



State Govt taking steps to further strengthen school education: CM

Times News
Agartala, Aug 04

Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha on Tuesday said that the state government is taking a series of measures to further strengthen the school education system across the state. Speaking during his visit to Bardowali Higher Secondary School in Agartala, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of ensuring quality education in all government and government-aided schools while maintaining a clean, healthy, and conducive learning environment. He

P-5



Sampriti Sankalp Abhiyan: CM hands over sacred Kalas to BJP dist leadership

Times News
Agartala, Aug 04

Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha on Tuesday handed over a sacred Kalas containing soil brought from the birthplace of Sant Shiromani Shri Guru Ravidas Ji in Varanasi (Kashi), Uttar Pradesh, to the BJP district leadership as part of the observance of the saint's 650th birth anniversary. The ceremonial handover took place during a programme at the Sri Sri Ramakrishna Saradeshwari

P-5

‘Ker Puja’ symbolises tribal and non-tribal harmony, well-being’

Times News
Agartala, Aug 04

Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha on Tuesday participated in the traditional Ker Puja, one of Tripura's most significant festivals and an integral part of the cultural heritage of the indigenous communities. On Tuesday, the rituals were conducted in accordance with traditions at the Rajbari premises in Agartala. Speaking to reporters at the Ujjayanta Palace complex, the Chief Minister said that Ker Puja is a traditional worship of the Vastu Devata and holds immense cultural and spiritual significance in Tripura. He said that



the state's centuries-old traditional ‘Ker Puja’ symbolises faith, unity and harmony among tribal and non-tribal communities, while reflecting Tripura's rich cultural and spiritual heritage. The Chief Minister, accompanied

by BJP state President Abhishek Debroy, West Tripura District Magistrate Vishal Kumar and other dignitaries, observed the Ker Puja from outside the notified ritual area at the historic Ujjayanta Palace in

P-5

SC mandates 4-yr third party cover for new cars, 6 yrs for new two-wheelers

New Delhi, Aug 04 (IANS)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed that the mandatory third-party insurance period for new vehicles be extended by one year, ordering that new cars must henceforth be covered for four years and new two-wheelers for six years at the time of purchase, in a bid to improve compliance with the Motor Vehicles Act (MVA) and enhance road safety. A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and P.K. Mishra issued the direction while disposing of an appeal filed by National Insurance Company Ltd., saying that despite the earlier mandate requiring three-year third-party insurance for new

P-5

CM leaving for Delhi today

Times News
Agartala, Aug 04

Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha is leaving for New Delhi on Wednesday. The Chief Minister said that during his stay in the national capital, meetings and discussions related to the ensuing elections might take place. “We often visit Delhi for different requirements. Sometime for organisational purposes and on many occasions for the purpose of administrative agendas. This time, I am going to Delhi. While there is no pre-decided agenda, chances are high that we shall have discussions related to the forthcoming elections,” said Dr Saha.

Biplab felicitates Asmita

Times News
Agartala, Aug 04

Former Chief Minister and current Lok Sabha MP Biplab Kumar Deb placed Tripura at the centre of national pride on Tuesday as he personally felicitated Asmita Dey at his Delhi residence.

Asmita, the trailblazing judoka from Tripura, recently became the first Indian woman to win gold in judo at the Commonwealth Games, a feat that has electrified the sporting community across the country. During the felicitation, Deb extended warm congratulations and best wishes for her future, describing her achievement as “a historic success that has made India proud, and Tripura prouder still.” He praised her journey of discipline, perseverance and determination, noting that her ability to overcome challenges and rise to the top will remain a source of inspiration for countless young Indians.



Asmita's victory is being hailed as a watershed moment for Indian women in combat sports. From nurturing her dream in Tripura to achieving international recognition, she has become a symbol of resilience and ambition. Deb expressed his prayers that, with the blessings of Mata Tripurasundari, Asmita will continue to shine on the

global stage and bring further glory to the nation. Meanwhile, across Tripura, communities have embraced her success as a moment of collective pride, with residents hailing her as a beacon of hope who has proven that hard work and determination can break barriers and achieve greatness.

Former Tripura Governor Dr D Y Patil passes away at 90; CM, others condole

Times News
Agartala, Aug 04

India lost one of its most respected educationists and institution builders with the passing of Dr. Dnyandeo Yashwantrao (D. Y.) Patil, former Governor of Tripura, Bihar and West Bengal. He died on Tuesday in Kolhapur at the age of 90 due to age related health complications.

Chief Minister Prof. Dr. Manik Saha led the tributes from Tripura, posting on



social media, “Eminent educationist, former Governor of Tripura and Bihar, Padma Shri Dr. D. Y. Patil passed away at the age of 91. A visionary institution builder,

philanthropist and respected public figure, he left an enduring legacy through his immense contributions to education, healthcare and public service. May his soul rest in peace.” Born on October 22, 1935, Dr. Patil's life was defined by his commitment to education and social welfare. Honoured with the Padma Shri in 1991, he went on to establish the DY Patil Group, which today runs more than 182 educational institutions and seven deemed universities across India. His

P-5

Ratan joins farmers in paddy plantation



Times News
Agartala, Aug 04

In a symbolic gesture reaffirming the government's commitment to agriculture and farmer welfare, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath on Tuesday participated in a paddy plantation programme at Gajaria village in Mohanpur. The event drew officials from the Agriculture Department, local representatives and a large gathering of farmers, underscoring the administration's focus on promoting scientific farming and sustainable cultivation methods. Planting paddy

alongside cultivators, Nath described agriculture as the backbone of Tripura's economy and emphasised that food security rests on the relentless efforts of the farming community. Highlighting the importance of modernisation, the Minister urged farmers to adopt high-quality seeds, advanced cultivation techniques and scientific practices to boost productivity and incomes. “The government is consistently implementing farmer-centric initiatives to modernize agriculture and improve rural livelihoods,” he said.

Sharing his personal experience of working in the

P-5

TRLM empowering rural SHG Didis through financial support

Times News
Agartala, Aug 04

The Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) is emerging as a catalyst for empowering women-led entrepreneurship across the state, helping them achieve financial independence through institutional support, skill development, and access to credit.

Two inspiring success stories from North Tripura and Sepahijala districts highlight how government-backed livelihood initiatives are enabling women to build sustainable

enterprises while creating employment opportunities for others. Swarnali Paul, a member of Perona Self Help Group (SHG) under the Jubarajnar Block Mission Management Unit (BMMU) in North Tripura, has transformed her livelihood with the support of TRLM. Engaged in fabrication, interior printing, and mattress business, she expanded her business through financial assistance provided under the mission. She received Rs. 9.95 lakh through Community-Based Organisation (CBO) funding and an additional Rs. 15 lakh in bank credit, allowing to scale up her enterprise in a structured

manner. Today, her business employs three women from SHGs and generates a monthly income of around Rs. 95,000 to Rs. 1 lakh, making her an example of successful rural entrepreneurship. Another remarkable success story comes from Sepahijala district, where Bina Rani Sarkar, a member of Mangal Deep SHG under the Mohanbhog BMMU, has built a thriving bakery and confectionery business with the support from TRLM. She received Rs. 40,000 through CBO funding and Rs. 8.98 lakh as bank credit, enabling her to expand her business significantly. Her enterprise now earns a monthly income ranging

between Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 1.5 lakh while providing employment to three fellow SHG members. According to officials, these success stories are shining examples of the impact of the Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission in strengthening rural livelihoods through financial inclusion, institutional support, and entrepreneurship promotion. By enabling women to establish and expand income-generating ventures, the mission is not only improving household incomes but also creating local employment and fostering self-reliance in rural communities across the state, an official said.

সিস্টার

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“What is this self inside us, this silent observer,
Severe and speechless critic, who can terrorize us
And urge us to futile activity,
And in the end, Judge us still more severely,
For the errors into which his own reproaches drove us?”
- T. S. Eliot

EDITORIAL

The youth must be
against addiction!

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asserted that hostile nations are attempting to weaken India by pushing drugs into the country and targeting its youth, describing the illegal drug trade as part of an enemy’s “terror agenda”. Addressing the young people during the launch of the ‘Nasha Mukti Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyaan’, the Prime Minister said them to stay away from addiction and play a leading role in building a developed India by 2047. Speaking at the launch of the nationwide campaign, PM Modi said, “When a young person falls prey to drug addiction, it is not just individual who loses, a dream is lost.

He also emphasized that the consequences of addiction extend beyond individuals and families, affecting the nation’s overall strength. “The national strength also weakens and hostile countries conspire to leave no stone unturned to drag our youth into the trap of addiction”, he said. Describing narcotics trafficking as a deliberate strategy to harm India, the Prime Minister added, “Profiting from supplying drugs and aiming to destroy a nation like ours is also part of their terror agenda. Hence, we need to save every youth from addiction”.

He also said, “You need to protect your potential by staying away from drugs”. Warning youngsters about the long-term consequences of substances abuse, he remarked, “Drugs give you a ‘high’ for a while, but they destroy your family”. Calling upon the youth to shoulder the responsibility of shaping the country’s future, PM Modi said, “In the next 20-25 years, you will give a direction to your lives. You will be the ones who will take India towards the resolution of Viksit Bharat till 2047, and you will be the ones sitting at the top of the peak, fully savoring the fruits of the achievement. The country needs your energy, creative imagination and talent. Hence, for the country and your own lives, keep yourselves away from drugs”.

Spiritual Umbrella

Higher perspectives
dissolve contradictions

Astronaut Sunita Williams observed that from space, Earth appears as one, and you do not see man-made borders; you see them only when you return to Earth. Your perspective changes in space.Likewise, apparent differences in smaller truths are reconciled when one viewsfrom a higher perspective. At first, the Upanishads seem to be full of contradictions. V yas systematised thoughts, philosophy of Upanishads in Brahmasutra. The apparent differences found in Upanishads are reconciled in Brahmasutra.Five great acharyas – Shankara, Ramanuja, Nimbarka, Vallabha and Madhva – differ in their interpretation of Upanishads in relation to the nature of Brahmn, the relationship of individual soul to Brahmn, soul’s state during final emancipation, means of attaining it and its causality with reference to the universe. But they all emphatically declared that Brahmn is the cause of world and that knowledge of Brahmn leads to moksh, final emancipation, which is the goal of life, explains Swami Sivananda.One finds apparent contradictions while studying the scriptures. On one hand, scriptures say that one must transcend the mind and intellect to realise the supreme Truth, which is subtle, abstract, infinite, and all-pervading. On the other hand, it is said that knowledge of Supreme reality arises only in a purified mind/intellect as Brahmakar Vritti . It is said that in deep sleep, one experiences the bliss of the Self but does not know it because the mind and the intellect are not functioning. Mind is described as both friend and enemy of a person, leading to bondage and liberation. Mind, per se, is not good or bad; an impure and gross mind creates bondage, while a pure and subtle mind is an instrument for salvation.This applies to intellect, too. While explaining creation, it is held that Brahmn is the ultimate causeless cause of creation, referred to as abhinna nimita upadana karan – non-different material and efficient cause of the world. In other instances, it is held that creation is a mere appearance, an illusion like aperceived snake in the rope or a mirage in the desert. When one realises that the experienced world is also unreal, like the dream world upon waking, it is not given much attention or importance. Journey always proceeds from known to the unknown, from gross to subtle.

MESSAGE

“I was attached to this city by the god—though it seems a ridiculous thing to say—as upon a great and noble horse which was somewhat sluggish because of its size and needed to be stirred up by a kind of gadfly. It is to fulfill some such function that I believe the god has placed me in the city. I never cease to rouse each and every one of you, to persuade and reproach you all day long and everywhere I find myself in your company.”

- Socrates

The Challenge of El Nino and
Resolve for Water Conservation

Dr. Rajbhushan Chaudhary



Today, Earth’s environment stands at a crossroads where the signs of nature are becoming increasingly pronounced and the traditional cycle of seasons appears to be profoundly affected. Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, with his foresight, had clearly indicated as early as the end of May that the heat would be intense this time.He had made an impassioned appeal to all the countrymen to drink sufficient water and remain vigilant about the conservation of water sources.This call by the Prime Minister is proving to be a guiding light, showing the country a safe path amidst today’s unprecedented environmental crisis. The Earth’s steadily rising temperatures and the drastic fluctuations in seasonal cycles are clear evidence that climate change is no longer merely a distant future prospect.Instead, it has become the greatest administrative and social challenge of our time.Untimely heavy rainfall, prolonged droughts and the fierce nature of the summer season are matters of deep concern for the entire global community today.At the very heart of this global atmospheric upheaval lies an extremely complex hydro-meteorological phenomenon originating in the Pacific Ocean, known in the language of modern science as ‘El Nino’.For a country like India - vast, densely populated and fundamentally dependent on agriculture - this El Nino cycle cannot simply be a subject of laboratory research.This is an extremely serious and practical issue directly linked to the lives and livelihoods of millions of farming families across the country, the rural economy, and our national food security. According to established principles of oceanography, under normal conditions, strong trade winds blowing from east to west across the equatorial region of the Pacific Ocean push warm surface water towards Asia and Australia.Its influence causes cold, nutrient-rich water to rise from the ocean depths off the coast of Peru in South America.This process helps maintain the balance of global atmospheric circulation and provides a positive boost to the Indian monsoon. However, during the El Nino effect, these trade winds suddenly weaken and at times, their direction even reverses completely.As a result, the warm surface water of the ocean begins to flow back towards the coastal regions of South America instead of moving westward.This unusual warming of the ocean surface disrupts the entire atmospheric pressure zones, thereby altering the global geography of cloud formation and precipitation.While this phenomenon causes excessive rainfall and flooding in parts of Peru, it leads to increased air pressure over India and Southeast Asia, thereby

weakening the speed of the monsoon winds.Its direct impact on India’s landmass is reflected in the severe rainfall deficit, fragmented monsoons and record-breaking heat in summers.This is a scientific catastrophe that has the full potential to destabilize the country’s entire hydrological cycle and water circulation.Coupled with this, the changing patterns of Western Disturbances and the impact of El Nino have combined to create a situation of imminent water crisis and weather instability for the country. The Prime Minister has always accorded the highest priority to water security, placing it on par with national sovereignty and defense security.He has a clear view that water conservation must become an innate part of every citizen’s daily life and a massive mass movement.Based on this veryidea, he launched the ‘Catch the Rain’ campaigns, the basic mantra of which is that using modern techniques, we must conserve every drop of rainwater right where it falls on the earth.For the first time in the nation’s history, the present government created an integrated and powerful administrative structure in the form of the ‘Ministry of Jal Shakti’, which has proven to be a truly transformative initiative in giving a new, scientific, and coherent direction to the nation’s water planning. To curb the continuous decline in the Earth’s water tables, caused by increasing concretization and unplanned exploitation, andensure the long-term protection of water sources, the government has formulated a highly comprehensive and interconnected framework of policies and programs. The ‘Jal Jeevan Hariyali Mission’ in the country has given a new impetus to environmental balance and water conservation. Through the ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’, today pure, tested and continuous drinking water supply is being ensured to every rural and remote area of the country with the resolve of ‘Har Ghar Jal’. Besides, under ‘Atal Bhujal Yojana’, scientific management and recharge of ground water level is being done by promoting community participation in over-exploited areas. For the sustainability of the agriculture sector, under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana’, modern micro-irrigation techniques like drip and sprinkler are being expanded nationwide on the principle of ‘Per Drop More Crop’ so that every fraction of water is used optimally. Moreover, the ‘Amrit Sarovar Mission’ was launched for the effective conservation of water bodies, under which a new life is being given to the local water sources by constructing and renovating at least 75 historical and new ponds in every district of the country. Along with all these national initiatives, the government is also working at full speed on the bold projects of ‘River Interlinking’ and modern ‘Desalination’ techniques to purify the saline water of the sea so that no part of the country remains affected by the water crisis. Extremely high temperatures and

