("herein after collectively referred to as Circulars") , the AGM of the Company will be held through Video Conferencing (VC)/ Other Audio Video Means (OAVM) and accordingly, the physical attendance of the Members at the AGM venue. Hence Members can attend and participate in the ensuing AGM through VC/ OAVM.
2. The Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2024-25 has been sent only by electronic mode to members whose email addresses are registered with the Company /RTA/ Depository Participants (DP). Further, in accordance with Regulation 36(1)(b) of the SEBI(Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a letter containing the web-link for assessing the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2024-25 has been made available on the web-site of the Company at www.aicld.in in the website of the Stock Exchanges where the shares of the Company have been listed viz BSE Limited www.bseindia.com, and NSE – www.nseindia.com and also disseminated on the website of NSDL (agency for providing the Remote e-Voting facility and e-voting system during the AGM) i.e. <https://www.evoting.nsdl.com/>. The Board has appointed Mr. P.M.Vala, Practicing Company Secretary (FCS- 5193, CP- 4237), as the Scrutinizer for conducting remote e-voting in a fair and transparent manner.

Day, Date and Time of Commencement of remote e-voting	Friday , September 19, 2025 (09:00 A.M IST)
Day, Date and Time of end of remote e-voting	Sunday, September 21, 2025 (05:00 P.M IST)
e-voting at the AGM	From commencement of the AGM till conclusion of the AGM
Date on which shares held by the Members shall be reckoned for the purpose of determining their voting rights	One day before the commencement of the Book closure period from September 17, 2025 to September 22, 2025 (both days inclusive) viz September 16, 2025.
Any person who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a Member of the Company after dispatch of the notice and holding shares on i.e. September 16, 2025 may obtain the Log in ID and Password and follow the instructions for remote e-voting mentioned in AGM Notice for remote e-voting or by sending a request at helpdesk.evoting@nsdl.co.in or Mumbai@linkintime.co.in	

The remote e-voting shall be disabled and shall not be allowed for remote e-voting after Sunday September 21, 2025 (05:00 P.M IST). Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member cannot modify it subsequently.

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on: 022 - 4886 7000 and 022 - 2499 7000 or send a request to Ms. Pallavi Mhatre at evoting@nsdl.co.in.

Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from September 17, 2025 to September 22, 2025 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM/ Dividend declaration, if any.

The results of voting declared along with the report of the Scrutinizer shall be placed on the website of the Company, www.aicld.com and on the website of NSDL-www.evoting.nsdl.com immediately after the declaration of result by the Chairman or a person authorized by him in writing. The results shall also be immediately forwarded to the Stock Exchanges (BSE and NSE) where the shares of the Company are listed.

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Agarwal Industrial Corporation Limited
Sd/-
Yashee Agrawal
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Date: 29.08.2025
Place: Mumbai

BAWEJA STUDIOS LIMITED
CIN: L92112MH2001PLC131253
Regd Off: C-65, Aashirwad, Lohandwala Complex, Andheri (West), Mumbai - 400053. **Phone:** 022-3590 1403, **Email:** cs@bawejastudios.com
Web: www.bawejastudios.com

NOTICE REGARDING 24TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING

- Notice is hereby given that the 24th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of Members of Baweja Studios Limited will be held on Monday, September 29, 2025 at 04.00 P.M. IST through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, rules made thereunder, applicable provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 (as amended), ("Listing Regulations") read with General Circular No. 09/2024 dated September 19, 2024 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") and SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2024/133 dated October 03, 2024 issued by SEBI, and other relevant circulars in this regards ("hereinafter collectively referred to as Circulars") to transact business as contained in the notice of the 24th AGM.
- In compliance with above mentioned Circulars, the electronic copies of the Notice of 24th AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year 2024-25 is being sent through electronic mode to those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depositories. The notice of 24th AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2024-25 will be made available on the company's website i.e. www.bawejastudios.com and can be accessed on the website of the Stock Exchange i.e. NSE Limited (www.nseindia.com).
- Members can attend and participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility only, the details of which will be provided by the Company in the Notice of 24th AGM. Members attending the AGM through VC / OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Act.
- Manner of registering email addresses for those Members whose email addresses are not registered for obtaining AGM Notice/Annual Report and/or for obtaining login credentials for e-voting on the resolutions set out in this Notice:
 - Members who have not yet registered their email addresses are requested to register the same with their DPs in case the shares are held by them in electronic form.
- Manner of casting vote through Remote e-voting (electronically):
 - Members will have the facility to cast their vote on the businesses set forth in the Notice of AGM through remote e-voting system. The Company has entered into an arrangement with National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) for facilitating remote e-voting for AGM.
 - Detailed procedure for casting the vote through remote e-voting during e-voting period and during the AGM shall be provided in the Notice of the AGM, which shall also be made available on the website of the Company.
 - Members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date (record date) of September 22, 2025, may cast their vote electronically. Members who have acquired shares after the dispatch of the Annual Report and before the book closure may approach the Company for issuance of the User ID and Password for exercising their right to vote by electronic means.
- The Register of Members and Share Transfer Registers of the Company shall remain closed from September 23, 2025 to September 29, 2025 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting of the Company.

By order of the Board
For Baweja Studios Limited
Sd/-
Harman Baweja
Managing Director
DIN: 02663248

Date: 29.08.2025
Place: Mumbai

INNOVATORS FACADE SYSTEMS LIMITED
CIN: L45200MH1999PLC102299
Registered Office: 204, B-65, Sector No. 1, Shanti Nagar, Mira Road (East), Thane- 401107. **Contact:** +91 22 2811 2521, **Mobile No.** 9969016000
Email: investors@innovators.in ; **Website:** www.innovators.in

NOTICE FOR THE ATTENTION OF SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY NOTICE OF THE 26TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 26th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") on **Tuesday, 23rd September 2025 at 11.30 a.m. IST** in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder and the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, (SEBI Listing Regulations) and MCA Circular 05th May, 2022 read with circulars 08th April, 2020, 13th April, 2020, 05th May, 2020, 28th September, 2020, 31st December, 2020 and 13th January, 2022, 25th September, 2023 and 19th September, 2024 (to transact the business set out in the Notice to the AGM. The deemed venue for the 26th AGM will be the registered office of the company.

The Notice convening the AGM along with the Annual report for FY 2024-25 have been sent only through electronic mode on Friday, 29th August, 2025 to the members whose email address are registered with the Depository Participants ("DPs")/Company/ Registrar & Share transfer Agent viz MUGF Intime India Private Limited ("RTA"). The notice and Annual report are also available on the website of the company at www.innovators.in and www.bseindia.com additionally the notice is also available on the website of MUGF Intime India Private Limited (formerly known as Link Intime India Private Limited) (agency providing the remote e-voting facility and e-voting during the AGM) at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>. All the documents referred in the notice are available for inspection electronically from the date of dispatch of the Notice till Tuesday, 23rd September. Members seeking to inspect such documents are requested to write to the company at investors@innovators.in.

Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from **Wednesday, 17th September 2025 to Tuesday, 23rd September 2025** (both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting of the Company.

Members holding shares in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of **Tuesday, 16th September 2025** may cast their vote electronically on the business as set out in the Notice of the AGM through electronic voting system of MUGF Intime India Private Limited from a place other than the venue of the AGM (remote e-Voting).

In Compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Act, Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, Secretarial Standards and Regulation 44 of the SEBI Regulations the facility for e-voting in respect of business to be transacted at the AGM is being provided by the Company through MUGF Intime India Private Limited.

The remote e-Voting shall commence on Saturday, 20th September, 2025 at 09.00 a.m. (IST) and ends on Monday, 22nd September, 2025 at 05.00 p.m. (IST). The remote e-Voting module will be disabled thereafter. Once the vote is cast by the member on a resolution, member shall not be allowed to change the same subsequently.

Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to AGM may attend/participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM but shall not entitled to cast their vote again.

Members who are present at the AGM through VC/OAVM and have not casted their vote on the resolutions through remote e-voting shall be eligible to vote through e-voting during the AGM. The detailed procedure and instructions for e-voting during the AGM is mentioned in the notice.

Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice of the AGM and holding shares as on the cut-off date i.e. **Tuesday, 16th September 2025** may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at instameet@in.mpmg.mugf.com. However, if a person is already registered then existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.

The detailed procedure and instructions for casting vote through remote e-voting or e-voting during the AGM for all members, including members whose email addresses are not registered with the (DPs/Company/RTA) are stated in the notice. This advertisement shall also be available on Company's website at www.innovators.in and also on Stock Exchange's website at www.bseindia.com .

By Order of Board of Directors
For Innovators Facade Systems Limited
Sd/-
Vedashri Chaudhari
Company Secretary & Compliance officer

Date : 29th August 2025
Place : Thane

Editorial

'GST 2.0': The Rise of a New Era

GST brought about a historic change in the taxation system of the Indian economy. The concept of 'One Nation, One Tax', implemented in 2017, provided ease of trade, transparency and revenue stability. However, practical difficulties, frequent rate changes and burden on small industries have raised some questions. Against this backdrop, a new era, 'GST 2.0', is starting in 2025. This reform, based on the principles of low tax rates, ease of doing business and stability, is going to give new strength to the Indian market. An easy, efficient and productive taxation system is very important for the economic progress of any country. Although the tax structure adopted by India after independence was based on socialist objectives, it turned out to be oppressive for production growth. Income tax had increased to 97 percent, which encouraged tax evasion and tax evasion. 'Goods and Services Tax' or GST came into existence to bring about radical reforms in this old, complex taxation system. After ten years of long discussions, GST was implemented on July 1, 2017 with the ambitious goal of 'One Nation, One Tax'. This change abolished more than 30 taxes and cesses at the central and state levels. Initially applicable to only 6 items, GST has now been implemented on almost all goods and services. While 'one rate' was expected, four tax brackets of 5, 12, 18 and 28 were actually fixed. To change these rates, the GST Council was set up, which includes the Union Finance Minister and the Finance Ministers of the states. In the last eight years, this council has played a significant role in changing the entire tax system.

In the last eight years, GST has had a positive impact on the Indian economy. It is also called 'Good and Simple Tax'. The government has been getting a steady and large amount of revenue from this tax. Last year, it collected a tax revenue of Rs 22 lakh crore, which is about Rs 2 lakh crore every month. In 2020-21, the same figure was 11.37 lakh crore. According to a report published by Deloitte in June 2025, only 15 percent of taxpayers are dissatisfied with the system. About 1.5 crore GST paying businesses faced some practical difficulties, including frequent changes in rates, technical issues with the portal, classification of goods, delays in refunds and tax burden on small businesses. Since GST is consumption-based and not product-based, some states initially lost revenue, but were promised to compensate for it for five years, which was extended due to the Corona crisis. Avoiding double taxation, making the entire country a single market and facilitating transactions through the use of technology, all these were positive results of GST and gave impetus to the economy. On August 15, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a very important announcement regarding GST. This new era of 'GST 2.0' is not only to reduce the impact of US tariffs, but also to make the entire economy more dynamic. These much-awaited reforms have created a happy and hopeful atmosphere in the country, and many are waiting for the details of these changes. It is important to understand these changes as they affect everyone, including consumers, manufacturers and distributors.

