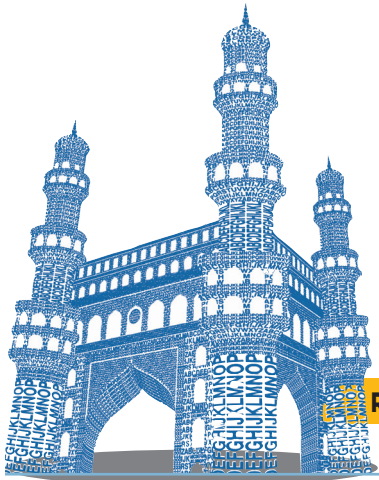




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328

VOL NO. 17

ISSUE NO.: 70

RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD)

PAGES: 12

RS. 1/-

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM



ECI rejects Kavitha's TRS party name

SPECIAL

02

Regina In Lokesh's Film!



BOX-OFFICE

12

CS Orders Food Safety Inspections



HYDERABAD, JULY 4

As per instructions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju directed officials to take stringent measures to safeguard public health.

He emphasised that the strict enforcement of food safety regulations across the State and instructed officials to conduct continuous inspections with special focus on adulterated food products. The Chief Secretary chaired a review meeting with senior officials

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Electing Rahul as PM is a Historical Necessity

CM REVANTH APPEALS TO PEOPLE TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE TO SONIA GANDHI AND SUPPORT HIM TO MAKE RAHUL AS NEXT PM

- **Congress will remain in power until 2034**
- **CM blasts KCR for ruining Telangana during 10 year BRS rule**
- **KCR is not attending the Assembly session but ready to ascend power to loot the Telangana state again**
- **'Pashupati' (KCR) is day-dreaming in the farm house on coming back to power**
- **KCR family amassed one lakh crore and left the state high dry with 8.21 lakh crore debt burden**
- **Appeals to Deputy CM to adopt Midjil mandal and develop it as a role model**



MIDJIL, JULY 4

country.

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy emphasized that it is a historical necessity for the country to elect Rahul Gandhi as the next Prime minister of India. The Chief minister appealed to the Telangana people to extend their gratitude to Sonia Gandhi for granting statehood to Telangana by supporting his efforts to promote Rahul Gandhi as the future PM of the

Addressing a public meeting after laying foundation stones for a slew of development works in the Midjil mandal today, the CM reiterated that the Congress will remain in power until 2034 with the blessing of people. In view of fast changing political development in the country, Rahul Gandhi must become the PM, CM Revanth Reddy said that it is a historical ne-

cessity in the difficult times. "The people of Telangana should stand in support of this cause. We must express our gratitude to Sonia Gandhi, who granted us the state of Telangana", the Chief minister said the first step towards this goal must be taken right here in the Midjil mandal.

The CM remembered his close association with the Midjil mandal ever since he was elected ZPTC on this day 20 years ago

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and others during the inauguration of the new terminal building of Jodhpur Airport, in Rajasthan.

Modi: India Beat Century's Worst Energy Crisis

BALOTRA, RAJASTHAN, JULY 4

— Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for infrastructure projects worth over ₹1.05 lakh crore across Rajasthan, declaring that India had successfully navigated what he called the biggest energy crisis of the century, triggered by ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Speaking at the launch event in Balotra, attended by Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, and other senior state leaders, Modi credited swift government decision-making, active diplomacy, and careful resource management for shielding the country from the worst effects of the disruption, even as several other nations grappled

with fuel shortages.

The centerpiece of the day's events was the dedication of a new Greenfield Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex at Pachpadra in Balotra district, which Modi described as India's most advanced facility of its kind. He toured the refinery's control room and met with engineers before flagging off fuel tankers from the site.

Diversified Energy Sourcing

According to the Prime Minister, India expanded its list of energy-supplying countries from roughly 25-26 to nearly 40 during the crisis, a move he said kept fuel supplies steady despite global turbulence. He also pointed to India's rise as the world's fourth-largest oil refining nation as evidence of the country's growing energy resilience.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Centre Declares 23 as Terrorists Under UAPA

NEW DELHI, JULY 4

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday designated 23 individuals as terrorists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), reaffirming the Centre's policy of "zero tolerance towards terrorism." According to the ministry, the individuals have been involved in conspiring to carry out terrorist attacks against India, promoting and inciting terrorism, trafficking illegal arms, facilitating cross-border infiltration, providing logistical support to terrorist organisations, raising funds, and recruiting militants.

Of the 23 individuals, 17 are Pakistani

nationals and six are Indian nationals. All are currently believed to be operating from Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), where they are alleged to be coordinating anti-India terrorist activities.

The MHA said the designation under the UAPA enables authorities to initiate stricter legal action, including the seizure and attachment of assets, restrictions on financial transactions, enhanced international monitoring, and strengthened intelligence-sharing with foreign governments.

A notification regarding the designation of the 23 individuals has been published in the Official Gazette.