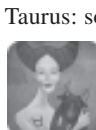
intense heat waves also severely affect the internal biological balance of the human body. Our body basically operates on a fixed and mandatory proportion of water. When the external temperature starts to exceed the body’s internal normal temperature, the body tries to keep itself cool through sweating. This continuous sweating process leads to a severe depletion of water and essential electrolytes in the body, a condition medically known as dehydration.When this condition becomes severe, the body’s central nervous system begins to be affected, eventually leading to heat stroke. The most vulnerable sections of our society such as the elderly, young children, pregnant women, and especially the hardworking farmer-labourerbrethren, who toil under the scorching sun to rebuild the country, bear the brunt of this seasonal calamity. In this case, special caution is required. Regular intake of adequate amounts of clean water, ORS, lemon water and fresh buttermilk is essential for everyone to maintain the abundance of fluids in the body. In the afternoon when the rays of the sun are extremely sharp, one should completely avoid going out unnecessarily. There should be proper arrangement of cooling and ventilation in the rooms of the elderly and children.The farmers and workers working in the fields and construction sites should keep their heads covered with cotton cloth and maintain adequate water intake while taking intermittent rest in shady places. Any physical discomfort such as dizziness or severe headache requires immediate medical attention. As we ponder over these profound principles of modern science, we must also recall the rich cultural heritage and oriental water conservation methods of our ancient Indian civilization which fully recognised this eternal and life-giving significance of water centuries ago. In our ancient scriptures and Vedas, water was never regarded as a consumable resource.Rather, it was considered a veritable medicine. A visit to Rajasthan offers a unique insight into its water culture, revealing how the local society has developed an extraordinary system to conserve every single drop of water using traditional methodseven amidst harsh desert conditions.The artistic and huge stepwells, ponds and wells of Rajasthan are a living example of the fact that even in adverse weathers, the society can remain water rich with its cultural consciousness and wisdom. Similarly, the Chandela period ponds of Bundelkhand, the Eri systems of South India and the irrigation systems like Aahar-Pine, which have been working for centuries in the plains of North India and Bihar, were in fact vibrant centers of our social and collective consciousness, rather than just being excellent examples of engineering. Respecting water, keeping water bodies absolutely sacred and maintaining them collectively was a natural and instinctive

trait of our society. In this modern and concrete era of today, the biggest need is to fully integrate this traditional device with the advanced tools of modern science. The devastating impact of climate change and the water crisis is not going to remain confined merely to the boundaries of human society. This fierce form of nature is proving to be equally fatal for those voiceless creatures roaming around us who are completely unable to express their thirst and anguish in words. While we sit in our safe and shady buildings and analyse the global data of this crisis, we must also look at our courtyards, rooftops and gardens where chirping birds, squirrels, stray cattle and other small creatures are seen desperate for every drop of water. Our Sanatan culture has always given the message of immense compassion and co-existence to the entire world. The entire balance of nature rests on this interdependence. It is our foremost human and moral obligation to keep clean and cool water on the roofs of our houses, in balconies, on the terraces of fields or in a small earthen pot outside our business establishments in this scorching summer. Translating the compassion for animals into practice, this small effort proves to be an invaluable lifesaver for a thirsty bird flying in the scorching sun. When such sensitivity becomes a part of the daily conduct of every individual in society, the nation becomes capable of leading the world not only economically but culturally and spiritually as well. From the pages of old newspapers to the articles of contemporary journalism, this echo of the water crisis is constantly alerting us. In these unprecedented times of climate change, conservation and prudent augmentation of water is only a topic of abstract discussion in the seminars of environmentalists. It’s a direct guarantee of the security of our country’s borders, the self-reliance of our agricultural system, the dynamism of our industries and the secure future of our coming generations. Water security and conservation of water resources will prove to be a very important and fundamental initiative towardsViksit Bharat. This timeless slogan of “Jal haitokhalkhai” is the biggest and unwavering truth of the existence of human civilization rather than being just an ordinary slogan. Today, it is the need of the hour that all of us together take this unwavering resolve that we will fully respect every drop of water, completely stop its unnecessary wastage and revive the traditional water sources around us by keeping them pollution free. Putting into practice our compassion for voiceless creatures, establishing a balanced, limited and intimate relationship with nature is the greatest call of today’s time. This small resolve taken collectively today will prove to be entirely successful in laying the strongest foundation for a ‘Viksit Bharat’- an India that is immensely strong, prosperous, self-reliant, secure, and water-secure - in coming years. The Author is Union Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India

ASTRO TODAY



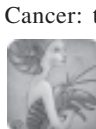
Aries: the presence of the Moon in Pisces is symptomatic of a productive day ahead. Your focus will remain intact with high energy levels throughout the day. Astroyogi astrologers profess that a significant opportunity on the work front might cross paths with you, and you should grab it. Make the most of this chance. Use this opportunity for the benefit of your career. Things on the domestic front remain happy, fulfilling, and peaceful as you chalk out time to spend with your loved ones in the evening.



Taurus: some of you might be in a party mood today. There is a lack of concentration and focus in your system today. Astroyogi astrologers advise you to make the most of this day and be done with this restlessness to give you 100% to work tomorrow. It would help if you were cautious of your actions to prevent causing permanent damage to your career. The transit of the Moon in Pisces suggests that you should consider participating in something spiritual.



Gemini: as the Moon is prevalent in Pisces, you can experience several challenges in your life. The best thing to overcome this situation is to have faith in yourself and take necessary positive decisions. Astroyogi astrologers suggest staying loyal to yourself. You can face a financial crisis today. So, try to check your expenses so that they might not affect your future.



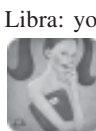
Cancer: the Moon moving in Pisces may keep you in a frustrated and agitated mood today. Many of you might not be influenced positively owing to this transit. Try to be as articulate and patient as possible when interacting with others. Astroyogi astrologers advise you to be tactful and diplomatic in your approach today. Do not worry, it is a transitory phase that will be over soon.



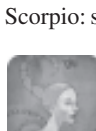
Leo: the Moon’s presence in Pisces may have a good effect on you. This may appear to be the ideal opportunity for a much-needed getaway from perplexing issues. The greatest way to spend today is to meditate in a peaceful and calm environment. You’ve been working really hard for far too long. Take this well-earned break to unwind; after all, you owe this one to yourself! Too much labor, on the other hand, may be harmful to your health.



Virgo: today as the Moon moves into Pisces, you might be inclined to spend more time with your family, leaving your work and worries behind. Appreciate your family and fill them with warmth and support. Cherish these moments as they do not last forever, advise Astroyogi astrologers. It will strengthen your bonds, bringing you inner peace. Vacation with family might also be on the cards. Spend some quality time with them to strengthen your bonds.



Libra: you may feel a renewed surge of vigor and energy while the Moon lingers in Pisces. It’s possible that you’re not in the mood to undertake anything substantial. You may easily be the evening’s social butterfly, and your charisma will be contagious, with much of the attention focused on you. This may be a socially hectic period for you, but you will like it. Enjoy these calm moments since they may be a terrific stress reliever because they make you smile and, most importantly, they make you happy.



Scorpio: some of you are becoming more patient and strategic as the Moon moves through Pisces. This is a wonderful thing since you may find yourself being incredibly cautious in your approach, whether it is personal or professional. There is no better day to start planning your future than now. Also, any conflicts with someone close to you should be resolved quickly. After a hard day’s work, you will feel like spending time with those who are dear to you, so take advantage of these special moments.



Sagittarius: At work, this day will be excellent for teamwork. Sagittarius daily horoscope says that some tasks require teamwork, so maintain a good rapport with your colleagues. Today you’ll be motivated and enthusiastic due to the presence of the Moon in Pisces. You will motivate your team members in a way that your seniors will surely notice, paving the way for a promotion or a hike in salary. S



Capricorn: this day will come with several good things in your life, including fame and financial success because of the influence of the Moon in Pisces. This is also a perfect day to provide shape to your ideas. Moreover, you can find the best motivation in life and choose the right way to have success. Astroyogi astrologers suggest concentrating on your abilities to focus on your goals. However, make sure not to be overwhelmed by your pride.



Aquarius: as the Moon enters Pisces, today will be fantastic. If you’ve been thinking about making a business investment, now is a good moment; according to Astroyogi astrologers, Your financial situation will stabilize as a result of this investment. You’ll have a great time and realize how much personal happiness it offers you due to this endeavor.



Pisces: the Moon in Pisces makes you feel confident and motivated! It assists you today to communicate effectively and clearly with people. Your judgments today may be sound, so plan and act accordingly. Astroyogi astrologers advise you to complete tasks that require attention to detail today as they will be guided by the stars.

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Expert panel to audit NEET-PG admission system, Centre informs SC

New Delhi, Aug 4 (IANS) The Centre on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that it has constituted an expert committee headed by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) to examine issues arising out of the challenge to the reduction of qualifying cut-off percentiles for the NEET-PG 2025-26 examination. A bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the decision to drastically lower the qualifying cut-off percentiles for postgraduate medical admissions. Appearing for the Union government, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhat submitted that the expert committee has been constituted in compliance with the apex court's earlier directions and sought eight weeks' time to complete the exercise and submit its report. "We have set up a committee as per your lordships' directions. We will do the exercise and submit a report," ASG Bhat told the apex court. When the Justice Narasimha-led Bench sought details regarding the composition of the committee, the ASG said that the DGHS would chair the panel, which comprises

11 other members. "Your Lordships had directed that an internal audit be done and solutions be found out," she added. Taking on record the office order dated July 23 issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the apex court recorded that it relates to the constitution of an expert committee. Asking how much time would be required for the exercise, the Justice Narasimha-led Bench was informed that the committee would need eight weeks to submit its report. Recording the submission, the Supreme Court directed the committee to invite suggestions from various stakeholders and, after detailed consideration, submit its report within eight weeks. "The committee will call for suggestions from various stakeholders and, after detailed consideration, submit a report within eight weeks," the top court said, while posting the matter for further hearing after eight weeks. As per the office order issued by the DGHS, the expert committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of DGHS Dr. Loveneesh G. Krishna. It also comprises senior officials from the Directorate General of

Health Services, the National Board of Examinations (NBE), representatives of the National Medical Commission (NMC), the National Testing Agency (NTA), the Union Health Ministry and the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The committee has been tasked with formulating a mechanism for conducting a comprehensive audit of the existing admission system through the NEET examination involving various stakeholders, identifying lacunae and gaps in the existing system, and suggesting practical and implementable solutions. The matter arises out of a PIL challenging the decision to drastically reduce the qualifying cut-off percentiles for NEET-PG 2025-26. The plea, filed by advocate Satyam Singh Rajput, contends that the decision to lower qualifying standards to abnormally low, zero or even negative percentiles after declaration of results and completion of two rounds of counselling is arbitrary and unconstitutional, violating Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. According to the petition, permitting candidates with such scores to enter postgraduate medical training

compromises patient safety, public health and the integrity of medical education. It further argued that the "rules of the game" cannot be altered after the selection process has commenced. Defending the decision, the Union government has said that the cut-off reduction was taken after detailed deliberations by expert bodies in view of a large number of vacant postgraduate seats and to ensure optimal utilisation of healthcare infrastructure. In its affidavit, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said that nearly 20,000 postgraduate medical seats were likely to remain vacant nationwide, prompting a review of the qualifying cut-off. It added that the decision rendered more than one lakh additional candidates eligible for the third round of counselling without altering inter se merit and pointed out that a similar reduction to zero percentile had also been undertaken in 2023. The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS), in a separate affidavit, clarified that it had no role in the decision to reduce the qualifying percentile and said the revised cut-off made 95,913 additional candidates eligible for counselling.