The changes in GST 2.0 are multifaceted. They include not only changes in rates, but also structural reforms and changes to increase ease of doing business. These changes will awaken India's latent potential and increase market depth. In this new structure, GST rates are going to be reduced significantly. Now, by abolishing the 12% and 28% brackets, there will be two main brackets of 5% and 18%. GST on many goods and services will be reduced by 7 to 10 percent, which will bring a big positive change in the economy. Along with the changes in GST rates, some structural changes are also expected. 'Input tax refund' will now be easier. There will be less confusion in the classification of goods, which will make the tax payment process easier. One of the important changes is the stability in tax rates, which will also increase stability in businesses. The third important change in GST 2.0 is 'ease of doing business'. The real beneficiaries of this change will be small traders and manufacturers (MSME) sector. This class was suffering from the difficulties of GST and was eagerly waiting for these changes. The method of filing GST returns will be simplified and the return period will also be reduced.

The new phase of GST will be a big gift for all consumers this Diwali. Many goods and services will now attract 5 percent GST instead of 12 percent, while luxury goods will be taxed at 18 percent instead of 28 percent, i.e. a direct 10 percent tax cut. This will further expand the market for essential and convenience goods. The list of goods that will become cheaper is very large. Health and other insurance will become cheaper. At the same time, items with a packet of Rs 10, two-wheelers, four-wheelers, TVs, mobiles, ACs and cement will become cheaper. The prices of small cars less than four meters long will be reduced by Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh. The impact of this tax cut will also help the agriculture sector, as the tools and fertilizers required for farming will become cheaper. The automobile industry, textile industry and small traders will be able to grow due to these changes. There is a possibility of imposing a 40 percent 'sin tax' on goods that are harmful to health and social well-being. The new tax rates will reduce government revenue by Rs 20,000 to 40,000 crore, which will increase the revenue shortfall. But the government is confident that this deficit will be filled through increased business and trade. It is on this belief that the government has taken this big step. There is an important condition for this success: all manufacturers should pass on the benefit of the tax cut 100 percent to the consumers without increasing the profit margin and the government should keep a close eye on this. GST 2.0 is not just an economic reform, it is a social and economic transformation that will take India to new heights of progress.

GST 2.0 is not just a change in tax rates, but a new phase in India's economic policy. Reduced rates, simplified procedures and a stable structure will strengthen industries, provide relief to consumers and revitalize the economy. The government is confident that despite the revenue challenges, they can be overcome with increased production, trade and investment.

Highway network expanded from 91,000 km in 2014 to 1.46 lakh km in 2024



Union Minister of State for Road, Transport and Highways & Corporate Affairs, Shri Harsh Malhotra, today laid the foundation stone for 4 new flyovers at Panchgaon Chowk, Rathiwas, near Hero Company, and Sahlawas, Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) at 9 strategic locations along the Gurgaon-Kotputli-Jaipur section of NH-48 — Shikhopur, Manesar, Binola, Rathiwas, Malpura, Jaisinghpurkhera, Sidhrawali, Kharkhara, and Khijuri — and other engineering works, at an estimated cost of Rs. 282 crore, along with the Minister of

Shri Malhotra stated that he is grateful to contribute to the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari — a vision of a Viksit Bharat, where world-class infrastructure is not a dream but a reality.

Shri Malhotra stated that over the past 11 years, under the visionary leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Shri Nitin Gadkari, the government has undertaken a massive and coordinated push to strengthen connectivity across India, completing

road network globally with high-speed corridors growing from just 93 km to 2,474 km, and highways with four lanes and above increasing by 2.5 times in the last decade.

Shri Malhotra stated that it is a matter of pride that India now builds roads at a record pace of 34 km per day, supported by a 6.4x increase in Ministry spending and a 570% rise in budget allocation since 2014. National Highway stretches with four or more lanes grew 2.6 times from 18,371 km in 2014 to 48,422 km in 2024, while the National Highway construction pace rose by 2.8 times from 12.1 km/day in 2014-15 to 33.8 km/day in 2023-24.

The minister stated that over the past 11 years, the government has played a transformative role in reshaping Gurugram into a dynamic urban and economic powerhouse. Landmark infrastructure projects such as the Dwarka Expressway, Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II), Metro Rail exten-

the development of Gurgaon who has been a pivotal force in the transformation of Gurugram into a modern urban hub and elevating Gurgaon's status as a leading economic and technological center.

Shri Malhotra stated

cated lighting systems, which would, in turn, significantly reduce pedestrian-related accidents and fatalities while improving overall highway safety and connectivity.

The Minister highlighted that these projects would

further said that public infrastructure is the backbone of economic development, enhancing connectivity, trade, and overall quality of life. India, the world's fourth-largest economy, has made remarkable progress in infrastructure development



that the projects whose foundation stone are being laid today would ensure a safer and smoother travel experience for the residents and commuters of Gurugram, Rewari, and adjoining regions, especially service professional and would address the long-standing challenges of traffic congestion, waterlogging, and road safety along the NH-48 corridor from Kherki Dhaura to the Haryana-Rajasthan border. The 4 flyover projects at Panchgaon Chowk, Rathiwas, near Hero Company, and Sahlawas are aimed for eliminating at-grade conflicts and address accident-prone blackspots.

The Minister further highlighted that Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) at nine strategic locations along the Gurgaon-Kotputli-Jaipur section of NH-48 will be equipped with ramps and stairways to ensure accessibility for all, including two-wheelers where necessary. Also, to enhance safety and usability during night hours, the bridges will feature dedi-

be a stepping stone for prosperity in the region, which would not only ensure road safety but would also significantly contribute to the region and propel social and economic well-being.

Shri Malhotra stated that strategic decongestion of Delhi-NCR, where projects worth ₹80,545 crore, covering 1,679 km, have been completed, and an additional ₹7,084 crore worth of infrastructure is under implementation, and ₹23,850 crore worth of projects are in the planning stage, including extensions of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra and Delhi-Dehradun Expressways via UER-II, the eastern extension of UER-II to Noida, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad, a 5 km road tunnel from Dwarka Expressway to Nelson Mandela Marg, a 20 km elevated corridor from AIIMS to Mahipalpur Bypass extending to Gurgaon-Faridabad Road, and a 0.5 km interchange at Kalindi Kunj near Okhla Barrage.

Shri Harsh Malhotra

over the past decade, and every rupee spent on infrastructure has a multiplier effect of 3.2 times in the GDP of the nation.

The minister further stated that this infrastructural transformation is about integrated development, economic empowerment, and regional balance and under the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti Master Plan, infrastructure is being developed in synergy with logistics, railways, ports, and urban planning to create seamless mobility and unlock economic potential. Shri Malhotra further directed the officials to expedite the projects in stipulated time so that it could be opened for the general public as per the schedule.

Minister Shri Harsh Malhotra at the end said that the infrastructure development is not just about building roads but would lay the foundation for transformation of India into an economic powerhouse and subsequently be a key parameter towards Viksit Bharat.

Aatmanirbharta is no longer just a slogan, it is becoming a ground reality

As a testimony to India's growing shipbuilding prowess and its march towards self-reliance, two multi-mission stealth frigates of Project 17A – INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri – were commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at the Naval Base, Visakhapatnam on August 26, 2025. It was for the first time that two frontline surface combatants indigenously constructed by two different shipyards – Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai [INS Udaygiri] and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata [INS Himgiri] – were commissioned simultaneously. In his address, Raksha Mantri exuded confidence that these warships will not only strengthen the security system and safeguard maritime interests, but will also assist in Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief missions. He stated that the commissioning bolsters India's policy of Neighbourhood First and MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security & Growth for All in the Region). These frigates, which will enhance the capability of the Indian Navy, send a message that India is fully capable of protecting its maritime borders and is ready to respond immediately to any situation," he added.

Aatmanirbhar Navy INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri follow INS Nilgiri, the lead ship of the successor class to Project 17 (Shivalik class). They incorporate improved stealth features, reduced radar signatures, advanced surveillance radars and electronic warfare suites, supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles and rapid-fire gun systems. Both ships feature Combined Diesel or Gas propulsion plants and a state-of-the-art Integrated Platform Management System, enabling higher speeds and improved fuel efficiency. These are the 100th and 101st warships designed in-house by the Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy, and built in India, reflecting the Navy's continuous ef-

fort to enhance indigenous content and self-reliance. High indigenous content — exceeding 75% — has been achieved through the participation of numerous MSMEs and the procurement of major weapons and sensors from Indian Original Equipment Manufacturers. Raksha Mantri described the commissioning as a giant stride towards the realisation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's dream of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and a proof of the Government's vision & commitment. "INS Udaygiri & INS Himgiri are the shining examples of the Government's firm resolve towards self-reliance, symbols of a transformative movement, and testament to the vision that the nation will touch greater heights & obtain the goal of self-reliance with concerted efforts of all stakeholders," he said, commending the seamless collaboration between MDL and GRSE in constructing and delivering the two potent warships. Blue Water Navy The multi-mission frigates are crucial operational enablers that will enhance the Navy's ability to safeguard national interests across the full spectrum of maritime missions. They are equipped with next-generation weapons, sensors and integrated platform management systems, are ready to perform anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, sea-control and humanitarian operations. Shri Rajnath Singh asserted that the commissioning of INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri not only strengthens the Navy's combat potential but reinforces its role as a "First Responder" and "Preferred Security Partner" in the Indian Ocean Region. "From combating piracy, fighting against smuggling and illegal trafficking, curbing maritime terrorism, or providing relief after a natural disaster, these warships will prove to be a game-changer in complex and risky operations," he said. Raksha Mantri dubbed the Indian Navy as a symbol of India's maritime power as it is safeguarding the country's interests amidst the Naval activities being witnessed from Arabian Sea to Middle East and eastern African sea-

board. "The geo-strategic condition is such that it has the capability to directly impact our economic development. Our energy requirements, oil and natural gas depend to a large extent on the security of this region. Our Navy has emerged as a major pillar of our national economic security," he said.

Ever-ready Nav Appreciating the prompt planning and execution of the Indian Navy during Operation Sindoor, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that "the adversary realises the strength and capability of our Navy and what it can do". He termed the seamless synergy among the three Services and other security agencies/departments during the operation as a proof that the nation stands united in every challenge and tackles it effectively "India does not believe in aggressive expansionism. We never attack any country or provoke anyone. But, this doesn't mean we bow before those who mean to harm us. When our security is threatened, we know how to give a befitting reply. Innocent civilians were killed in Pahalgam. We gave an effective, measured and precise response through Operation Sindoor. We pledged to destroy terrorist hideouts and successfully achieved our goals. I want to reiterate that the operation is not over, it is merely a pause. Today, the entire nation is united against terrorism under the leadership of PM Modi, and this national unity, discipline, sacrifice & dedication are our real strength," added Raksha Mantri.

Future-ready Navy On the rapidly-evolving nature of warfare, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that new technologies, strategies and equipment are being witnessed in every conflict, and it has become necessary to not only keep updating oneself, but also explore the unexplored and achieve the unexpected. "Old thinking won't work in today's era. We need to anticipate new threats and keep finding solutions, which is why our government is giving priority to research and development in the defence sector. Earlier, only a few countries were

manufacturing high-tech equipment, which now India is producing on its own soil," he said.

Raksha Mantri voiced the Government's unwavering resolve to strengthen the Armed Forces under a futuristic vision, terming it as a big achievement of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign. "Today, we are protecting not only land, sea and sky, but also space, cyberspace, economic space and social space. Self-reliance is no longer just a slogan; it is becoming a ground reality. And this is due to the hard work of our scientists, officers of the Armed Forces and every person who works diligently day and night," he stated.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi described the double-commissioning as a clear testimony to the continued progress and dynamic expansion of India's maritime power. He also highlighted the Indian Navy's ability to deliver overwhelming force from the sea in the present age of uncertainties and competition, terming it as a credible deterrence against the nation's enemies. "We demonstrated this brilliantly during Operation Sindoor when swift deployment and aggressive posturing of our units, effectively constrained the Pakistan Navy, and forced them to request a cease of kinetic actions," he said. Recalling PM Modi's call for manufacturing indigenous equipment to generate uniqueness and a surprise element in the security apparatus of the country, the Chief of the Naval Staff stated that INS Himgiri and INS Udaygiri, with over 75% indigenous content, are milestones on the road to achieving self-reliance in defence production. Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi congratulated the Commanding Officers of INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, and the Commissioning Crew, who have worked tirelessly shoulder to shoulder with all the stakeholders to achieve this important milestone. Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, other senior officers

of the Navy and naval veterans were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

More about INS Udaygiri & INS Himgiri

In keeping with the Navy's tradition of rechristening new ships after their illustrious predecessors, the new Udaygiri and Himgiri carry forward the proud names of earlier frigates that served the nation for decades. The modern Udaygiri pays tribute to the erstwhile INS Udaygiri, which was in commission from 1976 to 2007, while Himgiri honours the erstwhile Himgiri that served from 1974 to 2005. The commissioning of the new ships thus links India's rich maritime heritage with promising future aspirations.

The simultaneous induction of two major combatants highlights the Navy's growing operational focus on the Eastern Seaboard. Both frigates will join the Eastern Fleet under the Eastern Naval Command, significantly enhancing India's ability to respond rapidly to maritime contingencies and to secure sea lanes in the Bay of Bengal and beyond. The event underscored India's growing confidence in its indigenous shipbuilding capabilities and reaffirmed its resolve to build and operate complex platforms at par with global standards. With the induction of INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, the Indian Navy has added two potent multi-mission frigates to its order of battle, further strengthening the nation's maritime posture and capability to project power and provide security across the Indian Ocean Region. INS Udaygiri's keel was laid on May 07, 2019 and the ship was launched on December 14, 2020. Both ships underwent a comprehensive schedule of trials in harbour and at sea prior delivery to the Indian Navy on July 01, 2025 and July 31, 2025 respectively. The balance four ships of the Class are at various stages of construction at MDL & GRSE and would be delivered to the Indian Navy by mid-2026.

Nanded schools shut for second day as heavy rains trigger flooding

Nanded: Heavy rains continued to lash Nanded city and various parts of Nanded district for the second consecutive day, severely disrupting normal life across the region. District Collector Rahul Kardile declared a holiday for all schools in the region today in view of the heavy rainfall and flood situation throughout the area.

The persistent downpour has caused multiple rivers to overflow their banks, creating dangerous flood situation across the district. Degloor and Naigaon talukas have been among the worst affected areas, with authorities evacuating over 2,300 people from different parts of the district to safer locations. District Collector Kardile confirmed that he has been in constant contact with army officers regarding the worsening situation, with a 15-member army team already deployed in the Mukhed area to assist with



ongoing rescue operations.

The State Disaster Response Force and disaster management teams have been actively involved in evacuating affected residents from flood-hit villages. Several key routes including Nanded-Hyderabad, Deglur-Udgir, and Narsi-Biloli have been closed due to inundation, while railway services have also been affected with 19 trains cancelled in the Nanded and Hyderabad divisions of the South Central Railway. Water discharge from dams is currently underway, and coordination

with the irrigation department of neighbouring Telangana state regarding water discharge from Pochampad Dam may be required if the situation deteriorates further. The India Meteorological Department has issued alerts for continued heavy rainfall in the coming days. More than 3,000 citizens from Deglur, Naigaon, and Mukhed talukas have been moved to safer places as flood waters entered numerous houses across these areas, with villages along the Godavari basin placed on high alert due to rising water levels.

Maratha reservation: Raut, Pawar, Uddhav must clarify stand on OBC quota allocation, says BJP

Mumbai: Bharatiya Janata Party Media Cell Chief Navnath Ban today said the government led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has consistently worked for Maratha community progress and fulfilled their demands.

Speaking at a press conference at the party's state office, Ban said that in 2018, when Fadnavis was Chief Minister, he granted reservation to the Maratha community. However, during Uddhav Thackeray's tenure, this reservation was lost due to the incompetence of the Maha Vikash Aghadi (MVA) government, he alleged.

Targeting MP Sanjay Raut, Ban said instead of making pointless statements during Maratha protests, Uddhav Thackeray and Raut should clarify their stand on the Maratha reservation movement.

"The MVA, including Congress and NCP, must declare whether they want to give Marathas a separate 10 per cent quota or accommodate them under the OBC quota," he demanded.

Ban said during Fadnavis's tenure as CM from 2014 to 2019,



Marathas were given an independent 14 per cent reservation without affecting the OBC quota. However, after Uddhav Thackeray became CM, the MVA government failed to defend this in court, and the reservation was struck down.

"Uddhav Thackeray and the MVA are entirely responsible for this. But after the Mahayuti government came to power again, under CM Eknath Shinde, Marathas were granted 10 per cent reservation, and it is the state government's responsibility

to defend it in court," Ban said, expressing confidence that this reservation will be upheld.

He strongly countered Sanjay Raut's criticism of the government, adding that Fadnavis handled 54 peaceful Maratha protests with patience, but Uddhav Thackeray did not face even a single one. "So before calling others cowards, Raut should reflect on who was actually cowardly," he said.

Ban also accused Raut of adding fuel to the fire while the Maratha

community is conducting their protests peacefully and patiently.

Reviewing various decisions taken by the Fadnavis government for Maratha welfare, Ban said the BJP-Mahayuti government has implemented the highest number of welfare schemes for Marathas. Through the Annasaheb Patil Economic Development Corporation, over one lakh youth were employed, loans worth Rs 8,320 crore were distributed, and 3.8 lakh students received Rs 1,293 crore in educational assistance.

Hostel facilities, fee concessions, scholarships, and aid for MPSC, UPSC preparation were also provided under Fadnavis's tenure, he added.

He highlighted that Fadnavis had allocated Rs 1,024 crore to the SARTHI institution, while Uddhav Thackeray's government did not allocate even a single rupee. The BJP-Mahayuti government provided crores of rupees to establish divisional centres of SARTHI in Pune, Kharghar, Kolhapur, Nashik, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Latur, and Nagpur, he said.

CM Fadnavis flags off extended Vande Bharat service from CST to Nanded



Mumbai: Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis today virtually flagged off the extended Hazur Sahib Nanded-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) Vande Bharat Express. The virtual flag-off ceremony took place at Mantralaya, the government's administrative headquarters in Mumbai.

Speaking on the occasion, Fadnavis said, "To accelerate Marathwada's growth, we are focusing on dynamic transport solutions.

Today, the Vande Bharat Express has brought Nanded closer to Mumbai, opening new doors of opportunity and prosperity for the region."

With this, the 610-km journey from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai to Nanded, an important Sikh pilgrimage centre, can be completed in just a little over nine hours, and the capacity of the passengers has been increased from the earlier 500 to 1,400.

Youth dies after week-long battle for life following group clash

Nashik : A youth who sustained serious injuries in a group clash died here in Maharashtra today whilst undergoing treatment at a local hospital. The incident occurred on August 22 at Nandur Naka during the Pola 2025 festival celebrations when a violent altercation erupted between groups led by former corporator Uddhav Nimse and the Dhotre faction. Rahul Dhotre, who suffered severe injuries during the assault by the Nimse group, succumbed to his wounds today after battling for life for a week. Videos of the violent confrontation had gone viral on social media platforms. A case was initially registered at Adgaon Naka Police Station following the incident. Police have arrested several activists associated with Nimse, though the main accused, Uddhav Nimse, and some



of his accomplices remain at large. The Dhotre family has demanded their immediate arrest. With Dhotre's death, police have now registered a murder case. Adgaon Police are conducting further investigations into the matter. The deceased's body has been shifted to the district government hospital in Nashik for post-mortem examination. A large crowd of grieving relatives gathered at the hospital. The Dhotre family has reiterated their demand

for Nimse's immediate arrest and strict action against all perpetrators. Police have appealed for calm, assuring that appropriate action is being taken and strict measures will be implemented against all accused. Earlier, representatives from the Shiv Sena (Thackeray faction) and the victim's family had met the Police Commissioner, submitting a detailed statement regarding the August 22 attack in Adgaon police station limits.

Orange alert issued as heavy rains lash Marathwada districts

Ch. Sambhajnagar: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for very heavy rainfall across all eight districts of Marathwada region today, with intense monsoon activity and thunderstorms accompanied by lightning at isolated places. The weather development follows the formation of a low-pressure system over northwest Bay of Bengal that has triggered widespread rainfall across the region. Osmanabad district experienced the most severe weather conditions with continuous heavy rain throughout the day recording 92.95 mm precipitation and maximum humidity of 95 percent. The district recorded 22 degrees Celsius as the highest temperature with complete cloud cover and visibility reduced to nine kilometres due to persistent downpours. Current conditions indicate moderate to heavy rain with westerly winds at 24 kilometres per hour and atmospheric pressure at 1006 millibars. Parbhani district witnessed rainfall with maximum temperature of 26 degrees Celsius and minimum of 23 degrees, showing cloudy conditions with light rain and thunderstorms throughout the day with 93 percent humidity levels. Nanded district experienced rain with 26 degrees maximum and 23 degrees minimum temperature recording 95 percent



humidity and atmospheric pressure of 100.4 kilopascals. Other districts including Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Jalna, Beed, Hingoli and Latur also received light to moderate rainfall with thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places as part of the active monsoon conditions affecting the region. The weather department has indicated that gusty winds reaching 30 to 40 kilometres per hour may accompany thunderstorms at isolated places during this period, representing the final phase of active monsoon conditions over Marathwada before seasonal withdrawal begins. District collectors have been advised to maintain preparedness and ensure proper functioning of drainage systems to prevent waterlogging during the rainfall period as the region receives much-needed precipitation for agricultural recovery.

Ajit Pawar's camp involved in Maratha quota stir, claims OBC leader

Mumbai : The ongoing Maratha reservation agitation led by Manoj Jarange-Patil is not limited to quota demands but is aimed at toppling the government under Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, claimed prominent OBC leader Prof. Laxman Hake today.

Hake claimed that not only opposition parties but also MLAs and MPs from Deputy CM Ajit Pawar's camp are actively participating in the agitation. "Jarange has been projected as a volcano.

He neither respects the government



nor the court. He is pushing demands through mob pressure. If accepted,

these demands will destroy the OBC structure in the state," Hake said.