TU hosts 12th Nat'l Handloom Week Students urged to explore heritage & entrepreneurship

Times News

Agartala, Aug 04: The 12th National Handloom Week was marked at Tripura University on Tuesday with a programme that placed India's textile heritage at the centre of discussion, while also highlighting the



employment and entrepreneurial opportunities available in the sector. Organised by the Weavers' Service Centre, Agartala under the Ministry of Textiles, the event was held at the Conference Hall of Pariksha Bhawan. Tripura University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Debabrata Das, Registrar Samir Kumar Shil, and Arit Sukla Das, IAS, Additional Secretary and Director of the Directorate of Handloom, Handicraft & Sericulture, were among the dignitaries present. Speakers underscored the role of Weavers' Service Centres in preserving traditional craftsmanship while modernising the sector. Since its launch in 2015, the initiative has expanded to 29 centres nationwide, conducting awareness drives in

universities, schools and clusters. Officials urged students to see the handloom industry not only as a cultural responsibility but also as a promising avenue for entrepreneurship and income generation, capable of taking Indian textiles to global markets. A quiz competition on handlooms and handicrafts added an interactive element, with students displaying impressive knowledge of India's textile traditions. The programme also showcased flagship schemes of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), including: Cluster Development Project – financial assistance up to Rs 2 crore per cluster. India Handloom Brand – promoting high-quality handloom products with environmental standards. Handloom Mark – assuring consumers of authenticity. Weavers MUDRA Scheme

MEA condemns attack on Indian flagged vessel that sank in Red Sea

New Delhi, Aug 4 (IANS) The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday condemned the attack on the Indian flagged commercial vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya, that sank in the Red Sea, off the coast of Yemen. The Ministry confirmed that all 13 Indian nationals have been rescued and the Indian Embassy in Riyadh is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Yemeni authorities for the safety and security of the crew. "We condemn the attack on the Indian flagged commercial vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya, that sank in the Red Sea, off the coast of Yemen on August 4, 2026. All 13 Indian nationals have been rescued. Our Embassy in Riyadh is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Yemeni.

WALK-IN INTERVIEW

Applications from eligible candidates are invited to attend a Walk-in Interview for one (01) post of Project Assistant under the project 'AICRP on biological control of crop pests' funded by ICAR-NBAIR at College of Agriculture, Tripura to be held on 10th August, 2026 at 12:00 Noon at College of Agriculture, Tripura. Candidates are to report in the office at 11.30 AM and submit the application with photocopies of all relevant documents. Original certificates must be produced for verification. Detail information on eligibility criteria and other service conditions may be obtained from the college website <https://coatripura.ac.in/>.

ICA/D/709/26

Sd/-
(Prof. Debashish Sen)
Principal & Director
College of Agriculture,
Tripura Lembucherra, West
Tripura.

Two Youths handed over to police over alleged drug trade

Times News

Charilam, Aug 4: Chaos took place at Raghunathpur area under Bishalgarh on Tuesday after local residents allegedly caught two youths with suspected brown sugar and handed them over to the police, accusing them of operating a drug racket under the guise of a vegetable business. According to local residents, an illegal trade in brown sugar had allegedly been operating for a long time from a vegetable shop in the market area. They claimed that the alleged drug network had drawn many local youths into substance abuse, leading to growing concern over the deteriorating social environment. Residents said they had repeatedly raised the issue in the past but saw little improvement. On Tuesday afternoon, locals reportedly noticed suspicious movements by two youths and detained them. They alleged that suspected brown sugar was recovered from their possession before informing the Bishalgarh Police Station. Police reached the spot, took both individuals into custody, and seized the suspected contraband. The locals further alleged that one of the detained youths is related to a youth leader of the ruling party and is the brother of a councillor of the Bishalgarh Municipal Council. They demanded that the investigation remain impartial and unaffected by any political or personal connections. Police sources said both detainees are being questioned. The suspected narcotic substance will be sent for forensic examination, and legal action will be taken based on the findings. Investigators are also examining whether other individuals are linked to the alleged drug network.

Taxation and Other Laws Bill aims to woo more FDI, boost manufacturing

New Delhi, Aug 4 (IANS) The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, aims to attract more foreign capital in the country, strengthen the manufacturing sector and facilitate the ease of doing business in the country. The Bill seeks to woo global investment funds, cloud businesses and infrastructure investors to route more of their activity through the country. The common thread is to provide reliable policy and process certainty. Overseas players are often unsure whether operating in or through India will create an unexpected tax exposure. These proposals give clear, stable, and predictable tax treatment as well the process to get the desired tax treatment, a senior official said. Running through the whole Bill is a consistent effort to make dealing with the tax system simpler and less burdensome, he added. In order to make it easier to bring fund managers to India, the Bill sharply cuts down the list of eligibility conditions they have to meet, keeping only what is essential to prevent misuse and round tripping of money by Indian residents. It provides for fund managers to relocate to India without the foreign fund being treated as doing business in India. The Bill also restores the tax exemption for investors in business trusts (REITs and InvITs) to boost investments in real estate and infrastructure through operating companies. Besides, it eases rules for data centres to woo foreign cloud companies in order to help India build large "AI data cities" and attract significant investment into them, the official said.

A second cluster of proposals in the Bill is aimed squarely at strengthening India as a manufacturing base, especially for electronics, and at deepening the supply chains that support it. Global companies bring in equipment, components and materials to have goods made in India. These measures give them the long-term certainty they need to commit. When a foreign company supplied machinery and tooling to an Indian factory that makes electronics on its behalf, its income from doing so was made tax-free. The time limit was set at five years. The Bill extends this exemption by another ten years, giving a much longer horizon of certainty. It also clearly defines the electronic goods covered under the provisions, such as mobile phones, laptops, personal computers, tablets, servers and their key parts and accessories. This would also remove any ambiguity. This is expected to expand the contract manufacturing ecosystem for these products in India, the official said. The Bill has a provision for supporting component supply for electronics factories. Foreign companies that store such components in Indian bonded warehouses, to supply them to local contract manufacturers, were given a safe harbour treatment to pay tax on a small presumptive margin of 2 per cent. It was felt that a cleaner solution would fully exempt the said activity from tax in India so that it is more competitive than what the competing countries offer. The Bill therefore fully exempts this income for 15 years. This, too, is expected to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem for phones, laptops, computers and servers, the official said.

NCPI MPs hopeful of bloc expansion after meeting Bengal CM



Kolkata, Aug 4 (IANS) West Bengal Chief Minister Suvedu Adhikari on Tuesday held a crucial meeting in New Delhi with the 20 Lok Sabha members of the National Citizens' Party of India (NCPI). Following the meeting, some MPs expressed confidence that their bloc's strength would increase in the coming days. "Currently, our number is 20. The number might increase in the coming days," said actress turned politician and first-time Lok Sabha member from Hooghly constituency, Rachana Banerjee. When asked for names of possible turncoats, she replied: "Better you guess." Meanwhile, Mathurapur MP Bapi Halder dismissed rumours that three minority MPs in the bloc, Khalilur Rahman from Jangipur,

Lok Sabha members, three newly elected Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Rajya Sabha members, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, Sushmita Dev and Prakash Chik Baraik, also joined the meeting. Roy, Dev and Baraik were erstwhile Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha members. Soon after the recently.

NAME CHANGE

I, Tandra Debbarma De or Smt. Tandra Debbarma, W/O. Sri Bikram Dey, D/O. Sri Satya Bhushan Debbarma, resident of 42, Uttar Jogendranagar, Madhya Para, P.O. Jogendranagar, P.S. East Agartala, Dist. West Tripura, Pin No. 799004, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Tandra Debbarma De or Smt. Tandra Debbarma to Tandra Debbarma Dey and henceforth I shall be known as Tandra Debbarma Dey in all purpose, vide affidavit No. 274/Aug/26 sworn before the Notary Public at Agartala on 04th Aug 2026. Tandra Debbarma Dey and Tandra Debbarma De or Smt. Tandra Debbarma both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Priyanjana Mukharjee, W/o. Mr. Raghunath Mukharjee, Resident of Jogendranagar, Khudiram Road, P.O. Jogendranagar, P.S. East Agartala, District-West Tripura, PIN Code-799004, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Priyanjana Mukharjee to Priyanjana Podder Mukharjee and henceforth I shall be known as Priyanjana Podder Mukharjee in all purpose, vide affidavit No. 3121/July/26 sworn before the Notary Public at Agartala on 28th July 2026. Priyanjana Podder Mukharjee and Priyanjana Mukharjee both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Raghunath Mukherjee, S/o. Late Ranganath Mukharjee, Resident of Jogendranagar, Khudiram Road, P.O. Jogendranagar, P.S. East Agartala, District-West Tripura, PIN Code-799004, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Raghunath Mukherjee to Raghunath Mukharjee and henceforth I shall be known as Raghunath Mukharjee in all purpose, vide affidavit No. 3122/July/26 sworn before the Notary Public at Agartala on 28th July 2026. Raghunath Mukharjee and Raghunath Mukherjee both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Tanmy Dey, S/O. Sri Bikram Dey, resident of Jogendranagar Mahasakti, P.S.-East Agartala, District-West Tripura, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Tanmy Dey to Tanmoy Dey and henceforth I shall be known as Tanmoy Dey in all purpose, vide affidavit No. 51/Apr/26 sworn before the Notary Public at Agartala on 24th Apr 2026. Tanmoy Dey and Tanmy Dey both are same and one identical person.

Ramakrishna Mission School of Languages & Ramakrishna Mission Centre for Human Excellence

(In collaboration with the Dept. of Skill Development, Govt. of Tripura)
[A unit of Ramakrishna Mission, Viveknagar, Agartala, 799130]

Camp Office: Gangail Road, Agartala, 799001

Website: www.rkmagartala.org Phone: +91-87875-39641 Email: rkmchsl@gmail.com

ADMISSION NOTICE

SESSION: September 2026 - February 2027

ADMISSION FOR THE COMMUNICATION COURSES

For learning the Languages viz. French, Japanese, German, Spanish and English begins on 5th August, 2026 on a first come first served basis and shall continue depending on availability of seats.

ELIGIBILITY: Minimum Matriculam or Equivalent passed. (Students below the age of 18 years need to have written consent of the respective guardians).

CREDENTIALS: Original certificates of examination passed to be produced at the time of Interview/admission.

OFFICE HOURS FOR OBTAINING APPLICATION FORMS:
1st Half: 10:30am to 12:30pm
2nd Half: 02:30 to 04:30 p.m. (Except Wednesday and Holidays)

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION: 02nd September 2026 (While submitting the application form, duly filled in candidates need to come in person).

PAYMENT OF FEES: Exact amount to be paid by UPI/ Cash.

VENUE: All the online and/or offline classes will be held at the premises of Present Campus of the School of Languages, i.e. Ramakrishna Mission, Gangail Road, Agartala, 799001.

TIMING FOR CLASSES: Commencement of courses: 04th September 2026, the Jannashanti Day

CLASS SCHEDULE

French, German, Japanese and Spanish: Saturdays and Sundays from 02.00 pm to 04.00 pm

English for beginners: Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 06.00 pm to 08.00 pm

Learn a Language, Open a New World

ICA/D/708/26

WORLD

B'desh PM invited to BRICS Summit as BIMSTEC Chair: MEA



New Delhi, Aug 4 (IANS) India on Tuesday said that Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has been invited to attend the outreach session of the 18th BRICS Summit to be held in New Delhi in September in his capacity as the current chair of BIMSTEC. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a grouping of seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), it is a unique link connecting South Asia with South-East Asia with five Members from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) and two from South-East

Asia (Myanmar and Thailand). The BIMSTEC region brings together 1.7 billion people - 22 per cent of world population with a combined GDP of US\$ five trillion.Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that a formal invitation to visit India had already been extended to Rahman after he had assumed office in February 2026. "You would be aware that a formal invitation to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to visit India was extended when he assumed office in February 2026. As far as the BRICS Summit is concerned, India has separately extended an invitation to him in his capacity as the current chair of BIMSTEC to

Other heads of regional groups have also been invited in a similar manner," said Jaiswal. Last week, India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi, expressed confidence that bilateral ties would move forward constructively once Prime Minister Rahman visits India, saying all issues between the two countries can be resolved, local media reported.Addressing reporters following separate meetings with Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka, Trivedi described the discussions as positive."I am looking

forward to everything positively. We had a great meeting filled with immense positivity," Bangladeshi media outlet UNB quoted Trivedi as saying.When asked about the invitations extended to Rahman to visit India, Trivedi said the decision rests with the Bangladeshi Prime Minister."From our end, I can assure you that we are looking forward to welcoming the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India. We are very hopeful that this visit will take place in the near future," he said. Responding to a question on the Ganga Water Treaty during the same press briefing, Jaiswal said that discussions on the issue would take place through the existing bilateral mechanisms between India and Bangladesh, which include the Joint Rivers Commission and other technical-level platforms. "Now there are 54 rivers that are shared between India and Bangladesh, and there is a Joint Rivers Commission which is a bilateral mechanism, and there are several technical-level structures as well, which support discussion between the two sides on water issues. And any discussion on Ganga water treaties also will be held as part of the bilateral mechanism that we have in place," the MEA spokesperson mentioned.

US Justice Department seeks to revoke citizenship of Pakistani man who used fake IDs for immigration

New York, Aug 4 (IANS) The US government is seeking to take away the citizenship of a Pakistani who used fake IDs to become a citizen. The Department of Justice said on Monday (local time) that it had asked a court in Delaware State to denaturalise or cancel the citizenship of Zia Murad Bhatti, a 59-year-old Pakistani, who illegally entered the US in 1992 using the name Raza Moorad and was ordered to leave the country. But he instead married a US citizen using the Bhatti name and eventually received citizenship.The Justice Department, in its complaint in an Arkansas court, accused him of perjury, concealment of facts, willful misrepresentations, and providing false testimony.They were among the 25 people whose citizenship the US wants to revoke, although many of the others were

guilty of more serious crimes like attempted murder and sexual assault of a child.In a separate case, the Justice Department has also demanded revocation of the citizenship of an Indian national, Narinder Singh, 65, who used two identities for admission to the US beginning in 1996 and became a citizen in 2008. The complaint to the court alleges that Singh's numerous misrepresentations and unlawful acts, which adversely reflect his "moral character", are grounds for him to lose his citizenship. Acting Attorney-General Todd Blanche said, "Today's filings represent the largest coordinated denaturalisation effort in Department history, but they are only the beginning".Earlier in July, Murtaza Ali, 65, a native of Pakistan, was accused of using multiple identities to secure US immigration benefits and is among 10

naturalised citizens facing denaturalisation as the Trump administration expands what it calls the largest citizenship revocation effort in US history. According to the complaint, Ali filed multiple immigration applications using different aliases before obtaining permanent residency and later US citizenship in 2009 under the name "Muhammad Iqbal". Federal authorities said a fingerprint analysis later determined that applications submitted under different identities belonged to the same individual.President Donald Trump has made deporting illegal migrants and criminals a focus of his immigration policies. Since he began his second term on January 20 last year, the Justice Department said it has filed 123 civil denaturalisation proceedings, "the most in recorded history".

Venezuela quake death toll rises to 6,125

Caracas, Aug 4 (IANS) The death toll from the twin earthquakes that struck Venezuela on June 24 has risen to 6,125, according to an official update released by National Assembly President Jorge Rodriguez. The report, posted on Rodriguez's Telegram channel on Monday, said the number of people rescued remains at 6,462, while 60,992 people have received hospital treatment. Authorities have delivered 287 homes to families affected by the earthquakes and evaluated 43,679 buildings across the country, the update said. The Venezuelan government has used a traffic-light tagging system to assess building habitability. Green tags indicate habitable structures, yellow tags mark restricted access, while red tags identify high-risk buildings that may be subject to demolition, Xinhua news agency reported.The magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 earthquakes struck Venezuela on June 24, with epicenters in the western state of Yaracuy and the central state of La Guaira, respectively. La Guaira, the coastal state where the two quakes caused the most damage, has 10,981 people in shelters, while Caracas has 6,133 and the central state of Miranda has 1,323, Rodriguez said earlier. Earlier, Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodriguez expressed gratitude for the humanitarian aid provided by 28 countries to support victims of the country's recent quakes. She made the remarks after inspecting a collection centre in Caracas, where more than 2,000 tons of international aid are sorted for distribution to temporary camps housing victims of the June 24 earthquakes.

‘Medical impoverishment’: Experts flag financial hardships in B’desh due to measles outbreak

Dhaka, Aug 4 (IANS) As Bangladesh continues to grapple with a measles outbreak, at least nine out of every 10 families impacted by the disease have been forced to take out loans to cover treatment costs, while six in 10 have exhausted their savings, local media reported on Tuesday, citing a joint report by two humanitarian organisations. In their latest joint assessment, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) examined data from 2,746 families with measles patients undergoing treatment at 12 government medical colleges and district hospitals nationwide. The report found that each family spent an average of around Bangladeshi taka (Tk) 16,000 on measles treatment, the country's leading daily Prothom Alo reported.Many parents said that they had to stay away from work to care for their sick children in hospital, leaving some without incomes and others unemployed after losing their jobs.Public health expert Mushtuq Husain told Prothom Alo that the financial burden borne by low-income families across Bangladesh due to measles reflects what health economists describe as

“medical impoverishment”.“It is an extremely painful experience for any family. The incumbent government pledged in its election manifesto to ensure free primary healthcare. Yet, during this measles crisis, we have seen no reflection of that commitment. It is precisely during times like these that such support is needed most,” he stated. Speaking to Prothom Alo, Syed Abdul Hamid, Professor at the Institute of Health Economics at Dhaka University, said that the majority of children infected with measles come from low-income households.“The research also shows that these families earn between Tk 6,000 and Tk 20,000 a month. For households with such incomes, treatment-related expenses represent an enormous financial burden. If the government at least covered part of the cost of diagnostic tests at public hospitals, these families would receive some relief,” he said.Kabir M. Ashraf Alam, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, said the assessment revealed that the outbreak has left many families battling both a health emergency and severe financial strain.

India and Uzbekistan review strategic partnership, discuss regional challenges

New Delhi, Aug 3 (IANS) External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov on Monday undertook a detailed review of bilateral strategic partnership during the latter's ongoing three-day visit to New Delhi. "Great to meet my friend, Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov of Uzbekistan. Undertook a detailed review of our Strategic Partnership, with particular focus on energy, infrastructure, trade, defence, education and culture. We also discussed key regional challenges and exchanged views on expanding our multilateral cooperation," EAM Jaishankar wrote on X after the meeting.While making his opening remarks at the meeting, EAM Jaishankar appreciated the steady momentum in India-Uzbekistan ties."We in India consider Uzbekistan to be part of our extended neighbourhood, and there is always a continuous exchange of people, ideas, and goods in both directions. We share very long and deep historical and cultural linkages," EAM Jaishankar stated.

According to him, bilateral relations between India and Uzbekistan have expanded over the years, and now they really span a very diverse range of domains — from construction and digital to energy, health, and education. The EAM also expressed interest in expanding into mining and noted that the trade between the two countries is close to a billion dollars, a number which "should go up".Earlier in the day, the Uzbek minister called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.During the meeting, the two leaders agreed that the visit offers an opportunity to identify new areas of bilateral cooperation and deepen partnership across various sectors."Mr Saidov Bakhtiyor Odilovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President said that both countries share deep historical, cultural, and civilisational ties, rooted in ancient trade routes.

Sheikh Hasina should not make political statements: B’Desh PM advisor to Indian High Commissioner

Dhaka, Aug 4 (IANS) Bangladesh Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Advisor Humayun Kabir on Monday sought the Indian government's cooperation to ensure that no one from the Awami League, including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, can use Indian territory to make political statements, local media reported. According to Bangladesh's Prothom Alo newspaper, Advisor Kabir stated this during a courtesy call by the Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka, Dinesh Trivedi, on Monday afternoon.Citing a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Prothom Alo said that the social media news about Sheikh Hasina making a public speech on August 5 came up during the discussion. "In this regard, the Foreign Advisor informed the High Commissioner that Bangladesh expects India's cooperation in ensuring that any person from the banned organisation, including the fugitive Sheikh Hasina, cannot use Indian territory to make political statements or conduct any activities aimed at creating instability within Bangladesh," the

statement said, according to the newspaper. It also stated that "the Indian High Commissioner assured that he would take the matter into due consideration and make necessary inquiries and remain vigilant in this regard," citing the statement.According to the High Commission of India in Dhaka, the discussion during the courtesy call focused on increasing people-centric cooperation between India and Bangladesh, based on mutual interest and mutual benefit. "High Commissioner reiterated India's intent to work positively with the Government of Bangladesh to advance the developmental aspirations of the peoples of India and Bangladesh," the High Commission stated on X. According to the statement by the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, both sides stressed the importance of continuing regular dialogue and constructive engagement and expressed the hope that long-term and sustainable solutions to all issues can be achieved through mutual trust and discussion, Prothom Alo reported.

A tale of two anniversaries: The fifth of August on both sides of the line

New Delhi, Aug 4 (IANS) There are few dates in the subcontinent's calendar that two nations mark in such opposite spirit. On August 5, India observes the anniversary of the constitutional changes of 1919 that ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and integrated it fully into the Union of India.On the very same day, across the border, Pakistan observes what it calls 'Youm-e-Istehsal', a Day of Exploitation, framing that integration as an act of subjugation against the people of Kashmir.Two neighbours, one date, two entirely irreconcilable stories. The question worth asking, seven years on, is a simple one. Whose story does the ground actually support? The answer does not lie in the language of either government. It lies in what can be measured, and in what the people on each side of the Line of Control (LoC) are themselves saying and doing. On one side, the evidence points to investment, connectivity and a return to the ballot. On the other, the evidence points to protest, crackdown and a population in open agitation against the very state that claims to be its protector. The contrast is stark enough that it is worth setting out plainly. What seven years have builtConsider first the record in Jammu and Kashmir, much of which is a matter of official documentation. According to figures cited by the Government of India, investment proposals worth tens of thousands of crores have flowed into the Union Territory since 2019, in a place where attracting private capital had long been constrained. The most visible symbol of the change is the Railway. The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla line, declared a national project, now connects the Kashmir Valley to the rest of the country for the first time in history, carried across the Chenab by the highest railway bridge in the world, with a Vande Bharat service flagged off in June 2025. The details of these projects are set out in the government's own public records. The transformation extends beyond rail. An All India Institute of Medical Sciences has come up in Jammu, along with a new campus of the Indian Institute of Management and the Indian Institute of Technology, institutions that anchor healthcare and higher education in a region that once had to send its young and its sick elsewhere. Tourism, the traditional lifeblood of the Valley, reached record levels, with government figures pointing to more than two crore visitors in a single recent year. None of this is to claim that every problem has been solved.

The Pahalgam attack of April 2025 was a grievous reminder that the security challenge has not vanished, and it interrupted the tourist season sharply. Honesty requires acknowledging that the work of normalisation remains unfinished. But the direction of travel is not seriously in doubt. The deeper change may be the quietest one. The return of grassroots democracy, through panchayat and District Development Council elections and then the Assembly polls of 2024, has placed decision-making in the hands of elected local representatives, including a striking number of young people and women entering public life for the first time. Whatever one's view of the constitutional changes of 2019, the restoration of the ballot at the village level is not the mark of a territory under subjugation. Where the real exploitation lies Now turn the map around and look at the territory Pakistan actually administers. Here the word 'Istehsal' or exploitation, acquires a meaning that Islamabad did not intend. For the picture that has emerged from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) over the past three years is not one of contented governance. It is one of sustained popular revolt against economic hardship and political powerlessness, met by the State with force. The grievances are not those of an outside agitator. They are the everyday complaints of ordinary residents, voiced through the territory's own civil society coalitions. Chief among them is a bitter irony about electricity. PoJK generates substantial hydroelectric power from its rivers, yet its people, by the account of their own traders' and citizens' committees, pay among the highest rates in the region while the power itself is fed to the national grid.



PoK election demonstrates system based on ideological exclusion, controlled participation: Report

Islamabad, Aug 4 (IANS) The so-called legislative assembly elections in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) have once again showcased the increasing gap between Islamabad's promise of democratic self-government and the tightly controlled political system functioning in the occupying territory. The election in PoK demonstrate a system based on ideological exclusion, controlled participation and political reliance on Islamabad, a report has detailed.The elections in PoK are being held amid reports of boycott campaigns, allegations of ballot manipulation, communications restrictions, heavy deployment of forces and violent clashes between protesters and forces. The election has been marked by confrontation between the law enforcement personnel and the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), according to a report in Afghanistan's leading Khaama Press news agency. The protests led by JAAC are being held as residents have economic and political grievances with the Pakistani authorities, which include flour subsidies, expensive electricity, refugee seats and the limited authority of local institutions. Violent clashes were reported in PoK, especially in Rawalakot, during the first phase of voting. According to JAAC, over 30 people were killed in clashes between the security forces and

civilians in Rawalakot. JAAC members and local witnesses accused security forces of using live ammunition against protesters. People in PoK also faced problems due to road blockades, disruption of internet and mobile communications services and limited access to impacted areas. The communication restrictions enforced during the disputed elections further raised questions over the credibility of the process. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) secured a win in 13 seats while the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) won four seats during the first phase of elections, according to preliminary results issued by the regional Election Commission. However, the results come from an electoral process where Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) boycotted the election, citing concerns over electoral fraud and the political crisis in PoK. The JAAC, which held protests for months, also urged its supporters not to participate in the electoral process, the Khaama Press report mentioned. "The 2026 election does not represent a sudden breakdown of an otherwise healthy democratic system. It is the latest expression of a system shaped by controlled participation, ideological exclusion, and political dependence on Islamabad.

ICAR-KVK West distributes vegetable, blackgram seeds to tribal farmers

Times News

Agartala, Aug 4: ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), West Tripura organized a seed distribution programme at its campus in Belbari under the ICAR-IARINEH Component and ICAR-IIPR NEH Component programmes to promote scientific agriculture and improve the livelihood and nutritional security of tribal farming communities. Under the ICAR-IARI NEH Component, quality vegetable seeds developed by the ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) were distributed to tribal farmers for both the Kharif and Rabi seasons. The distribution was aimed at demonstrating the performance and adaptability of improved vegetable varieties under the agro-climatic conditions of Tripura. Selected farmers

also received blackgram seeds under the ICAR–Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR) NEH Component programme to encourage pulse cultivation and enhance farm income. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ganesh Das, Senior Scientist-cum-Head, ICAR-KVK West Tripura, stated that the vegetable seeds developed by ICAR-IARI are being distributed to demonstrate their field performance under local conditions and to encourage farmers to adopt improved varieties and scientific cultivation practices. He emphasized that such initiatives would contribute to higher agricultural productivity, improved nutritional security, and enhanced income of farming households. The programme was graced by Kajal Debbarma (Rupini),

a distinguished social worker and community leader, as the Chief Guest. In her address, she emphasized the need for the active participation of farm women and farmers in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra to strengthen agriculture and achieve nutritional security in Tripura. She appreciated the efforts of ICAR-KVK West Tripura in disseminating improved agricultural technologies and quality inputs to the farming community. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Maibam Baby Devi, SMS (Home Science) and Dr. Nagaraju M. C., SMS (Agricultural Entomology). A large number of tribal farmers participated in the programme and interacted with the scientists on scientific crop production and crop management practices.

Farmers support ethanol in meeting with Agriculture Minister Chouhan

New Delhi, Aug 4 (IANS) A delegation of the All India Kisan Coordination Committee (AIKCC) met the Union Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday and categorically said that ethanol is a big opportunity for the farm sector, provided its policy is “farmer-centric” and a remunerative price of the crop is paid to the farmer directly. The Union Minister assured the farm leadership that the Central government is clear that the benefit of the ethanol programme should reach the entire chain, from the field to the fuel tank, and the largest share should go in the interest of the farmer.

He also said that ethanol will strengthen the country’s energy security as well as the farmers’ pockets, according to an official statement.