He further alleged that Jarange is receiving logistical support from the opposition as well as Ajit Pawar's group to destabilise the state government.

Hake announced that OBC representatives will soon hold a meeting in Pune to decide the future course of action. He also urged OBC ministers to meet the Chief Minister and ensure OBC quota remains intact. "If they fail, the community will never forgive them," he warned.

Ten people rescued from floodwaters in Latur district

Latur: Ten people have been successfully rescued from flood situations in the Shirur Anantpal and Ahmedpur talukas of Latur district through the combined efforts of the disaster management team and local citizens. The rescue operations were conducted under the immediate guidance and supervision of District Collector Varsha Thakur Ghuge, with all teams working efficiently to complete the missions successfully. Among those rescued were five people who had become trapped in



a shed located on the riverbank in the Shirur Anantpal area, all of whom were brought to safety by the local rescue team. In a separate

incident at Mouje Kalegaon in Ahmedpur taluka, one person who was trapped in the tailings of a storage tank was immediately rescued

by the responding team. Additionally, three labourers who were working on the construction of a bridge over the Gharani river in Shirur Anantpal found themselves trapped by rising water levels and were safely extracted with the assistance of the local rescue team. In another successful rescue operation at Mauje Makani village, local villagers rescued Daulat Gopal Dongargave, who had been swept away by water currents while attempting to cross a bridge near the village.

Identities of all four eliminated Naxalites confirmed: SP Nilotpal

Gadchiroli : The identities of four Naxalites, who were eliminated in an encounter on August 27 in the Koparshi forest near the Gadchiroli-Chhattisgarh border, have been confirmed. The deceased include two members of Company 10, as well as cadres from the Gatta and Aheri groups, Superintendent of Police Nilotpal stated. Speaking to UNI today SP Nilotpal said, "An encounter that took place on August 27 in the dense Koparshi forest near the Gadchiroli-Chhattisgarh border, the Gadchiroli police successfully killed four hardened Naxalites, one male and three females."

The identities of the four deceased have been established: two were members of Company 10, one belonged to the Gatta group and one was from the Aheri group. Their names are Malu Pada (41), a resident of Burgi, Chhattisgarh. Kranti alias Jamma Rainu (32), from Bodhintola, Jyoti Kunjam (27), from the Bastar area and Mangi Madkam (22), also from the Bastar area.

Notably, Jyoti Kunjam was the last member of the Aheri group, and all four Naxalites had bounties of Rs



14 lakh on their heads.

Following the encounter, the Superintendent of Police (SP) stated that only 25 active armed Naxalites remain in Gadchiroli district. On August 25, police received confidential intelligence that many Naxalites had assembled in the thick forest near the Chhattisgarh border in the Bhamragad taluka region. Under the leadership of Deputy Superintendent of Police Abhiyan M. Ramesh, two teams from C-60, along with two columns of the CRPF, undertook a two-day, 30 km-foot march, crossing ten hills, to reach the Naxal encampment.

The fierce encounter lasted eight hours in heavy rain. Taking advantage of the dense forest, the Naxalites fled, but police found four bodies, weapons, and

Naxal paraphernalia at the site. "Their identities were confirmed at police headquarters yesterday", the officials said. This was the first time the police successfully eliminated two members of Company 10 in a single operation. Now, only the Gatta group and Company 10 remain active. Last member of the Aheri Dalm killed in Koparshi encounter. Over the last five years, anti-Naxal operations in Gadchiroli have intensified. Between 2021 and 2025, the police have neutralized 91 Naxalites, arrested 128, and welcomed 75 surrenders, including some key leaders such as Giridhar and Tarakka. As a result, North Gadchiroli is completely Naxal-free, while South Gadchiroli has only a handful of Naxalites remaining.

75-yr-old man dies, son injured in Nashik bus mishap

Nashik: A 75-year-old man was killed on the spot, and his son was seriously injured when their two-wheeler was hit by a bus near Raje Sambhaji Stadium in CIDCO, Nashik, yesterday evening.

According to police, the deceased was identified as Suresh Dhondiba Anpat (75), a resident of CIDCO. He was riding the two-wheeler when it was struck by a school bus whose brakes had failed. His son, Umesh Anpat (46), who was riding pillion, sustained serious injuries.



Police said the bus, belonging to an engineering college, was carrying

students from Pathardi Phata to Raje Sambhaji Stadium when the accident occurred. The driver, Dilip Gangadhar Gangurde (48), of Jail Road, reportedly lost control after the brakes failed. The bus rammed into the two-wheeler, which in turn crashed into an Eicher truck ahead.

Suresh Anpat suffered serious injuries to his head and face and died on the spot due to excessive bleeding. His son Umesh sustained a fractured leg and was taken to a private hospital.

Army commander visits Ajmer Rashtriya Military School, interacts with cadets

Pune: Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, visited Rashtriya Military School (RMS), Ajmer today.

The Army Commander undertook a comprehensive tour of the institution and inspected the academic, training and residential facilities.

He was briefed on the initiatives undertaken by the school for the all-round

development of cadets, with particular emphasis on academics, military training, discipline and character-building.

The General Officer expressed appreciation for the high standards maintained by the institution and lauded the collective efforts of the faculty and staff in shaping the cadets into future leaders of the Armed Forces.

During the visit, the

General officer released the school's annual magazine 'Abhivyakti', which encapsulates the literary and creative talents, achievements and multifaceted endeavours of the cadets.

He also felicitated cadets who earned laurels in academics, sports, cultural activities and inter-school competitions, commending their efforts and achievements.

A major highlight of the visit was the interaction with the cadets, during which the Army Commander engaged them in discussions on their aspirations, challenges and future goals.

He motivated them to share their thoughts freely and responded to their queries with practical advice and words of encouragement.

He emphasised the im-

portance of patriotism, discipline, leadership qualities, resilience and self-reliance, assuring them that "discipline and hard work are the true keys to success; once imbibed, no goal in life remains unattainable."

The interaction left the cadets inspired, instilling in them confidence and determination to strive for excellence, said a defence release today.

‘Param Sundari’ Star Janhvi Kapoor’s Visit to Lalbaugcha Raja Goes Viral: Netizens React with Empathy

Mumbai : A video of Janhvi Kapoor visiting Lalbaugcha Raja has taken social media by storm, just a day before the release of her film *Param Sundari*. She was seen alongside co-star Sidharth Malhotra as they walked barefoot to seek blessings from Lord Ganesha. The visit, meant to be a spiritual moment ahead of their film’s release, quickly became a topic of widespread discussion online.

Janhvi wore a stunning red saree and a traditional Maharashtrian nath for the occasion, embracing a culturally rooted look that many praised. However, her appearance was overshadowed by the intensity of the crowd at the temple. With Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations underway, the footfall was significantly high, turning the usually serene visit into a chaotic experience.

In the video that’s gone viral, Janhvi appears visibly distressed as she navigates through the throng of devotees. Her facial expressions reveal growing discomfort, with glimpses of fear as she tries to stay composed. The crowd around her was tightly packed, creating a sense of claustrophobia that many viewers could relate to.



Sidharth Malhotra, walking just behind her, managed to maintain a calm demeanor despite the challenging situation. He stayed close, seemingly aware of the tension around them, providing a sense of security through his presence. The duo’s contrasting reactions in the video added depth to the incident, showing different ways of coping in such circumstances.

Netizens were quick to share their thoughts, with many coming out in support of Janhvi. The primary sentiment online was one of empathy, especially from women who recognized the anxiety that comes from being in a packed, all-too-familiar situation like this. Social media threads were filled with similar stories and supportive messages.

One comment that gained traction said, “This isn’t just about her being a celebrity—it’s about being a woman in a vulnerable moment.” That idea resonated widely, with users across platforms highlighting how crowded places can often feel unsafe or overwhelming for women. Another user pointed out that height plays a factor in such settings. “If you’re short, you don’t know where the crowd is moving, and you’re just pushed and pulled with no control,” they wrote, relating to the helplessness Janhvi seemed to be feeling in the video.

Some viewers also noted how, despite being a public figure, Janhvi didn’t put on a mask of composure. Her fear seemed genuine, and that honesty struck a chord. Her expression wasn’t staged for the cameras; it reflected a raw human reaction to a stressful environment.

Male users too expressed concern, with one commenting, “Watching her get anxious made me anxious. I can’t imagine how much worse it must’ve felt

in the moment. This isn’t about glamour—it’s about basic comfort and safety.” The discourse sparked wider conversations about crowd control and celebrity security. Despite the moment of discomfort, the actors completed their visit and offered their prayers before leaving. Reports suggest they spent a short amount of time inside the temple due to the overwhelming rush of devotees present on the premises. The viral clip reignited long-standing concerns about the safety of celebrities and public figures during large religious gatherings. While they often attend such events to connect with fans and seek blessings, the lack of space and crowd discipline can easily turn overwhelming. Fans also raised questions about the security arrangements in place, wondering whether the actors should have been offered a more secure or alternate route. Others defended the authenticity of the experience, stating that the chaos is part of the devotion and the spiritual atmosphere.

The incident, though jarring, didn’t overshadow the anticipation for *Param Sundari*, which released the following day to positive critical reception.

Alia Bhatt Calls Herself Soni Razdan’s ‘Biggest Fan’ Ahead of Songs of Paradise Release

Mumbai : Alia Bhatt is showering love and admiration on her mother, veteran actress Soni Razdan, as she prepares to grace the screen in the much-anticipated period drama *Songs of Paradise*. Taking to Instagram on August 28, Alia expressed heartfelt pride over her mother’s performance and celebrated the film’s emotional depth and artistic brilliance. In her Instagram stories, Alia wrote a touching message dedicated to both Soni Razdan and co-star Saba Azad. Sharing her thoughts about the film, Alia described *Songs of Paradise* as a “heartfelt journey of music, hardship and dreams,” and praised Saba Azad for delivering a performance that “blended innocence with strength so beautifully.”

The most striking part of Alia’s tribute was her adoration for her mother. In her own words, watching Soni Razdan on screen brings her “the greatest delight.” Alia added, “I think I’m your biggest fan, and to me you could never, ever have a single

fault.” The emotional note resonated with fans who have long admired the strong mother-daughter bond between the two actresses.

Alia also extended her praise to the film’s director, Danish Renzu. She called his work “an authentic tale of talent and beauty” and appreciated the film’s setting, which reflects a time when access to information was limited — a period that forms a significant backdrop for the story. She congratulated the entire cast and crew for bringing such cinematic magic to life.

Songs of Paradise is inspired by the life and legacy of Padma Shri awardee Raj Begum, an iconic voice from the valley whose music gave hope and identity to generations. The film is a poignant tribute to her journey, told through the perspectives of two characters portrayed across different time periods — one by Saba Azad, the other by Soni Razdan.

The musical soul of the film is enriched by compositions from acclaimed maestro Abhay Sopori, and the hauntingly beautiful vocals of Masrat Un Nissa. Together, they revive the richness of Raj Begum’s legacy and bring emotional authenticity to the narrative.

Directed by Danish Renzu, whose past work has garnered critical acclaim for its sensitivity and social consciousness, the film is co-written by Renzu, Niranjan Jyengar, and Sunayana Kachroo.