Worker falls from roof, hospitalized

Times News

Teliamura, Aug 4: A construction worker sustained critical injuries after falling from the roof of a three-storey under-construction building of the Transport department in Teliamura on Tuesday evening. The injured worker has been identified as Ranjit Das. According to local sources, he was working alongside other labourers on the roof of the building when he allegedly lost his balance and fell from a height of nearly three storeys. Following the accident, fellow workers and local residents rushed to the spot and rescued him before taking him to Teliamura Sub-Divisional Hospital. Doctors at the hospital, after providing primary treatment, referred Das to GBP Hospital in Agartala as his condition deteriorated. Hospital sources said he remains under treatment and his condition is reported to be critical. The incident has sparked concerns over safety measures at the construction site. Authorities are reportedly looking into the circumstances that led to the accident and examining whether adequate safety protocols were in place during the construction work.

Unknown disease hits rubber plantation

Times News

Agartala, Aug 4: An unidentified disease has affected rubber plantations in several areas of Mohanpur subdivision, leading to a sharp decline in latex production and raising concerns among growers. Rubber cultivators from Jalilpur under Bamutia have urged the Rubber Board and the government to introduce drone-based spraying technology to help tackle the problem. According to farmers, the disease has caused rubber tree leaves to turn red and yellow before shedding prematurely, adversely affecting latex yield. The decline in production has added to the financial burden of cultivators who depend on rubber as their primary source of income. Experts from the Rubber Board recently visited the affected plantations and advised farmers on measures to control the disease. However, growers said implementing the recommendations has been difficult due to the high cost of the prescribed chemicals and the practical challenge of spraying tall rubber trees. With no access to advanced equipment, several farmers have jointly purchased a spraying machine and are using bamboo poles to reach the upper portions of the trees. They said the method is labour-intensive and far less effective than modern aerial spraying techniques. A former local MLA visited the affected area and assured farmers of support in resolving the issue.

470 meritorious students who cleared Board exams felicitated

Times News

Sonamura, Aug 4: As many as 470 students who performed well in the 2026 Madhyamik and Higher Secondary examinations were felicitated on Tuesday under a unique initiative launched by Tripura Higher Education and Panchayat Minister Kishore Barman to encourage academic excellence in the Nalchar Assembly constituency. The felicitation programme, held at the community halls of Purba Durlavnarayan village and Dashami Ghat, saw successful students

receive school bags and certificates in recognition of their achievements. The initiative, which began in 2022 through Barman’s personal efforts, aims to motivate students to perform better in board examinations each year and promote the vision of “One Nalchar, Educated Nalchar.” This year, the programme also honoured 12 senior government officials whose roots lie in villages under the Nalchar Assembly constituency, recognising their professional achievements as role models for local students.

Speaking at the event, Minister Barman said the contribution of parents and teachers is invaluable in shaping the future of every child. He noted that while most families can afford to purchase a school bag, presenting students with a certificate and a bag in a public ceremony serves as a source of encouragement and inspires greater interest in education. The minister also appealed to students to stay away from all forms of substance abuse and focus on their studies and personal development. The minister recalled that he

introduced the felicitation programme in 2022, even before becoming an MLA or a minister. The annual initiative is conducted at five locations across the Nalchar Assembly constituency to ensure students from every part of the constituency are covered. On Tuesday, 300 students were felicitated at Nalchar Dashami Ghat, while another 170 students received honours at the programme held in Purba Durlavnarayan village. The remaining events will be organised at Ghas Chowmuhani, Shibnagar and Lakshandhepa Gram Panchayat areas.

State Govt taking steps

From Page 01

said that teachers have a crucial role to play in providing quality education and fostering a positive atmosphere within educational institutions. During the inspection, the Chief Minister reviewed various aspects of the school and directed the concerned officials to take the necessary steps to develop a model school. Referring to an issue raised by the school’s headmistress, Dr. Saha said students currently have to stand under the scorching sun during the morning prayer. He assured that the government would take the necessary steps to address the problem at the earliest. The Chief Minister was accompanied by Director of School Education Samit Roy Chowdhury, West Tripura District Magistrate Dr. Vishal Kumar, and other officials during the visit. Replying to a media query, Dr. Saha said, initiative will be taken to recruit TET qualified teachers by balancing the financial matters and vacancies. He said, the government is recruiting teachers almost every year. There is no need to worry.

Sampriti Sankalp Abhiyan

From Page 01

Math on Akhaura Road in Agartala. As part of the celebrations, a Shiv Rudrabhishek and Maha Yajna were organised. The Chief Minister said that the “Sampriti Sankalp Abhiyan” aims to spread the timeless message of equality, harmony, social justice, and service to humanity propagated by Sant Guru Ravidas Ji to every corner of the state. He said that the ideals of Sant Guru Ravidas Ji continue to inspire society to uphold equality, fraternity, and the welfare of humanity. Expressing hope that the saint’s teachings would further strengthen the bonds of harmony and unity among people, Dr. Saha stressed the importance of carrying forward his values for the benefit of future generations. The programme was attended by Mayor Dipak Majumder and several other BJP leaders, eminent personalities, and a large number of devotees and followers.

Ker Puja’ symbolizes

From Page 01

Agartala, in keeping with the age-old customs associated with the festival. “On this auspicious occasion of Ker Puja, I had the opportunity to receive blessings,” Saha told the media after observing the centuries-old festival, which is also celebrated in tribal-dominated areas across the state. In accordance with the customary traditions of Ker Puja, outsiders are not permitted to enter the notified ritual area during the observance. The festival is celebrated in Agartala, different parts of Tripura, a few other Northeastern states, as well as in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of neighbouring Bangladesh. As part of the strict traditional code governing the festival, activities such as birth, death, and even recreation are prohibited within the notified ritual boundaries until the puja concludes. The annual Ker Puja, organised primarily by the indigenous tribal communities, involves intricate and time-honoured rituals performed for the well-being of the people, protection of the land, and to ward off evil spirits and negative forces. The two-and-a-half-day-long Ker Puja is observed approximately one week after the conclusion of the seven-day Kharchi Puja, during which the 14 Hindu deities of Tripura are worshipped simultaneously. This year’s week-long Kharchi Puja was held at Puran Habeli, the former capital of the erstwhile princely state, now known as Khayerpur, around eight km north of Agartala. The Chief Minister said that one of the principal objectives of Ker Puja is to promote goodwill, social harmony and the spirit of brotherhood among all sections of society. “On the occasion of the traditional Ker Puja, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all the people of Tripura. We all know that Ker Puja is observed seven days after the Kharchi Puja held at the Chaturdash Devata Temple in Khayerpur. This traditional festival began during the reign of the erstwhile king Maharaja Trilochan,” Saha said. He added that the rituals continue to

be performed in accordance with long-established customs. While the puja is now conducted in front of the royal palace, in earlier times the entire palace complex used to fall within the sacred Ker boundary. “The Chantai (priests), who worship the 14 deities at the Chaturdash Devata Temple, have come here to perform the rituals. We have received their blessings. This puja is conducted for the development, peace and overall well-being of the state,” Saha said, adding that a symbolic bamboo structure is worshipped as part of the rituals. Taking to X, the Chief Minister wrote: “I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Tripura’s traditional Ker Puja. Ker Puja is a unique symbol of our rich heritage, culture and spiritual beliefs. May this sacred festival bring peace, good health and prosperity into everyone’s lives -- this is my prayer.” The Chief Minister further said that another important objective of Ker Puja is to strengthen unity among people and collectively pray for protection from diseases and other calamities. Historians noted that Ker Puja has traditionally been performed to prevent evil forces from causing harm, safeguard society from epidemics and ensure peace and prosperity. The observance also seeks to nurture a strong sense of brotherhood and communal harmony. Apart from the main observance in front of the Ujjayanta Palace, members of the Tripuri, Reang and several other indigenous tribal communities perform Ker Puja in their respective villages following their traditional customs and rituals.

SC mandates

From Page 01

cars and five-year cover for new two-wheelers, a large number of vehicles continue to ply on roads without valid insurance. “We notice that despite eight years having passed from the said direction, a large number of vehicles remain uninsured. While the IRDA and GIC have recommended that this period not be enhanced, we are of the view that it is in the interest of road safety that the period be enhanced by one year,” the Justice Karol-led Bench said. “Therefore, it is directed that henceforth, third-party insurance for four years for new cars and six years for new two-wheelers be required to be purchased. IRDA to immediately issue necessary directions,” it added. The bench was dealing with larger issues concerning non-compliance with Section 146 of the Motor Vehicles Act, which mandates third-party insurance for all vehicles, and the need for a uniform motor vehicle insurance policy structure covering occupants in addition to third-party risks.

Ratan joins farmers

From Page 01

fields, Nath remarked: “The fragrance of the soil, feet covered in mud, and the genuine smiles of our farmers make this an unforgettable experience. Our farmers are the true architects of our food security. Standing beside them, recognizing their hard work, and making agriculture more prosperous is our collective responsibility.” He further stressed that Tripura’s overall development is closely tied to the progress of its farmers. To make agriculture more profitable and technology-driven, the government is providing training, improved seed varieties, modern machinery and financial assistance. Farmers present at the programme welcomed the initiative, expressing hope that such field-level engagements would continue, encouraging wider adoption of advanced farming practices across the state

Times News

Agartala, Aug 4: The Tripura Gramin Bank Officers’ Federation and the Tripura Gramin Bank Employees’ Federation on Tuesday jointly pressed for the fulfillment of a five-point charter of demands, including implementation of pending service benefits, recruitment to vacant posts and revision of the bank’s transfer policy. Addressing a press conference at the bank’s Head Office in Agartala, leaders of the two federations highlighted several issues affecting officers and employees and announced their first joint conference, scheduled to be held on August 8 and 9 at a private run hotel in Agartala. Federation Chairperson Biplab Saha, Tripura Gramin Bank Officers’ Federation President David Debbarma, General Secretary Tamal Debnath, Tripura Gramin Bank

Employees’ Federation President Anwesha Das and General Secretary Souvik Nag were present in the press conference. General Secretary Tamal Debnath said the open session of the joint conference will be held on August 8 from 5 pm, and all officers and employees of the bank have been invited to participate. The federations also unveiled a five-point charter of demands. They sought immediate implementation of all pending financial and non-financial benefits under the Ninth Joint Note and the Twelfth Bipartite Settlement. They further demanded that officers and employees of Tripura Gramin Bank be granted allowances, special facilities and staff welfare benefits on par with those available to employees of the sponsor bank. Another key demand was to discontinue deputation of staff from the sponsor bank in accordance

with the provisions of the Regional Rural Banks Act, while ensuring that Tripura Gramin Bank retains its independent identity. The federations also called for immediate recruitment to all vacant Office Assistant posts and urged the bank to revise its existing transfer policy in line with the Department of Financial Services guidelines, ensuring greater transparency, fairness and a humane approach. The federation leaders stated that officers and employees have been serving the institution with dedication and responsibility for many years and expressed hope that the bank management would respond positively to their legitimate demands. They also expected the issues to be resolved through constructive dialogue and appealed to the authorities to take prompt steps towards implementing the charter of demands.

274 fugitive criminals brought

From Page 8

dismantle their networks. In 2024, the Modi Government implemented three new criminal laws, incorporating special provisions relating to fugitive offenders. For the first time, Sections 355 and 356 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) provide for trial in absentia, enabling the entire judicial process—from trial to prosecution—to be completed even in the absence of a fugitive accused. In 2022, India hosted the 90th Interpol General Assembly, where Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah underscored the importance of the three pillars of global policing—Communication, Collaboration, and Cooperation. To strengthen coordination, connectivity, and information-sharing between India and global law enforcement agencies, the Union Home Minister launched BHARATPOL in January 2025. BHARATPOL has created a comprehensive information infrastructure by integrating the CBI, State Police Headquarters (through Interpol Liaison Officers–ILOs), and District Police Headquarters onto a single platform. Under this initiative, more than 1,400 units of State and Central agencies have been connected through the portal, ensuring seamless flow of information. As a result,

the response time for information-sharing between the CBI and other law enforcement agencies has been significantly reduced. Today, information sought by the CBI is generally shared by other law enforcement agencies within 10 to 20 days, and in some cases, within 3 to 10 days, substantially improving the efficiency of investigations and extradition proceedings. The Union Home Minister has held a total of 5 important meetings in this direction. The Modi Government has enforced the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) with greater rigor. Through stringent enforcement of PMLA, Modi Government attached assets worth ₹17,874 crore belonging to fugitive criminals between 2019 and 2026. To strengthen international efforts to trace and apprehend fugitives, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has established a Special Global Operations Centre. The Centre coordinates in real time with police agencies across the world through Interpol, enabling faster tracking and apprehension of fugitives. To facilitate the swift exchange of information, the CBI has also designated Interpol Contact Officers in every State as well as in all Central investigating agencies, significantly enhancing coordination

and international cooperation in fugitive investigations. The number of Interpol Red Corner Notices issued has increased significantly in recent years. 40 Red Corner Notices were issued in 2022, 100 in 2023, 107 in 2024, 112 in 2025, and 182 have already been issued in 2026 so far. To strengthen efforts to trace fugitive offenders, Operation Trishul was launched to geo-locate absconding criminals. Under this initiative, with the support of Interpol, the locations of concealed fugitives were surveilled using satellite inputs, surveillance, and digital footprint analysis. Many fugitives had changed their names or identities while residing abroad. However, through use of advanced technology and profile mapping, Indian agencies were able to identify and trace them. Technology has also been leveraged to expedite extradition proceedings, including the use of video conferencing for court hearings, thereby helping to accelerate the legal process. Over the past three years, Red Corner Notices have been issued against 401 fugitive criminals. Under the guidance of the Union Home Minister, extradition requests are now being prepared in a more professional and standardized manner.