Mahesh Babu’s Sister-in-law Shilpa Shirodkar’s Powerful First Look as Shobha in Jatadhara Unveiled

Mumbai : The highly anticipated supernatural mythological thriller *Jatadhara* is steadily building buzz with every new reveal, and the latest addition is nothing short of electrifying. Shilpa Shirodkar, sister-in-law of superstar Mahesh Babu and a well-known name in the 90s Bollywood circuit, makes a powerful comeback with her first-look poster in the film. She plays a pivotal character named Shobha — and from the looks of it, her role promises depth, darkness, and mysticism.

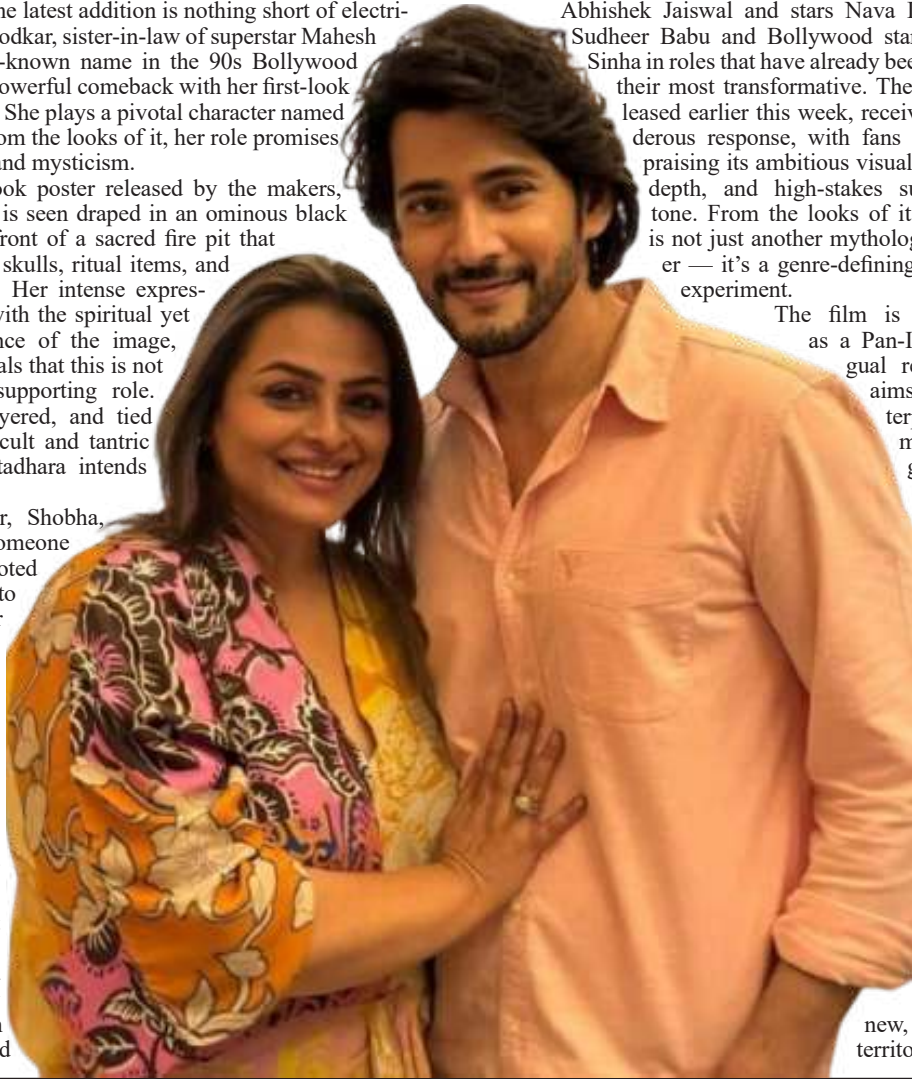
In the first-look poster released by the makers, Shilpa Shirodkar is seen draped in an ominous black saree, seated in front of a sacred fire pit that is surrounded by skulls, ritual items, and ancient offerings. Her intense expression, combined with the spiritual yet terrifying ambiance of the image, immediately signals that this is not a conventional supporting role. It’s symbolic, layered, and tied closely to the occult and tantric elements that *Jatadhara* intends to explore.

Her character, Shobha, is described as someone whose deep-rooted greed evolves into a mastery over the dark art of tantra — a spiritual fall that seems to lie at the heart of the film’s conflict. The solemnity in Shilpa’s expression and the precision of the visual symbolism highlight her transformation into a character deeply intertwined with power, desire, and

otherworldly practices.

Jatadhara is helmed by directors Venkat Kalyan and Abhishek Jaiswal and stars Nava Dhalapathy Sudheer Babu and Bollywood star Sonakshi Sinha in roles that have already been hailed as their most transformative. The teaser, released earlier this week, received a thunderous response, with fans and critics praising its ambitious visuals, thematic depth, and high-stakes supernatural tone. From the looks of it, *Jatadhara* is not just another mythological thriller — it’s a genre-defining cinematic experiment.

The film is positioned as a Pan-India bilingual release and aims to reinterpret Indian mythology with a darker, modern edge. It blends ancient narratives with cosmic battles and psychological depth, pushing the boundaries of traditional storytelling into new, immersive territory.



Aryan Khan’s Bold Directorial Debut The Bads of Bollywood* Set for Netflix Release**

Mumbai : Aryan Khan is making his much-anticipated entry into the world of cinema, not as an actor like many had expected, but as a director and showrunner. His debut series, provocatively titled *The Bads of Bollywood**, is all set to premiere on Netflix on September 18, 2025. The project has already generated immense buzz, not only because of Aryan’s lineage as Shah Rukh Khan’s son, but also due to its unapologetic satire on the inner workings of the Hindi film industry.

Initially, fans were hoping to see Aryan in front of the camera. His physical resemblance to Shah Rukh Khan and their eerily similar voices had fueled speculation for years. However, Aryan has opted for a quieter, more creative role behind the scenes — a decision many consider wise given the increasing scrutiny and backlash against star kids in recent years. Yet, the response to the show’s teaser and promos has led fans to wonder if Aryan might, eventually, still find his way to the screen. The teaser of *The Bads of Bollywood** has taken the internet by storm, hinting at a series that will hold nothing back in its commentary on the chaos and contradictions of the Hindi film industry. Early glimpses



suggest that the show walks a fine line between satire and homage, exploring themes of fame, ambition, betrayal, and power in the most dramatic — and often hilarious — ways. Aryan’s take appears to lean into the absurdities of Bollywood with a rare, sharp-eyed honesty. One of the major draws of the series is its long list of celebrity cameos. Ranveer Singh, Salman Khan, and Karan Johar have been confirmed in the promo clips, with strong rumors that Shah Rukh Khan himself will make an appearance. Aamir Khan is also said to be part of the show, along with names like Ranbir Ka-

poor, Alia Bhatt, and SS Rajamouli. These appearances, whether as fictional versions of themselves or stylized characters, add an unpredictable and meta edge to the storytelling. Beyond cameos, the primary cast adds considerable weight to the project. Bobby Deol, riding high on his recent resurgence, takes on a pivotal role that may blend gravitas with satire. Mona Singh and Manoj Pahwa, both seasoned performers, add credibility and range. Leading the narrative is Lakshya Chopra, in what could be a breakthrough role, with Gaurav Juyal playing his best friend — a charac-

ter already drawing attention for its relatability and comic timing. Sahher Bamba stars as the female lead, adding emotional complexity and romantic tension to the mix. The series promises not just star power, but also strong writing and technical finesse. Aryan Khan has reportedly been deeply involved in the scripting and direction, working closely with Netflix’s top creative team to shape a series that doesn’t shy away from uncomfortable truths. The tone is expected to be irreverent, darkly humorous, and self-aware, making it one of the boldest Indian shows to release on the platform. While much of the storyline is still under wraps, the central theme revolves around the murky, competitive, and often outrageous world of Bollywood. It tackles everything from ego clashes and casting couch scandals to PR manipulation and nepotism — all wrapped in a fictional narrative that mirrors real-life headlines. It’s this raw, insider lens that has made the show one of the most talked-about debuts in years. Shah Rukh Khan is expected to support his son’s debut heavily in the promotional phase. With less than a month to go before release, fans can expect a full-fledged media campaign featuring Aryan.

Mirai Trailer Review: Teja Sajja Steps Into Myth and Glory as Super Yodha in a Cinematic Spectacle

Mumbai : Teja Sajja seems to be riding a wave of unstoppable momentum, and with the release of the *Mirai* trailer, it’s clear he’s not slowing down anytime soon. After delivering a sleeper hit with *HanuMan*, where he played a grounded superhero, the young actor now steps into an even more expansive world — one rooted in myth, cosmic conflict, and cinematic grandeur. Directed by Karthik Ghattamaneni, *Mirai* promises an epic journey that fuses timeless legends with modern spectacle.

The trailer opens with the world of *Mirai* — a realm poised between light and darkness — immediately establishing scale and stakes. The core story revolves around a seemingly ordinary young man who learns of a much larger destiny: to guard nine ancient scriptures and protect humanity from an all-consuming evil known only as the Black Sword. This journey isn’t just about physical might but inner faith, with



the protagonist drawing spiritual strength from his devotion to Lord Rama. What immediately stands out is the trailer’s sheer visual richness. Karthik Ghattamaneni, known primarily for his work behind the camera as a cinematographer, seems to have leveraged his technical expertise to full effect here. The frames are stunning, the color palettes bold and symbolic, and the VFX sequences — especially the

climactic visuals that hint at divine intervention — deliver jaw-dropping moments that rival international fantasy blockbusters.

Teja Sajja looks fully committed to the transformation his role demands. From portraying innocence to exuding grit in action-heavy scenes, his physical and emotional shifts are front and center. His portrayal of a reluctant warrior gradually accepting his divine fate adds

a compelling human layer to the mythological premise. In a genre often driven by spectacle, Teja grounds the story in emotion.

Opposite him, Manoj Manchu makes a fearsome return as the antagonist Black Sword — a dark, brooding presence whose very name conjures dread. His character, designed with sinister elegance, adds gravitas to the conflict, and his face-off scenes with Teja

hint at thrilling confrontations to come. Manoj’s intensity in just a few trailer moments has already left a mark on fans eager for a strong villainous arc.

Ritika Nayak steps into the role of a guide and mentor, bringing an unconventional energy that breaks from the typical heroine template. Her character’s strength and clarity of purpose complement Teja’s journey, adding narrative balance.

Meanwhile, seasoned performers like Jagapathi Babu (as a spiritual Sadhu), Shriya Saran (in an emotionally resonant role as the protagonist’s mother), and Jayaram (whose character remains cloaked in mystery) flesh out the ensemble, each bringing weight to the film’s layered mythology.

Beyond the cast, *Mirai* boasts a soundtrack that underscores its emotional and spiritual highs. Gowra Hari’s background score is thunderous yet soul-stirring, especially in moments tied to divine themes.

Metro In Dino OTT Release: Anurag Basu’s Ensemble Drama Now Streaming on Netflix

Mumbai : After a theatrical run filled with mixed reactions but consistent box office numbers, Anurag Basu’s *Metro...* In Dino has finally made its digital debut. The film, which hit theatres on July 4, 2025, is now officially available for streaming on Netflix starting August 29. This release marks a new phase for the film as it reaches audiences who may have skipped the big screen experience.