Daring theft near SP Office sparks security concerns in Udaipur

Times News

Udaipur, Aug 2: A major burglary at the residence of a school teacher, located barely a stone throwing distance from the office of the Superintendent of Police, has triggered fresh concerns over the rising incidents of house thefts in Udaipur and its adjoining areas. The incident took place at Mahadev Dighi East Bank under the Udaipur Municipal Council area. The victim has been identified as teacher Biplab Saha. According to family members and local residents, Biplab Saha had travelled to his ancestral home in Amarpur with his family on Monday afternoon. Taking advantage of the vacant house, unidentified burglars allegedly broke

into the residence during the night. The miscreants reportedly forced open the main door by breaking the lock and latch before entering the house. They then ransacked the premises, breaking open two Godrej cupboards and several other wardrobes in search of valuables. The burglars allegedly fled with around Rs 50,000 in cash and gold ornaments. The theft came to light on Tuesday morning when Biplab Saha’s brother, Parthapratin Saha, arrived at the house and found it in a ransacked condition. He immediately informed Biplab Saha, who rushed back from Amarpur and lodged a written complaint with the Radhakishorepur Police Station. Acting on the complaint, police personnel from Radhakishorepur Police

Station reached the spot and initiated a preliminary investigation. The incident has sparked resentment among local residents, who questioned how such a daring burglary could take place just about 100 metres from the office of the Superintendent of Police. Parthapratin Saha also expressed concern over the recurring thefts in the area and questioned the effectiveness of police surveillance. Residents alleged that house burglaries have become increasingly frequent under the Radhakishorepur Police Station area, with reports of thefts emerging almost regularly. They claimed that despite the repeated incidents, there has been little visible progress in identifying or arresting those responsible, leaving people feeling increasingly insecure.

HEALTH & SCIENCE

1.74 lakh treated, 7.61 lakh given preventive medicine in Gujarat’s flood health response

Gujarat’s Health Department said it has intensified its public health response following heavy rainfall across the state, deploying thousands of surveillance and emergency response teams and treating more than 1.74 lakh people through medical camps to prevent disease outbreaks in flood-affected areas. According to the state government, a comprehensive ‘Monsoon Action Plan’ was implemented across all 34 districts and eight municipal corporations before and during the monsoon, allowing health authorities to respond quickly to flooding and related health risks. The government said no major public health emergency has been reported so far and that disease outbreaks have largely remained under control despite widespread rainfall and flooding. The department has activated round-the-clock health control rooms at the state level, in all districts and across the eight municipal corporations. Rapid

Response Teams are functioning at the state, district and taluka levels, while each district has been provided with five additional Emergency Medical Teams, supported by dedicated vehicles and staff. Healthcare support has also focused on vulnerable groups. The department said 675 pregnant women from flood-affected areas were shifted to healthcare facilities in advance, where 272 institutional deliveries were successfully conducted. Regular health check-ups are also being carried out for people staying in relief camps established for those affected by the floods. Emergency medical services have been strengthened with 1,496 ambulances under the 108 Emergency Service and 816 ambulances attached to Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres placed on standby. Primary and Community Health Centres have also been equipped with generators and sufficient diesel supplies to ensure uninterrupted services during power disruptions.

To reduce the risk of post-flood illnesses, the department organised 6,868 medical camps where more than 1.74 lakh people received health examinations and on-the-spot treatment. More than 18,000 surveillance teams have been conducting daily door-to-door visits across affected areas. During these visits, over 1.05 crore chlorine tablets and more than 10.29 lakh Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) packets have been distributed. Officials said more than 10.52 lakh residual chlorine tests have been carried out to ensure safe drinking water, while over 3,061 drinking water pipeline leakages have been repaired on priority. The department has also stocked healthcare institutions with more than 1.5 crore chlorine tablets, over 60 lakh ORS packets and 1,38,234 Anti-Snake Venom injections. Anti-snake venom has additionally been made available in 108 ambulances to allow prompt treatment of snakebite cases during the flood season. To prevent leptospirosis after

floodwaters receded, more than 7.61 lakh people considered at high risk in 562 villages across Valsad, Surat, Navsari and Tapi districts have received doxycycline as chemoprophylaxis. The state has also deployed 497 additional vector control teams to undertake anti-larval measures and public awareness activities aimed at reducing the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. Officials said the first round of Indoor Residual Spraying has been completed in 106 high-risk villages, with the second round commencing on August 1. Larvivorous Gambusia fish have also been released into 4,998 permanent water bodies to help control mosquito breeding. “We are continuing public awareness campaigns through ASHA workers and vector control teams to educate residents on preventing monsoon-related diseases, while maintaining preparedness to respond to any further health emergencies arising from the ongoing monsoon season,” officials added.

Gujarat hospitals win three national awards for excellence in organ donation, transplantation

Three government healthcare institutions in Gujarat have received national recognition for their work in organ donation and transplantation, with awards announced on Indian Organ Donation Day 2026 during the 16th Indian Organ Donation Day ceremony held at Dr B. R. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi on Monday. The honours recognise achievements in organ transplantation, organ retrieval and brain stem death management, highlighting the state’s role in strengthening deceased organ donation programmes. The Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC) in Ahmedabad received the ‘Excellence in Leading Government Hospital in Organ Transplantation’ award. Ahmedabad Civil Hospital was presented with the ‘Best Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centre (NTORC)’ award for its organ retrieval work from deceased donors, while New Civil Hospital in

Surat was selected for the ‘Best Brain Stem Death Team’ award for its identification of brain stem death cases, counselling of families and adherence to clinical protocols. Gujarat Health Minister Praful Pansheriya congratulated the medical teams and said the recognition reflected the



state’s continued efforts in organ donation and transplantation under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Sharing details of the achievements, the minister said: “IKDRC performed 597 organ transplants during 2025, comprising 502 kidney transplants, 86 liver transplants and nine

pancreas transplants. Of these, 380 patients received free treatment under the PM-JAY scheme. Notably, 34 per cent of patients treated at the institute came from outside Gujarat, demonstrating its national standing in organ transplantation.” According to the Health Department, Ahmedabad Civil Hospital

effective and timely organ donation process. Pansheriya emphasised that the achievements reflected the coordinated efforts of the Health Department, the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) Gujarat and government hospitals, supported by advanced medical technology and dedicated healthcare professionals. Expressing condolences to the families of organ donors, the minister said: “Despite the pain of losing their loved ones, they made the noble decision to donate their organs. Their inspiring decision has given a new lease of life to many people.” Describing organ donation as “one of the greatest acts of humanity”, he added: “It allows a person to give the gift of life even after death.” He appealed to citizens, hospitals and medical professionals across Gujarat to spread awareness about organ donation and work together to ensure that no organ from a brain-dead individual goes to waste.

Dabur issues clarification on FSSAI order, says ‘stands by purity and quality of its products’

After the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued a prohibition order against Dabur India Limited over the sale of food products carrying allegedly misleading “100 per cent” claims, the company said on Tuesday that its product labels comply with the prevailing legal and regulatory framework. In a filing with the BSE and the NSE, Dabur India said it stood by the quality and purity of its products. “Dabur India Limited believes that the declaration on our product labels comply with the prevailing legal and regulatory framework and are consistent with long-standing industry practices. Dabur stands by the purity and quality of its products and has never made any misleading claims,” the company said in its filing. Earlier, the country’s food regulator directed the FMCG major to immediately cease the sale of products bearing claims such as “100 per cent Natural”, “100 per cent Pure”, “100 per cent Purity Guaranteed”, “100 per cent Organic” and “100 per cent Tender Coconut Water”. The action followed FSSAI’s observation that these claims were ambiguous, unverifiable, and likely to

mislead consumers. The FSSAI further noted that Dabur Himalayan Organic Apple Cider Vinegar and Dabur Organic Honey displayed the Jaivik Bharat logo without valid FSSAI organic endorsement, allegedly violating the Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017. In addition, Dabur Hommade Coconut Milk was marketed with the claim “100 per cent Purity”, which is not permitted for compound food products, the regulator said. The FSSAI directed the company to immediately stop the sale of the identified products and submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) within 15 days. In its filing, Dabur India said it “continues to maintain the highest standards of quality, food safety and regulatory compliance in the manufacture and sale of its products”. “The impact on the Company’s business operations, financial position or performance is limited to objected food products only,” it said, adding that the “company is seeking legal advice on the future course of action”. The stock of the FMCG major closed 4.32 per cent down at Rs 407.40 apiece.

12,500 dispensaries upgraded as Ayush Wellness Centres: MoS Prataprao Jadhav

Under the National Ayush Mission (NAM), 12,500 units of existing Ayush dispensaries and sub-health centres (SCs) have been upgraded for operationalisation as Ayush Health and Wellness Centres, renamed as Ayushman Arogya Mandir (Ayush), the Rajya Sabha was informed on Tuesday. Union Minister of State for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav, in a written reply in Rajya Sabha, said that as many as 40,269 dispensaries and 3,648 hospitals are currently offering Ayush OPD services across the country. He said under the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme NAM, consolidated funds are released to the State/UT Governments against the proposals submitted through SAAPs, as per provisions of the NAM guideline. Financial assistance is allocated at a unit cost of Rs 16.22 lakh per Ayush Dispensary and Rs 15.744 lakh per Sub-Centres for upgrading them into AAM (Ayush). Karnataka has the highest number of such facilities that include 7,641 dispensaries and 274 hospitals, he said. Jadhav said as per the operational guidelines, AAM (Ayush) were approved with an objective to establish a holistic wellness model based on Ayush principles and

practices (Yoga therapy, Ayurveda consultations, Naturopathy treatments, etc.), focusing on preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare, he said. As reported by States/UTs, the footfall of the beneficiaries visiting AAM (Ayush) has been subsequently increased after upgradation of Ayush Dispensaries/Sub health centres into AAM (Ayush) because, in addition to OPD services, these facilities are also providing various other services like Prakriti Parikshan and Yoga-related activities, he said. There are NABH assessments and also third-party review besides visits by the Central team in different States/UTs to ensure quality, accreditation, training of Ayush practitioners deployed at these centres and monitoring of the implementation progress of different activities/services being provided by operational AAM (Ayush), he said. The State/UT governments have also been advised for appropriate training and capacity building of AAM (Ayush) team, strengthening of referral linkages with other public health facilities, effective involvement of field-level workers, especially ASHAs, for better outcomes, the Minister of State said.

Bengal health dept bars 11 blood banks from conducting donation camps; probe on into irregularities

The West Bengal Health Department on Saturday announced that it has barred 11 blood banks in the state from conducting blood donation camps anywhere in the state till further orders. The state health department had started an investigation against 11 blood banks accused of severe irregularities including illegally selling blood collected in West Bengal to other states. “Till the time the investigation process in the matter is completed these 11 blood banks would be barred from organising blood donation camps anywhere in the state,” said a West Bengal Health Department official. A notification on

this count had also been issued by the West Bengal Health Department. The bar on organising blood donation camps is applicable from August 1. It is learnt that there are serious allegations of multiple irregularities against them, including blood and plasma being unauthorisedly being sent to other states in exchange of money. “Currently an investigation against these 11 blood banks is being carried out by the State Blood Transfusion Board. However, the ban applies only to organising camps outside. Blood sample collection or trading will continue within the institution.” Again, that should be done only by

skilled and trained staff, following all the rules on this count. In addition, the state health department has asked the State Blood Transfusion Board to be alert of any major blood transaction anywhere in the state,” the West Bengal Health Department official said. A few days ago, officials from the West Bengal Health Department conducted search operations in connection with the investigation into irregularities in organising blood donation camps. They raided several places in Kolkata and the district and monitored the situation there. Several important documents were also seized. In view of that, this

time, a ban has been imposed on these 11 blood banks from organising blood donation camps till further orders. According to sources, some of these blood bank authorities did not even seek the necessary permission from the West Bengal Health Department to organise blood donation camps. There were also irregularities in blood collections. Apart from that, there were allegations that red blood cells and plasma were sent to other states on premium prices. The officials concerned are investigating these allegations. Until the investigation is completed, no new camps can be organised.

Centre proposes rules for 2-wheeler ambulances to boost emergency medical access

In a bid to strengthen emergency healthcare delivery in hard-to-reach areas, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) on Monday proposed a regulatory framework for two-wheeled road ambulances. The draft notification seeks to formally recognise and regulate such vehicles, which can play a crucial role in providing rapid medical assistance in rural, remote and hilly regions where conventional ambulances face mobility challenges. The proposed rules aim to address the absence of a dedicated regulatory structure for such vehicles, which are increasingly being viewed as an effective solution for delivering emergency medical services in areas with difficult terrain, narrow roads and limited access for conventional ambulances. According to the ministry, two-wheeled road ambulances can significantly improve emergency response times and facilitate last-mile access to healthcare, particularly in rural and remote regions as well as hilly areas. At present, these vehicles are not recognised as a separate category under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, resulting in the absence of nationally prescribed standards related to their design, safety features, registration, type approval and fitness inspections. To bridge this gap, the ministry has proposed the adoption of AIS-209 (Part 1):2026, a new standard that lays down construction and functional requirements for life-support two-wheeled road ambulances. Under the draft framework, all L2-category two-wheeled road ambulances manufactured on or after October 1, 2027, will be required to comply with the provisions of AIS-209 (Part 1):2026. Emergency warning top lights fitted on such vehicles will also need to meet the prescribed standards from the same date. The proposed rules provide flexibility to state governments in determining the operational areas for these ambulances.