Metro... In Dino has been touted as a spiritual sequel to Basu’s 2007 cult classic *Life in a... Metro*, a film that set the bar for urban storytelling in Hindi cinema. While its follow-up received a more divided response from critics and audiences alike, it still carved a niche with its emotional core and memorable soundtrack. The film features an impressive ensemble cast including Sara Ali Khan, Aditya Roy Kapur, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Ali Fazal, Konkona Sen Sharma, Pankaj Tripathi, Anupam Kher, and Neena Gupta. With such talent on board, the narrative weaves



together multiple urban love stories, heartbreaks, and reflections on modern relationships — staying true to the essence of the original.

Netflix confirmed the film’s OTT premiere with a poetic announcement: “Agla station: Pyaar, heartbreaks aur thodi si ummed. Watch *Metro...* In Dino, out 29 August.” This line perfectly captures the emotional tone the film aims to strike — one filled with fleeting connections, urban loneliness, and moments of quiet hope. At the box office, *Metro...* In Dino had a slow but steady journey. It opened at ₹3.5 crore on Day 1, a modest figure considering the star power and legacy attached to the

film. However, it maintained decent traction over the next few weeks, never dropping below ₹1 crore a day until its third Monday. Despite facing stiff competition from Mohit Suri’s *Saiyaara*, the film managed to hold its ground. By the end of its four-week run, *Metro...* In Dino had collected ₹52.1 crore net in India and ₹68.25 crore worldwide — a fair commercial outcome for a drama-driven film in today’s franchise-dominated market. One of the film’s strongest assets has been its music. Composed by Pritam, the soundtrack received widespread acclaim, with several tracks becoming streaming chart regulars.

Indian Men's Hockey Team gears up for Men's Asia Cup with World Cup qualification at stake

Rajgir : The Indian Men's Hockey Team is gearing up to begin their campaign at the Men's Asia Cup 2025 on home soil here in Bihar from August 29 to September 7.

After last winning the tournament in 2017, India will look to reclaim the continental crown and also secure direct qualification for the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup.

The Men's Asia Cup has been one of the most prestigious events in Asian hockey with defending champions South Korea being the most successful team with five titles, while India runs second with three.

In the last edition India finished third as it drew its Semi-Final game against South Korea who went ahead on a better goal difference.

India are drawn in Pool A alongside China, Japan and Kazakhstan.

The team will open their campaign against China on August 29, followed by a clash against Japan on August 31 before concluding the group stage against Kazakhstan on September 1.

Pool B consists of South Ko-



rea, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Indonesia. The top two teams from each pool will advance to the Super 4s and the winner will earn automatic World Cup qualification.

India is coming into the tournament after a disappointing FIH Hockey Pro League European Leg, however, being the highest ranked

Asian country (7th) in the world and playing in front of home crowd, India are a serious contender for the title.

Speaking about the team's preparations, Coach Craig Fulton said, "Our preparation has been thorough. The camp in Perth gave us the right intensity, with tough

training sessions and competitive matches that sharpened both our physical and tactical readiness. The group is training and playing with real purpose and we feel ready for the challenge ahead."

When asked about the team's expectations, he responded, "Our expectation is very clear, to win the

Altmaier stuns Tsitsipas to reach third round of US Open

New York : Germany's Daniel Altmaier produced the upset of the day at the US Open today IST saving a match point before toppling 26th seed Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 7-6(5), 1-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 to book his maiden third-round berth at Flushing Meadows. Altmaier, playing his fourth US Open, fought through four hours and 21 minutes on Grandstand Court to secure the biggest win of his career. The 26-year-old German stared down defeat at 4-5, 30-40 in the deciding set, but blasted a fearless forehand winner to stay alive and then surged to victory as Tsitsipas faltered with two double faults and an untimely forehand error.

For Tsitsipas, once ranked world No. 3, the disappointment continued in New York, the only Grand Slam where he has never advanced to the Round of 16. The 27-year-old had looked in control after levelling the match and edging ahead, but could not close out the contest.

Despite coming off the longest match of the tourna-



ment — a gruelling four-hour, 46-minute win over Serbia's Hamad Medjedovic in round one — Altmaier appeared fresh and resolute, firing 15 aces and showing great composure under pressure.

The German will next face eighth seed Alex de Minaur of Australia, who cruised past Japanese qualifier Shintaro Mochizuki 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Tsitsipas, meanwhile, was bidding for consecutive match wins for the first time since April and for back-to-back victories at a Slam since Roland Garros 2024, but his wait goes on.

Andrey Rublev survives Tristan Boyer scare

New York : World No. 15 Andrey Rublev was made to sweat before quelling a spirited fightback from American qualifier Tristan Boyer 6-3, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6(4) in a gripping second-round encounter at the US Open here today. Rublev, who appeared in cruise control after pocketing the first two sets with ease, was pushed to the brink by the 23-year-old Boyer, a former Stanford University player who had only four four-level victories to his name prior to his New York campaign. Backed by a raucous Grandstand crowd, Boyer stunned Rublev by stealing the third set with aggressive shot-making, capped by a forehand winner down the line.



The American, smiling gleefully on the changeover, had the momentum as Rublev left for a bathroom break. In the fourth set, Rublev broke early but Boyer roared back with an immediate reply. The set went into a tense tiebreak where the Russian finally pulled through with an ace on match point.

Statistics told the story of Boyer's fearless tennis as

he actually out-hit Rublev on forehand winners in the latter stages, forcing the seeded player to dig deep. "He had nothing to lose and started playing really well," Rublev admitted after the match, acknowledging Boyer's surge.

For Rublev, who has been a fixture in the year-end Top 10 since 2020 but has yet to go beyond a Grand Slam quarterfinal, the road ahead remains steep.

Water sports: National-level contests at Gobind Sagar Lake, Kol Dam from Oct 10

Bilaspur: To give a new identity to tourism and promote water adventure, a three-day water sports festival will be organized in Himachal's Bilaspur this year. The festival will be held from October 10 to 12 and will witness participation from renowned athletes and tourists from across the country.

A preparatory meeting was convened at the Savings Bhawan under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar. Detailed discussions were held on the structure of the festival, venues, budget allocation, and the formation of different committees to ensure smooth execution. The Deputy Commis-



sioner said that the event will be organized under the aegis of the society for Tourism, Sports, Trade and Employment Generation.

The main attractions will include national-level Dragon Boat Racing, Kayaking, and Canoeing competitions, along with other engaging water adventure

activities. These events aim to create a memorable experience for the visitors and establish Bilaspur as a hub of water sports in the years to come.

He added that Kayaking and Canoeing events will be held at Kol Dam, while Dragon Boat Racing will take place in Gobind Sagar

lake, covering the stretch between Luhn ground and Mandi Bharari bridge.

The competitions are expected to provide an exhilarating experience for both the participants and spectators, further enhancing the district's image as a centre of water adventure sports.

Highlighting the natural charm of Gobind Sagar Lake and the vast expanse of Kol Dam, the Deputy Commissioner said these water bodies will lend a unique identity to the festival. He stressed that the district administration is committed to promoting tourism and linking such events with employment opportunities for the local community.

The meeting also resolved to give the festival an attractive name and logo. Budgetary provisions will be made, and multiple committees will be set up. Civil society groups, traders' associations, and voluntary organizations will also be involved to make the festival a people's movement.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Omkant Thakur, officials from various departments, Hemraj Thakur, President of the Gobind Sagar Water Sports Association, and Ishan Akhtar, State General Secretary of the Himachal Water Sports Society, along with all committee members.

Musetti storms past Goffin into US Open Round 3

New York : Italian No. 10 seed Lorenzo Musetti produced a sparkling display of flair and authority to dispatch Belgian veteran David Goffin 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 and book his place in the third round of the US Open here today.

On a bright afternoon inside Louis Armstrong Stadium, the 22-year-old Italian mixed artistry with power, dictating rallies with his trademark one-handed backhand and variety of strokes. Musetti, who entered the contest with a winning head-to-head record over Goffin, did not allow the Belgian to settle after a competitive opening set.

The opening set saw Goffin stretch Musetti's service games to over five minutes on average, even breaking back once to level at 4-all. But serving at 4-5, the Belgian double-faulted twice and then fell victim to a brilliant Musetti backhand passing shot, which handed



the Italian the decisive break. That moment set the tone for the rest of the encounter.

From there, Musetti took complete control. He raced through the second set in just 33 minutes, producing a flurry of winners and tactical lobs and drop shots that left Goffin scrambling. Even when the Belgian briefly found rhythm at the start of the third set, breaking Musetti to go 2-0 up, the Italian reeled off six games in a row to seal a straight-

sets victory. Statistically, Musetti dominated: he struck 27 winners against just 16 unforced errors, while Goffin committed 11 errors in the third set alone. The Italian's composure and creativity shone through, marking a return to form after disappointing early exits at Wimbledon, Toronto and Cincinnati. The win carries special significance for Musetti, who had been hampered by injuries following his French Open semifinal run earlier this year. It is also

his third appearance in the US Open third round, reinforcing his growing maturity on hard courts.

Looking ahead, Musetti will face either fellow Italian Flavio Cobolli, a Wimbledon quarterfinalist this year, or home favourite Jenson Brooksby in the third round. Should he advance, a mouth-watering Round of 16 clash with compatriot Jannik Sinner could await, offering fans an all-Italian blockbuster. Musetti's triumph over Goffin adds to his head-to-head dominance, having beaten the Belgian in their two previous Grand Slam meetings — at Roland Garros in 2021 and at the US Open in 2022, where he rallied from 2-5 down in the final set to win in a tiebreak.

For Goffin, a seasoned campaigner and former Top-10 player, the loss was another setback as he struggled to cope with Musetti's flair and consistency after a promising start.

Iga Swiatek survives Suzan Lamens scare

New York: World No. 2 Iga Swiatek was made to dig deep before overcoming Dutch qualifier Suzan Lamens 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 to reach the third round of the US Open here today.

The 24-year-old Pole, who won the title at Flushing Meadows in 2022, looked untouchable early on, racing through the opening set in just over half an hour with sharp returns and relentless baseline play. Lamens, despite landing nearly 70 per cent of her first serves, struggled to win points on them

and conceded seven double faults as Swiatek stamped her authority.

But the Dutchwoman, ranked 66, fought back admirably in the second set, taking advantage of Swiatek's dip in rhythm. She broke the Pole twice, including on a double fault at set point, to level the contest 6-4. According to WTA statistics, this was the first set Swiatek has dropped since her Montreal defeat earlier this summer. The decider saw Swiatek restore control with two early breaks to lead

4-1, only for Lamens to claw one back and threaten another twist. Swiatek, however, held her nerve, closing out the match after two hours and six minutes. Tennis-WorldUSA described the victory as "a near catastrophe averted" for the world No. 2, while The Guardian highlighted the Pole's "mental resilience" in responding to the pressure. The win extended Swiatek's unbeaten streak to seven matches and continued her remarkable run of 16 victories in her last 17 outings, including Wim-

bledon and Cincinnati titles.