FSSAI orders immediate ban on Venolex Forte, suspends Matri Drinking Water licence

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Monday intensified its enforcement drive against food safety violations by suspending the licence of Matri Drinking Water in Tripura and issuing a prohibition order against Noble Healthcare, Mohali, Punjab, over serious violations of food safety regulations. In the case of Noble Healthcare, the food safety regulator has prohibited the manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of its product Venolex Forte with immediate effect under Section 36(3)(b) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. “FSSAI has suspended license of Matri Drinking Water, Tripura & has issued prohibition order to Noble Healthcare, Punjab for serious food safety violations,” it said in a post on social media platform X. “FSSAI continues to maintain strict enforcement across food sectors to protect consumer health,”

it added. According to FSSAI, the action was taken after multiple critical non-compliances were detected during regulatory scrutiny. The regulator said the product contained ingredients that are not permitted under the applicable food safety regulations. It also observed that the Vitamin C content in the product was 90 mg, which appears to exceed the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) prescribed under the ICMR-NIN Guidelines, 2020. FSSAI further stated that Venolex Forte contains pharmacologically active ingredients, including Calcium Dobesilate, Diosmin and Euphorbia Prostrata, which are not permitted ingredients under the Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical

Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2022. The regulator also found that the product was marketed as a “Dietary Food Supplement” while prominently displaying an FSSAI licence number below the product name. According to FSSAI, this created a misleading impression that the product had been specifically approved or endorsed by the food regulator. In addition, the product’s labelling and overall presentation were found to be misleading, causing confusion regarding its legal and regulatory status and potentially misleading consumers about its compliance with FSSAI requirements. FSSAI said the product was prima facie non-compliant with provisions governing the manufacture and marketing of food products and food supplements under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the regulations framed under it.

AB-PMJAY enables 12.69 crore cashless hospital admissions worth Rs 1.92 lakh crore: Govt

The government on Tuesday said that under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), 12.69 crore cashless hospital admissions worth Rs 1.92 lakh crore have been authorised under the scheme (as on June 30) through a network of 37,413 public and private hospitals, significantly reducing the out-of-pocket expenditure. Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha that the scheme provides health coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to 12 crore economically vulnerable families, constituting the bottom 40 per cent of the population. AB-PMJAY has significantly contributed to reducing out-of-pocket expenditure, said the minister. According to the National Health Accounts Estimates 2022-23, out of

pocket expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure declined from 62.6 per cent in 2014-15 to 43.4 per cent in 2022-23. This substantial reduction indicates that households are incurring a considerably lower share of healthcare costs directly

lakh families of Accredited Social Health Activists, Anganwadi Workers, and Anganwadi Helpers. The scheme was further expanded in October 2024 to cover 6 crore senior citizens of age 70 years and above belonging to 4.5 crore families irrespective



from their own pockets, owing to increased public investment in health and the expansion of publicly financed health insurance schemes such as AB-PMJAY. In March 2024, the scheme was expanded to include approximately 37

of their socio-economic status. Meanwhile, the government has increased the budget in health research along with new schemes/initiatives to make research grants more competitive and accessible.

Golden Girl Asmita Dey returns, 135th Durand Cup: SC Delhi secure a win against Jamshedpur FC

Times Sports

Agartala, Aug 4: Tripura's Commonwealth Games gold medallist Asmita Dey returned to India on Tuesday to an emotional and grand reception at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.

The young judoka from Belonia under the South Tripura District scripted history by becoming the first Indian to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal in judo. She defeated Canada's Heidi Quach in the women's 48kg final at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Hundreds of supporters, sports enthusiasts and well-wishers greeted her at the airport. Flowers, cheers and applause marked the historic homecoming of the athlete who has become a symbol of pride for Tripura and Indian judo.

"This welcome feels wonderful", said Dey. Speaking to reporters after her arrival, Asmita said she had never experienced such a reception



before. "This is the first time I've received such a grand welcome, and it feels wonderful," she said.

The Commonwealth Judo Gold medallist also made it clear that her biggest dream still lies ahead.

"My next goal is to compete at the Olympics and win a medal for India," she said, setting an ambitious target after her breakthrough success.

During another interaction with the media, Asmita became emotional while recalling her late father. She said questions about her father

brought back memories of the difficult journey she had travelled before reaching the top of the Commonwealth podium.

Former Tripura Chief Minister and MP Biplab Kumar Deb felicitated Asmita in New Delhi after her arrival. Calling her "the pride of Tripura", he praised her determination and acknowledged the many challenges she overcame to reach the top.

Asmita's victory has inspired athletes across the Northeast. Hailing from South Sonaichari in Belonia, she overcame financial hardship and per-

sonal loss to emerge as one of India's finest judokas. Her Commonwealth gold has already been described as one of the biggest sporting achievements in Tripura's history. She is also the state's first athlete to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal.

The achievement has drawn widespread praise from political leaders, sports administrators and fans across the country.

Soon after her golden achievement, Harsh Singh won the men's 60kg title, adding another gold to India's tally and strengthening the country's growing reputation in international judo.

For Asmita Dey, the celebrations mark the end of one milestone and the beginning of another.

Her focus has already shifted to the Olympic Games. The historic Commonwealth champion believes the Glasgow gold is only the first step towards an even bigger achievement on the world stage.

Hotel Sonar Tori: Tripura Sports School register 2nd straight win



Club in the Hotel Sonar Tori Second Division Football League at Umakanta Mini Stadium on Tuesday.

Fresh from their previous win, the boys coached by Abu Taher displayed confidence and attacking football to overpower Friends Union. Rafruchai Mog starred for the winners with a brace, while Bonglal Reang Halam and Samir Jamatia added one goal each. Friends Union took an early lead in the 10th minute through Bishal Jamatia. However, Tripura Sports School quickly regained control of the match. Rafruchai restored parity in the 34th minute before Bonglal Reang Halam put his side ahead just two minutes before the halftime whistle.

After the break, Tripura Sports School maintained their dominance. Samir Jamatia made it 3-1 in the 48th minute, and Rafruchai completed his brace in the 68th minute to seal an emphatic victory. The match, organised by the Tripura Football Association, was officiated by Raktim Saha.

Times Sports

Agartala, August 4: Tripura Sports School continued their winning momentum with a convincing 4-1 victory over Friends Union

College Square cruise into QFs with 5-1 victory

Times Sports

Belonia, August 4: College Square cruised into the quarterfinals of the Oriental Club Prize Money Knock-out Football Tournament after thrashing Killa Soccer Club 5-1 at Vidyapith Mini Stadium on Tuesday. College Square dominated proceedings from the opening whistle, enjoying superior possession and outclassing their opponents in speed, strength and skill.

Zakaria scored twice for the winners, while Kima,



Rahul and Jordan added one goal each. Purna Chandra Jamatia netted the lone goal for Killa Soccer Club. College Square led 3-1 at

halftime before adding two more goals in the second half to complete the rout. Sanjay Biswas officiated the match.

UEFA sends legal preservation notice to FIFA

New Delhi, Aug 4 (IANS) UEFA has confirmed that it has sent a legal preservation notice to FIFA as the fallout from the governing body's abandoned FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal continues, with the European football body keeping open the possibility of legal proceedings over the controversial plan.

The move comes days after FIFA president Gianni Infantino withdrew the FFE proposal following widespread opposition from UEFA, several continental confederations and other stakeholders. The project had proposed creating a commercial entity to manage the rights of FIFA's flagship competitions, including the FIFA World Cup, while allowing private investors to acquire an equity stake. Confirming the development to Al Jazeera, UEFA said it had issued a document preservation letter to FIFA but declined to comment further on the matter. "We can confirm that a document preservation letter was sent," UEFA said in its response to the media outlet. A preservation letter is a formal legal notice requiring the recipient to retain documents, electronic records and other potentially relevant material that could be used as evidence in future legal proceedings. Such notices are commonly issued when litigation or regulatory action is being considered. According to reports, UEFA has been exploring legal options



since Infantino first unveiled the FFE proposal. The notice is intended to ensure that records connected to the project are preserved while the European governing body assesses its next course of action. The controversy stems from FIFA's proposal to establish the FIFA Forward Enterprise, a commercial subsidiary that would have overseen the commercial rights of major FIFA competitions. FIFA argued the initiative would significantly increase development funding for its 211 member associations. However, the pro-

posal faced immediate resistance from UEFA, Concacaf, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and several national football associations, which questioned both the governance process and the lack of consultation surrounding the plan. Infantino subsequently announced that FIFA would abandon the proposal, saying feedback from stakeholders had made it clear that the project had become divisive and no longer served its intended purpose of strengthening world football.

SPORTS

135th Durand Cup: SC Delhi secure a win against Jamshedpur FC

- **Sanan Mohammed had put Jamshedpur FC ahead**
- **Debutant Lalrinliana Hnamte scored twice for SC Delhi**
- **The win takes SC Delhi level on three points with Jamshedpur FC**

Ranchi, Aug 4 (IANS) New signing Lalrinliana Hnamte made his debut for Sporting Club Delhi a memorable one, scoring twice in the space of five minutes in the second half to complete a comeback win for his side against Jamshedpur FC in a Group C fixture of the 135th Durand Cup which was played at the Birsu Munda Stadium in Ranchi on Tuesday.

Hnamte scored his brace in the 51st and 56th minutes after Jamshedpur FC took the lead in the 22nd minute through Sanan Mohammed. Despite the loss, Jamshedpur remain at the top of the table with three points from two matches, only on goal difference with SC Delhi, who have only played a single match. Jamshedpur FC head coach KaizadAmbapardiwalla made one change to the starting XI from his side's previous outing, with full-back Nikhil Barla replacing Abhishek Ambekar. SC Delhi head coach Tomasz Tchórz, taking charge of his side's first match

of the tournament, retained eight players from the lineup that featured in the club's final

of their attacking play was channelled through the left flank, where Sanan Moham-



Indian Super League fixture of the previous season. The Delhi outfit also handed competitive debuts to new signings Lalrinliana Hnamte, YanglemSanatomba Singh and the experienced Ashutosh Mehta as they looked to begin their Durand Cup campaign on a positive note. The home side made the brighter start, dictating the tempo in the opening exchanges. Much

med was a livewire with his pace and direct dribbling. The winger delivered several inviting crosses into dangerous areas, keeping the SC Delhi defence under sustained pressure. Raynier Fernandes, fresh from his hat-trick in Jamshedpur's previous outing, came closest to opening the scoring. The midfielder reacted quickest to a loose ball on the edge of the penalty

area but saw his effort drift wide of the post.

At the other end, Mohammed Aimen came agonisingly close to giving SC Delhi the lead with a moment of individual brilliance. Picking up the ball in midfield, the forward dribbled past three defenders before guiding a side-footed effort beyond the outstretched Albino Gomes. However, the shot struck the base of the post and rebounded back into play. Jamshedpur FC continued to build their attacks through the flanks, with Sanan and Aman C.K. maintaining their width and stretching the SC Delhi defence. Both wingers looked dangerous every time they received the ball in advanced areas, and the hosts' wide play consistently created problems for the visitors. That approach paid dividends midway through the first half. Pronay Halder won possession deep inside his own half before releasing Sanan with a perfectly weighted long ball over the top of the defence.

Messi-mess in Kolkata:

Police seek more time to file report

Kolkata, Aug 4 (IANS) The West Bengal Police on Tuesday sought additional time from the Calcutta High Court to submit a report on the alleged mismanagement and chaos surrounding Argentine football icon Lionel Messi's appearance at Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium in December last year.

Calcutta High Court's single-judge bench of Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya scheduled August 11 for the next hearing in the matter, and the report is to be filed by the Bidhannagar City Police, under whose jurisdiction the Salt Lake Stadium falls. The state government's counsel informed the court that recent reshuffles within the Bidhannagar City Police had delayed the preparation of the report, necessitating additional time. The controversy stems from Messi's visit to the stadium on

December 13 last year, which was marred by allegations of poor crowd management

High Court, which ordered an independent probe into the incident and directed a



and organisational lapses. Several attendees claimed they were unable to catch a glimpse of the football legend despite purchasing expensive tickets. Following Messi's departure, sections of the crowd allegedly vandalised parts of the venue. The issue later reached the Calcutta

committee to examine allegations surrounding the event. Former West Bengal Sports Minister Aroop Biswas has come under scrutiny in the case, although the court has granted him interim protection from coercive action, including arrest. Event organiser Satadru Dutta, who

was arrested during the initial investigation and later released on bail, accused Aroop Biswas of violating protocol by staying in close proximity to Messi throughout the programme. He also alleged that the presence of influential individuals on the field obstructed the view of paying spectators.

Two separate cases were registered at Bidhannagar South Police Station following the incident. While one led to the arrest of Satadru Dutta, the other resulted in several arrests over allegations of vandalism and arson.

Following a change in the political dispensation in the state, Aroop Biswas approached the Calcutta High Court seeking protection from arrest. The court subsequently directed that a fresh and independent inquiry be conducted and an investigation committee be constituted accordingly.

Sonamura English Medium School win thriller in Inter-School T20

Times Sports

Sonamura, Aug 4: The Sonamura Cricket Association conducted two matches of the Inter-School T20 Cricket Tournament at Sonamura Playground on Tuesday.

Due to overcast weather, the first match was reduced from 20 overs to 15 overs per side. Sonamura English Medium Higher Secondary School defeated Melaghar Higher Secondary School by four runs. Batting first, Sonamura scored 96/7 in 15 overs. Minhaj Ahmed top-scored with 41, while Prantik Chakraborty made 17 and Akib Rashid contributed 15. In reply, Melaghar finished on 92/4. Sagar Das remained unbeaten on 45, while Shub-



ha Pratik Das scored 23. Minhaj Ahmed shone with the ball as well, claiming 3 wickets for 18 runs, while Krish Naha picked up one wicket. In the day's second match, Adwaita Malla

Barman Higher Secondary School of Kemtali defeated Melaghar English Medium Higher Secondary School by four wickets. Melaghar English Medium posted 131/4 in 18 overs, thanks to Kingshuk Das (55) and Kuldeep Sarkar (51). Chayan Das took two wickets and Raktim Das claimed one for Kemtali. Chasing 132, Adwaita Malla Barman Higher Secondary School reached the target with six wickets down in 18 overs. Ishan Das scored 22, Satyadeep Das 21, Ankuk Das 20, Raktim Das 19 and Dip Das 18 to guide their team home. Kuldeep Sarkar claimed three wickets for Melaghar English Medium, while Pritam Debnath took two.

Sabroom Sub-Div School sports meet ends

Times Sports

Sabroom, Aug 04: The Sabroom Sub-Divisional School Sports Meet concluded successfully on Tuesday with competitions in under-17 boys' and girls' volleyball and kabaddi at the Manu School Ground.