Lamens, who arrived in New York with her first WTA title from last year, earned widespread praise for her composure and fighting spirit against one of the game's most formidable competitors. Swiatek will next face Russia's Anna Kalinskaya, seeded 29th, who defeated Yulia Putintseva in straight sets. The pair share a recent rivalry, with Kalinskaya beating Swiatek in Dubai last year before the Pole avenged that result earlier this month in Cincinnati.

Osaka storms into US Open third round

New York: Two-time US Open champion Naomi Osaka produced a commanding display to defeat American Hailey Baptiste 6-3, 6-1 in the second round of the women's singles here today.

The No. 23 seed Osaka, returning to form after a break from the tour for maternity, combined her trademark power

with measured control to outclass Baptiste, who struggled with nerves and double faults despite flashes of aggressive shotmaking.

The 27-year-old Japanese star, who had beaten Baptiste in two previous three-setters earlier this season, ensured there was no repeat of those long duels. She quickly wrested control of the con-

test, capitalising on the American's early service woes to pocket the opening set 6-3.

Baptiste, playing at a career-high ranking of 47 and buoyed by her recent runs at the French Open and Wimbledon, tried to force the pace with her heavy forehand and adventurous net approaches.

National Sports Day: Celebrating Dhyan Chand's legacy and the rhythm of play

Bengaluru : Every year on this date, India pauses, only to move again, this time to the rhythm of sport. August 29 belongs to a man who turned hockey into poetry on grass: Major Dhyan Chand, born in 1905, whose stick wrote history under Olympic skies.

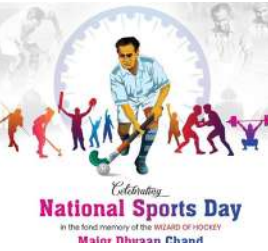
From Amsterdam in 1928 to Berlin in 1936, he delivered three consecutive Olympic gold medals. His name was whispered in Europe, feared in Asia, and adored back home. Even when the whistle fell silent, his magic lingered—echoing in India's later Olympic triumphs of 1948, 1952, 1956, and 1964.

National Sports Day, stitched into the national calendar in 2012, is not just remembrance but revival. In

2025, the celebration arrives with a call to action: 'Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main,' an hour of play for every Indian. From August 29 to 31, the Fit India Mission urges citizens to sweat not for medals, but for life itself. Sixty minutes of movement, the ministry reminds, is the cheapest insurance against lifestyle diseases.

Across the nation, eminent athletes are stepping out of their fame and into dusty playgrounds—from state capitals to village fields. Public representatives join them, lending politics the freshness of sport. The message is unmistakable: sport is not a spectacle alone, it is survival, discipline, and joy.

For Dhyan Chand, it was magic. His stick once had to



be broken to check if it contained a hidden magnet, so inseparable was the ball from it. At the Berlin Olympics of 1936, even Adolf Hitler, awestruck, offered him a high military post in Germany, an offer politely declined. He left the field but never the nation's memory. Nearly fifty years after his passing in 1979, his aura still defines Indian hockey and inspires this celebration.

Yet National Sports Day is not confined to hockey

alone. It embraces India's entire sporting canvas—kabaddi, kho-kho, gilli-danda, badminton, tennis, football, and of course, the religion of cricket. Ironically, India has no official national game, though hockey has reclaimed glory with Olympic bronze and World Cup resurgence, while kabaddi has found new heroes through professional leagues.

When sports thrive, so do sportspersons. Cricket has given us Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli; football, Bhauichung Bhutia and Sunil Chhetri; hockey, Dhanraj Pillay and PR Sreejesh. Badminton scaled global peaks with PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, while tennis found glory through Leander Paes and Sania Mir-

za. Mary Kom's fists and Viswanathan Anand's mind showed that India breeds champions in every corner.

Since 2012, National Sports Day has been a time for schools, colleges and communities to honour not only a legend but the larger movement of fitness and unity through play. It is more than a ritual, it is a revolution in spirit.

So the day stands as both homage and horizon. Homage to a man whose stick was sharper than a sword, and horizon for a nation where play is not luxury but way of life. On August 29, India celebrates sport not as pastime but as pulse. And if Dhyan Chand's spirit watches, somewhere between memory and myth, it must smile, because the game goes on.

Assam triumphs over West Bengal to win 64th Subroto Cup Junior Girls title

New Delhi : In a thrilling conclusion to the Junior Girls category of the 64th edition

of Subroto Cup International Football Tournament, Team Betkuchi High School, Assam emerged victorious by 3-1 over Team Nandajhar Adibashi Pashili High School, West Bengal to claim the prestigious title.

The final match, held at the historic Amedkar Stadium, showcased the best of youth football and was attended by an enthusiastic crowd.

For Assam, Milina Brahma (24'), Sayasree Sangma (12'), Mari Mech (29') scored the goals, while Neha Baroi (21') remained the single goal scorer from West Bengal.

The final was graced by Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari, VM Vice Chief of the



Air Staff, who was the Chief Guest. Arjuna Awardee and Olympic Gold Medalist Navdeep Singh Para athlete (Javelin thrower) was the Guest of Honour for the occasion.

The day's events commenced with a grand performance by the Air Warrior Drill Team (AWDT), which was followed by a vibrant

cultural performance by students from the Air Force Golden Jubilee Institute.

The winners received Rs. 5,00,000 while the runner up received Rs. 3,00,000.

With the conclusion of the Junior Girls final, the 64th Subroto Cup action will now shift to Bengaluru for the Sub-Junior Boys (U-15) tournament, scheduled from September 2 to 11.

BSE Sensex		Nifty 50		Nifty 500		Nifty Next 50		Nifty 100		Nifty Bank		Nifty Midcap 100	
Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change
79,809.65	-0.34%	24,426.85	-0.30%	22,462.95	-0.35%	65,745.75	-0.30%	25,003.05	-0.30%	53,655.65	-0.31%	55,727.40	-0.57%
Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open
80,080.57	80,010.83	24,500.90	24,466.70	22,541.65	22,524.15	65,940.30	65,960.75	25,078.50	25,050.80	53,820.35	53,660.35	56,047.50	56,012.00
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
80,310.74	79,741.76	24,572.45	24,404.70	22,624.70	22,443.80	66,305.95	65,544.85	25,161.10	24,979.80	54,086.00	53,606.45	56,348.35	55,660.35

Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
ITC	409.50	2.15
Shriram Finance	580.25	1.50
Bharat Elec	369.00	1.42
Trent	5,301.00	1.25
Asian Paints	2,516.80	1.12

Top Losers

Company	Current	%Loss
M&M	3,195.30	-3.03
Infosys	1,469.30	-2.05
Reliance	1,359.70	-1.89
Apollo Hospital	7,609.00	-1.54
Adani Enterpris	2,243.00	-1.42

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Oct 03	102,720.00	620.00 0.61
Silver Sep 05	117,496.00	322.00 0.27
Crudeoil Sep 19	5,684.00	65.00 1.16
Naturalgas Sep 25	264.10	2.70 1.03

UNIQLO opens first store in Bengaluru, Rahul Dravid joins launch

Bengaluru: Global apparel retailer UNIQLO today opened its first-ever store in Bengaluru at Orion Mall, Brigade Gateway, with former India cricket captain Rahul Dravid joining the launch celebrations.

Spread over 9,012 sq ft, the outlet marks UNIQLO’s 17th store in India and its first in South India. Dravid, a local Bengalorean, participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony, drawing a crowd of fans and customers.

“Today marks a significant milestone as we enter South India with the launch of our first store in Bengaluru,” Kenji Inoue, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer, UNIQLO India, said. “This debut has been long awaited, and we are truly encouraged by the warm and positive response from our customers in Bengaluru.”

Dravid said he admired UNIQLO for its “timeless style, functionality and simplicity” and expressed confidence that the city would

Air India Express launches ‘PayDay Sale’, bookings open till Sep 1

Kochi : Air India Express, India’s first international value carrier, has announced the launch of a limited-period ‘PayDay Sale’ across its domestic and international network, with bookings open until September 1, 2025.

On the domestic sector, logged-in members can avail Xpress Lite fares starting from Rs 1,299 (with zero check-in baggage) and Xpress Value fares from Rs 1,349.

For international routes, the PayDay Sale fares begin from Rs 4,876 for Xpress Lite and Rs 5,403 for Xpress Value. These discounted fares are valid for travel until March 31, 2026, the airline said in a release here on Friday.

Bookings can be made through the airline’s website airindiaexpress.com and its mobile app. Xpress Lite bookings made on the mobile app carry Zero Convenience Fees.

This fare option also provides access to discounted check-in baggage rates — Rs 1,000 for 15 kg on domestic flights and Rs 1,300 for 20 kg on international flights, a release said.

The airline has rolled out ad-

ditional loyalty benefits, including 25 per cent off on Xpress Biz fares and 20 per cent off on Biz Upgrades for domestic bookings. Xpress Biz, the business-class equivalent, offers enhanced legroom, complimentary Gourmair hot meals, higher baggage allowance (25 kg on domestic and 40 kg on international routes), and Xpress Ahead priority services. Biz seating is currently available on more than 40 newly-inducted Boeing 737-8 aircraft.

Logged-in members also enjoy 20 per cent discounts on Gourmair meals, standard and prime seat selection, Xpress Ahead priority services, 10 kg excess check-in baggage, 3 kg extra carry-on baggage, and the opportunity to earn up to 8 per cent NeuCoins on every purchase.

In addition, Air India Express continues to extend concessions to students, senior citizens, armed forces personnel and their dependents.

The airline also offers flexible payment options on its website, including EMI and Buy Now, Pay Later plans, ensuring added convenience for travellers.

Sensex, Nifty slip as heavyweights drag stock markets amid tariff concerns

Mumbai: The Indian equity indices ended the session lower on Friday amid selling in heavyweights led by Reliance. The investors remained cautious amid US tariff concerns, adopting a mixed approach.

Sensex ended the session at 79,809.65, down 270.92 points or 0.34 per cent. The 30-share index opened flat at 80,010.83 against the last session’s closing of 80,080.57. The index traded flat most of the time before falling over 0.3 per cent in the closing hour, touching an intra-day low at 79,741.76.

Nifty closed at 24,426.85, down 74.05 points or 0.30 per cent. “Investor sentiment remained cautious as markets attempted to digest the full impact of the US tariff. The persistence of this issue is likely to heighten the future competitiveness of India’s exports in some areas,” said Vinod



Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited. While generally the pressure is also likely to weigh on Indian currency, driving it to depreciation. Equity benchmarks underperformed, with mid- and small-cap segments particularly affected by risk aversion and stretched valuations. In contrast, FMCG stocks sustained their upward momentum, supported by expectations of GST rate rationalisation and stronger consumer demand, he added.

Mahindra and Mahindra, Reliance, Infosys, Tata Motors, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Titan, and Axis Bank settled in negative territory from the Sensex basket. ITC, BEL, L&T, Tata Steel, PowerGrid, SunPharma, and HCL Tech were the top gainers. The majority of sectoral indices settled in negative territory amid a mixed approach. Nifty Fin Services fell 72.60 points or 0.28 per cent, Nifty Bank slipped 164 points or 0.31 per cent, Nifty Auto dipped 222 points or 0.88 per cent, and Nifty IT closed the ses-

sion 307 points or 0.87 per cent down. Nifty FMCG soared 528 points or 0.95 per cent.

Broader Indices followed suit as well. Nifty Smallcap 100 ended the session 67 points or 0.39 per cent lower, Nifty Midcap 100 dipped 320 points or 0.57 per cent, and Nifty 100 ended the session 75 points or 0.30 per cent lower. “The rupee hit an all-time low of 88.20, falling by another 0.60 (0.70 per cent), as pressure mounted after the US implemented tariffs on Indian products, raising concerns over a widening fiscal deficit. “While the upcoming GST council decision is expected to lend some support, markets are awaiting clarity on the final GST changes before taking a decisive view. Sentiment remains weak, and the rupee is expected to trade within a range of 87.65-88.45,” said Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities.

Equity mutual funds witness surge in inflows: ICRA Analytics

Kolkata : Market volatility notwithstanding, equity mutual funds continue to maintain their sheen with retail investors steadily investing in these schemes with an aim towards long-term wealth creation. The net AUM (Asset under Management) of equity mutual funds surged by 335.31 per cent at Rs 33.32 lakh crore in July 2025, up from Rs 7.65 lakh crore in July 2020.

SIPs have become a popular tool for managing volatility, allowing investors to invest a fixed amount regu-

larly, benefiting from rupee cost averaging like buying more units when prices are low and fewer when prices are high, ICRA Analytics said today.

Inflows into equity mutual funds have witnessed a steady rise growing from an outflow of (Rs 3,845 crore) in July 2020 to an inflow of Rs 42,673 crore in July 2025. On a year-on-year basis, inflows have increased by 15.08 per cent from Rs 37,082 crore in July 2024, while month-on-month, it has gone up by nearly 81.06



per cent as compared with Rs 23,568 crore in June 2025.

Commenting on the AMFI data for the month of July 2025, Ashwini Kumar, senior vice president and head market data, ICRA Analytics, said, “Inflows into equity mutual funds has wit-

nessed a sharp rise in the last few years as investors are increasingly adopting a long-term perspective, recognizing that short-term market fluctuations are part of the journey toward wealth creation”. Historical data shows that markets tend to

recover and reward patient investors over time. Sectoral/thematic funds drew the highest inflows at Rs 9,426.03 crore as investors, particularly in the retail segment, continue to seek new growth opportunities and explore avenues to generate alpha or higher returns. This was followed by flexi cap funds and small cap funds which attracted inflows to the tune of Rs 7,654.33 crore and Rs 6,484.43 crore respectively as investors prefer diversified allocation and higher returns, said Kumar.

Tesla’s Europe problem just got even worse

London : Auto maker Tesla reported a drop in its sales again in Europe in July as car buyers continued their migration to Chinese rival BYD.

Elon Musk’s carmaker sold 6,600 models in the EU in July, a 42.4 percent fell from the same month last year, according to data from the European Automobile Manufacturers’ Association (ACEA).

In the first seven months of 2025, Tesla sold around 77,000 cars in the EU, down from 137,000 in the same period in 2024, reports CNN.

Meanwhile, BYD, the burgeoning, ultra-cheap Chinese electric and plug-in hybrid carmaker, continues

to put its stamp on Europe. Its sales jumped 206.4 pc in July against 2024 figures. The 9,698 models BYD sold in July means it is now out-selling Tesla.

Musk’s foray into politics didn’t just anger American liberals; his support of far-right parties in Germany and the UK also prompted protests outside Europe.

And in Europe and China, Tesla has faced competition from lower-priced offerings from BYD, competition it doesn’t have to worry about in the US market.

Wider analysis that includes the UK and countries from the European Free Trade Association, like Norway, Denmark and Sweden,

shows a similar sales drop for Tesla (TSLA) alongside a 225% increase for BYD in July.

Through all of 2025, Tesla has still outsold BYD by just under 35,000 models across the EU, the UK and the EFTA.

Sales of Chinese-branded cars are soaring across Europe. BYD in particular has increased its foothold, despite EV imports to the EU facing 27 pc tariffs following an anti-subsidy investigation by the bloc last year.

BYD still holds a price advantage over rivals including Tesla. Meanwhile, its technological advancements are also helping it pull

The group revealed a

breakthrough to its battery charging technology in March that it said added 250 miles of range in five minutes, outpacing Tesla’s 200 miles in 15 minutes.

BYD’s “God’s Eye,” a rival to Tesla’s full-self driving technology, was launched at no extra cost for most of its cars in February.

BYD also holds an advantage over Tesla in its diverse offering of EVs and hybrid vehicles, whereas Tesla only produces EVs. This has helped shield BYD from shifting consumer preferences in Europe.

Research firm Jato Dynamics first reported that BYD had overtaken Tesla’s European sales in April.

Tesla is now one of the worst-selling car groups across Europe, ahead of only Honda (HND) and Mitsubishi. The company’s struggles on the continent reflect economic, structural and even political shifts that are changing car buyers’ preferences.

Electric car sales growth has slowed across Europe in recent years owing to a reduction in incentives to switch to EVs, concerns over battery life and a lack of charging infrastructure.

European buyers are showing a preference for hybrid electric cars, which control more than one-third of Europe’s new car market.

GST reforms to benefit common man, offset US import duty hike: Bank of Baroda Economist

Chennai : The Indian government’s decision to rationalise the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will not only put more money into the common man’s purse but also negate the effects of import duty hike by the US, states Dipanwita Mazumdar, Economist, Bank of Baroda.

In a report, Mazumdar said one can clearly see that the current reforms of reduction in tax rates have been targeted towards sectors whose share of exports to the US is higher in India’s overall export profile.

“Textile, chemical products, poultry and dairy items, especially condensed milk, butter, ghee etc. would receive significant benefit from a lower tax rate,” the report notes.

The sectors affected by the US import duty hike will benefit from the GST reduction as they migrate from a higher tax bracket to a lower one.

According to the report readymade garments (33.4 percent of exports to the US),

chemicals and related products (24.3 percent), poultry and dairy products (23.1%), and miscellaneous processed items (15 percent) will move from a 12 percent GST to 5 percent. Additionally, the GST on machinery and instruments (19.6 percent) will decrease from 18 percent to 5 percent.

Mazumdar mentioned that Indian consumers are likely to benefit further from the recently announced GST reforms, which focus on rationalizing and simplifying the existing tax structure.

One of the major reliefs for consumers will be the shift from the current four-tier structure to a two-tier system.

Most notably, the higher 12 percent rate will be reduced to 5 percent, and the 28 percent rate will be brought down to 18 percent.

Thus, the majority of consumer goods which lie within this bracket, especially FMCG and durable goods, are likely to benefit under the baseline scenario.

ISRO’s 119 earth observation satellite- Rs.40,000-70,000 crore opportunity

Chennai: A business opportunity valued between Rs.40,000 and Rs.70,000 for the Indian space sector over the next 15 years was put out in the open by a senior official of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at the recently held National Meet 2.0.

Speaking at the conference, Nilesh M Desai, Director, ISRO’s Space Applications Centre said India plans to orbit 103 earth observation and 19 technology demonstration satellites over the next 15 years or by 2040.

Desai also said plans to launch about 160 communication satellites including a constellation of 140 satellites in the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) to provide broadband connectivity like Starlink, OneWeb and others.

Desai said the 20 communication satellites will be placed in geosynchronous orbit (GEO) and will be made through ISRO/ NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) and private players.

According to Desai, the earth observation satellites will also be realised by ISRO and private players.

The distribution of earth observation satellites based on weight will be as follows: one satellite weighing less

than 100kg; 9 satellites ranging between 100-200 kg; 66 satellites – 200-500 kg; 38 satellites-500-1,000 kg and 5 satellites- over 1,000 kg.

“For the list above, the total business value should be around Rs.40,000-50,000 crore. Considering the present value it should escalate with time at least by five percent,” Dr.S.Somanath, former Chairman, ISRO told this writer.

“India is on steroids. We see unprecedented growth. We are at a tipping point. One can expect approximately 100 launches in the coming 5-6 years. Depending on the payload it will be a combination of launch vehicles being used,” reacted Jagat S Parikh, President, Strategy & Growth, Walchandnagar Industries Ltd to this writer.

The company is into heavy engineering catering to India’s strategic sectors like defence, nuclear, aerospace and several other industrial products.

When queried as to what the 119 earth observation satellites would translate into value satellite, rockets and ground equipment- industry experts gave varied estimates.

Even the lower estimate is lucrative enough for the sector as a whole to

salivate.

“The blended cost per satellite will be about Rs.300 crore. So the 119 earth observation satellite business value will be about Rs.35,700 crore. As regards the rockets, the average cost per vehicle will be about Rs.350 crore. A total of 90 rockets will be needed, assuming 60 rockets with a single satellite and 30 rockets with two satellites. So the total business value of satellites plus rockets will be about Rs.71,700

crore,” Tapan Misra, Founder Sisir Radar and former Director of Space Applications Centre, ISRO told this writer.

It should be noted that the opportunity is not only for satellite manufacturers but also for the makers of rockets and ground equipment.



According to Misra, the planned 160 communication satellites will also cost at an average Rs.300 crore per satellite which will work out to Rs.48,000

crore. The rocket cost will also average to Rs.350 crore per vehicle as the orbit will be a mix of GEO/MEO/LEO.

On the other hand, space sector consultant Mukund K Rao’s estimate matches that of Somanath.

A former Deputy Director (Technology and Systems) at ISRO Rao told this writer that to put into orbit the 119 earth observation satellites, one may need about 50 rockets-a ballpark figure- as many satellites could get launched as piggyback or as a cluster.

“So we are talking of almost 170 space systems (satellites and rockets) in 15 years,” Rao said.

Stating ISRO must have worked out the cost model for the 119 earth observation satellites, Rao said the maximum weight of the total satellites as mentioned in Desai’s presentation-may be about 80,000 kg or could be lesser too. “Globally the best launch cost today is less than USD 3,000/kg or maybe we can look at USD 5,000-6,000/kg in future. Indian launch systems can be very competitive in costs. This could mean, at a ballpark, a cost of around Rs.3,000-4000 crore for launching these 80,000 kg/ 119 satellites if our launch systems can be at comparable

world costs and tremendous innovations built in to scale. Over 15 years it may average at Rs. 300 crore per year,” Rao remarked.

As regards the satellite cost, Rao said the recent Resourcesat cost was around Rs.100 crore.

“A global high class, high resolution PAN (panchromatic imaging) satellite in the US would cost about 100 million USD (about Rs.850 crore),” Rao said. Stating that Indian costs have been proven to be much competitive based on the past earth observation missions, the cost of the proposed 119 satellites which are of varying weight and imaging capability class Rao guesses it is all about Rs.20,000-30,000 crore over 15 years at an average of Rs.2,000 crore per year. There would be additional costs of ground systems, operations, insurance (if at all), applications/user segment development, business and marketing and others- mostly one time costs- and it would be about Rs.2,000-5,000 crore over 15 years, Rao added. “We are talking of about Rs.40,000-50,000 crore over 15 years for this Plan that has been presented in the National Space meet. Not a great deal for India today,” Rao said.