Around 120 athletes from across the subdivision participated in the two-day sporting event. The inaugural programme was attended by Satchand Panchayat Samiti Chairman Prabash Lodh, along with Partha Chakraborty, Samir Pal and Bibhas Brata. Following the competitions, the Sub-Divisional Sports Office announced the list



of players selected to represent the subdivision at the district-level school sports meet. Under-17 Volleyball : Boys: Gautam Tripura, Chiranjit Tripura, Pranjit

Tripura, Shunojit Tripura, Aichak Tripura, Amus Tripura, Tungthak Tripura, Amit Tripura, Iman Tripura, Ishan Tripura and Raju Tripura. Girls:Shubhashree Das,

Payel Das, Rakhi Dey, Puja Dey, Priyanka Das, Monisha Sanyal, Shanu Mog, Neha Tripura, Jamuna Tripura, Rikita Das and Susmita Tripura.

Under-17 Kabaddi: Boys: Nayan Debnath, Ranjit Debnath, Sunny Debnath, Sanjay Debnath, Gagan Debnarma, Arnab Patari, Ajit Saha, Tanmoy Nath and Uchathai Mog. Girls: Sristi Biswas, Anamika Dutta, Sayantika Dey, Anindita Das, Mampi Debnath, Priya Tripura, Paichanu Mog, Sagarika Nath and Champa Tripura.

Sub-Divisional Sports Officer Jhimi Debnarma officially announced the names of the selected players.

Tripura University expands media education with new UG Journalism course

Times News

Agartala, Aug 4: Tripura University has opened the doors to undergraduate media education with the introduction of a Bachelor's programme in Journalism and Mass Communication under the Institute of Multidisciplinary Studies (IMD) from the 2026-27 academic session. The programme, approved under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Debabrata Das, reflects the university's commitment to expanding multidisciplinary, skill-oriented and employment-focused education. The initiative follows sustained efforts by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication to introduce professional media education at the undergraduate level. Head of the department Dr. Sunil Kalai has consistently advocated making journalism education accessible to students immediately after higher secondary education so they can develop industry-oriented skills from the outset. Established in 2009, the department has over the years

produced graduates serving in print, television and digital media, public relations, government communication, academia, filmmaking and the development sector. The newly introduced programme has been designed to provide practical training in reporting, multimedia storytelling, mobile journalism, photography, video production, podcasting, advertising, public relations, digital marketing, communication research, media entrepreneurship and the application of artificial intelligence in media. Tripura University has invited applications for admission to the programme for the 2026-27 academic session. Students who have passed Higher Secondary (10+2) or its equivalent are eligible to apply. University officials expressed confidence that the introduction of the undergraduate programme will strengthen professional media education in the state while creating new opportunities for aspiring journalists, filmmakers, photographers, digital content creators and communication professionals.

Uncertainty over fourth-year UG admission leaves students in limbo

Times News

Agartala, Aug 04: Thousands of students in Tripura who have become eligible to enter the seventh semester under the four-year undergraduate programme introduced under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 are awaiting clarity as the state Higher Education Department has yet to finalise the admission process for the current academic session. The delay has created uncertainty for students enrolled in the state's 28 general degree colleges, more than a month after the academic session began. Tripura introduced the four-year undergraduate programme in the 2023-24 academic year under the NEP 2020. The programme was formally launched by Chief Minister and Education Minister Manik Saha at a function in Agartala. However, concerns have since emerged over the availability of infrastructure and teaching staff required to implement the fourth year of the programme. According to sources, government degree colleges have not received the additional infrastructure or faculty needed for the expanded curriculum. Several teachers have also retired during the past three years, further aggravating the shortage of academic staff.

Initially, Tripura University and MBB University had stated that students meeting the prescribed academic criteria by the end of the sixth semester would be eligible for admission to the four-year Honours programme. The universities subsequently revised the eligibility norms, indicating that students securing at least 72 credits out of 120 by the end of the sixth semester, including those with back papers, would qualify for admission. Officials in the Higher Education Department are understood to have estimated that more than 8,000 students across the state would become eligible under the existing criteria. Sources said accommodating such a large number of students would require additional classrooms, faculty and other infrastructure, which are currently unavailable. To examine the issue, the Higher Education Department has constituted a committee comprising principals of government degree colleges. The committee is chaired by the Additional Director of Higher Education, while an Officer on Special Duty is serving as its Member Secretary. According to sources, the department has proposed restricting admission to the fourth-year Honours programme to students with no back papers and at least

72 credits out of 120. It has also proposed that, instead of offering all Honours subjects in every college, selected institutions be designated to conduct specific courses for clusters of colleges. The proposal is also understood to include reducing classroom teaching from six days a week to three days a week in view of faculty and infrastructure constraints. The reported proposals have caused concern among students who had expected admission under the eligibility criteria earlier notified by the universities. Many fear that any change in the norms at this stage could affect their academic progression despite fulfilling the previously prescribed conditions. Students and parents have sought an early decision from the authorities, saying the uncertainty over admissions has disrupted academic planning. They have also questioned why delays in infrastructure development and faculty recruitment should affect students who enrolled under the NEP framework with the expectation of completing the four-year programme. Neither the Higher Education Department nor Tripura University and MBB University had issued a formal clarification on the admission process for the seventh semester at the time of filing this report.

Abhishek holds org programmes, opens new party offices in Udaipur



Times News

Udaipur, Aug 4: State president of Bharatiya Janata Party and MLA Abhishek Debroy on Tuesday carried out a series of organisational programmes across Matabari constituency to strengthen the party at the grassroots. The day began with a joining programme at Dataram Bazar,

where 67 voters from 16 families, who had left different political parties, joined the BJP in the presence of Debroy. Welcoming the new members, he highlighted the party's ideology and the state's development initiatives. He urged the newcomers to work for the organisation and the area's development. Later, Debroy inaugurated

newly constructed BJP party offices at Joyali Khamar and Simsima under the constituency. He expressed hope that the new offices would further strengthen the party's organisational activities in the region. BJP Tripura general secretary Rathindra Jamatia, Gomati district vice-president Uttam Dey, 32-Matabari Mandal president Biswajit Marak, Matabari Panchayat Samiti chairman Shilpi Das and other party leaders were present during the visit. According to party sources, similar organisational programmes will continue in the coming days to expand the party's base and strengthen public outreach. Meanwhile, Debroy welcomed 67 voters from 16 families under Dataram Shakti Kendra of Matabari constituency to Bharatiya Janata Party.

Beyond our prerogative: Tinku on Pratima's statement

Times News

Agartala, Aug 04: Social Welfare and Social Education Minister Tinku Roy on Tuesday asserted that any reaction to the observations made by former Union Minister Pratima Bhounik regarding the party's present state of affairs should come from the top state leadership instead of party spokespersons. In a recent podcast, Bhounik expressed her disappointment on the party's present state of affairs and alleged that the party workers who

braved all odds to ensure the party's victory were being sidelined. On being asked about her remarks on the party, the Minister said, "The person whom you are referring to is a senior leader. She had been a union minister. She previously served as General Secretary and Vice President of the Pradesh BJP. Any reaction to her statements should come from the party's top leadership rather than the spokespersons and ministers." According to Roy, it was beyond his prerogative.

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RSS Chief to address Gen Z at youth conference in Mumbai

Times News

Agartala, Aug 04: In a landmark event bringing together India's young voices, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsangchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat will interact with Gen Z and Gen Alpha students on August 6 at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC). The session will mark the opening of the 15th anniversary celebrations of India's International Movement to Unite Nations (I.I.M.U.N.), with the inaugural ceremony of its Annual Championship Conference. More than 2,000 students aged 15-19, representing schools and colleges from over 100 cities across India, will gather in Mumbai for what is being described as one of the world's largest youth-led conferences. The event will centre on the theme "The Role of Youth in Uniting

the World, the Indian Way." Rishabh Shah, Founder of I.I.M.U.N., said the dialogue comes at a crucial time: "Leadership is not only about guiding the next generation, but also listening to it. At this critical juncture in India's journey, we need this dialogue more than ever before. I am grateful to Mohan Bhagwat for accepting our invite to address this gathering." The Annual Championship Conference is the flagship programme of I.I.M.U.N., where students debate and deliberate on local, national and global issues. Each year, the organisation conducts 108 conferences and thousands of civic engagements led entirely by young people aged 15-24, reaching students between 11-19 years. Founded in 2011, I.I.M.U.N. has grown into a vast public affairs platform run by youth, spanning 275 cities across India and 40 countries worldwide. Over 15 years,

it has reached more than 7.5 crore young people and collaborated with 1.5 lakh schools and colleges. Its Advisory Board includes eminent figures such as Ajay Piramal, Deepak Parekh, Nadir Godrej, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, Karan Johar, P. T. Usha and former Chiefs of the Armed Forces. The organisation has hosted 32 Heads of State, Nobel Laureates, Academy Award winners and over 34,000 distinguished speakers. Many of its alumni have gone on to become elected representatives, civil servants, authors, lawyers, actors and business leaders. With Dr. Bhagwat's participation, the Mumbai conference is expected to set the tone for a new chapter in youth engagement, placing India's next generation at the heart of conversations on democracy, leadership and nation-building.

Elderly farmer dies after being hit by motorcycle

Times News

Teliamura, Aug 4: A 75-year-old farmer died after being hit by a motorcycle allegedly ridden by two minors at Laltila in Moharcherra under Teliamura Police Station on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Swapan Chowdhury. According to local sources, the motorcycle reportedly lost control and hit him. He was first taken to Teliamura Sub-Divisional Hospital and later referred to GB Pant Hospital in Agartala, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment. It was learnt that the two minors travelling on the motorcycle also sustained injuries and are undergoing treatment at Teliamura Sub-Divisional Hospital. Police have launched an investigation in this connection.

274 fugitive criminals brought back to India from 36 countries during 2019-26

Subhashis Mitra

New Delhi, Aug 4: Taking a decisive stance against fugitive criminals, India has brought back 274 fugitive criminals from 36 countries since 2019. To strengthen action against fugitives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi enacted the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act in 2018. Under the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah, India has developed an integrated, intelligence-based, and technology-driven model against fugitives, paving the way for stricter measures against them and facilitating their return to India, the Union Home Ministry said in a statement here. Before 2014, the country's extradition framework had become outdated, and India had extradition treaties with only 37 countries. There was also no dedicated law to deal with economic fugitives or to confiscate their assets. Between 2004 and 2013, India secured

the extradition of only four fugitives per year on average, while 110 extradition requests remained pending. In addition, incomplete documentation and slow processing made the extradition process highly cumbersome, often leading foreign courts to deny extradition requests. India's extradition efforts also faced legal and judicial hurdles, including the principles of double jeopardy and dual criminality, which frequently resulted in the rejection of extradition requests. Furthermore, the absence of effective coordination and a unified strategy among the Ministry of Home Affairs and other departments hindered progress. The sharing of information on fugitives, location tracking, and the issuance of Red Corner Notices were also moved at a slow pace. The statement said that the previous governments lacked the political will to bring back fugitives. But, the Modi government has made the extradition

of fugitives a 'national priority'. In line with Prime Minister Modi's vision, the Union Home Minister has emphasized a three-pronged strategy against fugitives: global outreach, strong coordination, and smart diplomacy. Shah has described the issue of fugitive offenders as one that is intrinsically linked to the country's sovereignty, economic stability, law and order, and national security. The Modi Government enacted the NIA (Amendment) Act and the UAPA (Amendment) Act in 2019, and from 2020 onwards, the process of bringing fugitive offenders back to India was taken up in a mission mode. As a result, enforcement efforts were no longer confined to proscribed organizations alone. The scope of action was expanded to include individual terrorists, handlers, funding networks, and support systems based abroad, significantly strengthening India's ability to pursue fugitives and

P-5

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1.	a) Santir Bazar/041720 b) Biswajit Sarkar S/O Manik Sarkar Vill-Lowgang, PO- LowgangSantir Bazar, South Tripura 799144	All the part and parcel of Land & Building situated at Subhash Colony, Lowgang, P.S.- Santirbazar, Dist.- South Tripura under Mouza - Lowgang, Tahasil - Baikhora, Khatian No.- 3330, C.S. Plot No.- PB- 844/145(P) (Sabek), R.S. Plot No.- 708/7511 (Hal), Area measuring 0.20 Acres (8,640 Sq.ft.), Deed No.1-0422 dated 25.07.2016 in the name Sri Rajib Sarkar, S/O Sri Manik Sarkar.	a) 06.07.2021 b) 28.10.2021 c) Rs.27,94,715.50/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Ninety-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen and Paise Five Zero only)as on 30.06.2026 plus further interest	1) Rs.18,90,000.00 2) Rs.1,89,000.00 3) Rs.10,000.00
2.	a) Mohanpur/179720 b) M/S Jashuda Rice Milling Industries. Prop: Sri. RatanDebnath S/O Sri. Harendra Chandra Debnath Vill.- West Taranagar P.O.-Mohanpur, P.S.- SidhaiMohanpur, Dist-West Tripura, Tripura- 799211	Land situated at West Taranagar, Mohanpur, P.S.- SidhaiMohanpur, Dist.- West Tripura under Mouza - Taranagar, Tahasil -Taranagar, Khatian No.- 5044, C.S. Plot No. PB-964,1546/4852 (P) (Sabek), R.S. Plot No.- 5712/12881 (Hal), Area measuring 0.070 Acres (i.e. 3,024 Sq Ft), Registered Sale Deed No.1-7839 dated 07.09.2015 in the name of Sri RatanDebnath, S/O Sri Harendra Chandra Debnath	a) 27.07.2023 b) 08.11.2023 c) Rs.13,10,304.75 (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Ten Thousand Three Hundred Four and Paise Seven Five only)as on 30.06.2026plus further interest	1) Rs. 5,35,500.00 2) Rs.53,500.00 3) Rs.10,000.00
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