Jupally Welcomes NITI Aayog Nod to Telangana Tourism

HYDERABAD, JULY 4

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Prohibition & Excise Jupally Krishna Rao has welcomed NITI Aayog's appreciation of Telangana's tourism and hospitality reforms, describing it as a significant endorsement of the State's progressive policy framework and investor-friendly governance. Referring to NITI Aayog's recent report, "Unlocking Growth in Tourism and Hospitality Sector," Jupally Krishna Rao said the recognition of Telangana's Ease of Doing Business initiatives reflects the State's sustained efforts to create a conducive ecosystem for tourism investments and position itself as a preferred destination for the hospitality industry.

The report highlights Telangana's policy reforms, including the simplification of hotel development regulations, greater flexibility in land use, streamlined approval mechanisms, enhanced Floor Area Ratio (FAR) provisions, rationalised parking norms, and a strengthened single-window clearance system. NITI Aayog has also recommended that other States examine Telangana's model for facilitating investments in the tourism and hospitality sector. In a statement on Saturday, Jupally Krishna Rao said these reforms, implemented under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

MODI IS WORLD'S HOPE FOR PEACE: NRR

HYDERABAD, JULY 4

Claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the world's "only ray of hope" for global peace amid escalating international conflicts, BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao on Saturday called for dialogue over war and urged students to become ambassadors of peace.

Addressing the 'Glow Peace' International Peace Conference at Delhi Public School here at Nacharam, Rao said the world is



looking towards Modi to promote peace at a time when several nations are caught in prolonged conflicts.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

₹ 7,135 Crore to Farmers in 5 Days: Tummala

Hyderabad, July 4 : Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao stated that the state government is fulfilling its promise to farmers by depositing 'Rythu Bharosa' funds into their accounts at a record level. He noted that the government set another record by directly depositing ₹7,135.77 crore into the bank accounts of 67.45 lakh farmers within just five days of launching the fund release program on June 30. In a statement on Saturday, the Minister announced that, under the fifth phase of the Rythu Bharosa scheme, ₹545.41 crore has been directly deposited into the bank accounts of farmers owning between 5 and 6 acres of cultivable land.

Barrages to Resume Only After NDSA, CWC Nod: Uttam

NAGARJUNA SAGAR, JULY 4

Making it clear that there would be no compromise on safety irrigation projects, Minister for Irrigation N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has declared that the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages would be operated after all rehabilitation works are completed and independently cleared by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and the Central Water Commission (CWC).

Addressing a press conference at Vijay Vihar near the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam on Saturday after reviewing irrigation works with senior engineers of the project, Uttam Kumar Red-



dy said the State government's priority was safety, sustainability and protection of public assets, not political optics.

"These barrages will not be operated until every required rectification is completed. The

rehabilitation plan will undergo stringent proof-checking by both the NDSA and the CWC before any decision is taken," he asserted.

The Minister said the Kaleshwaram barrages repre-

sented a public investment of more than Rs. 1.1 lakh crore and the government had a responsibility to protect every rupee spent by the people of Telangana.

He warned that any irresponsible or premature operation of the barrages could have serious consequences. Around 40 villages, besides the temple town of Bhadrachalam and the famous shrine, could face risk if the structures were operated without completing the required repairs, he said.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government had adopted a scientific approach to rehabilitate the barrages.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

**GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING**

3 TIMES BETTER

Students Dazzle as Meridian School Unveils IMPULSE 2026–27

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI,
JULY 4

Meridian School, Kukatpally, marked the grand opening of IMPULSE 2026–2027: Infinite Horizons, its annual talent extravaganza, with an inspiring celebration of creativity, confidence and cultural expression. The first day of the event, dedicated to Cultural and Co-Curricular Competitions, brought together enthusiastic young learners from various schools, offering them a dynamic platform to showcase their talents beyond the classroom.

Centred on the theme “Infinite Horizons,” the event encouraged students to think creatively, perform confidently and explore their abilities without boundaries. The campus came alive with colour, rhythm, innovation and imagination as participants took part in a wide range of competitions designed to promote holistic development, communication skills, teamwork, leadership and artistic excellence.

The competitions were thoughtfully organised across different age groups, from Pre-Primary to Grade X, ensuring that every participant had an age-appropriate opportunity to express and excel. From dance, recitation and art to theatre, music, public speaking, robotics, sustainability-based activities and creative presentations, the day reflected the importance of experiential learning in nurturing well-rounded individuals.

The youngest participants in Category A charmed the audience through events such as Footloose Frontiers, Starlit Rhythm, Colour Cosmos, Horizon Carnival, Cosmos Creators and Imagination Igniters. Through solo dance, recitation, colouring, fancy dress, clay modelling and solo enact-



ment, the children displayed innocence, imagination and remarkable stage confidence. Their performances highlighted the joy of participation and the importance of encouraging self-expression from an early age.

Students in Category B participated in events including Skyline Strokes, Voyage of Voices, Echo of the Earth, Horizons Unleashed and Eternal Echoes. These competitions focused on drawing and colouring, story enactment, group recitation, talent presentations and shloka chanting. The young performers impressed the judges with their creativity, coordination, voice modulation, cultural understanding and ability to communicate ideas with clarity.

For Category C, the competitions became more challenging and thought-provoking. Events such as Rapid Fire Minds, Circuit Pioneers, Vision Reel, Reborn Objects, Spotlight Sprint and Inkscape encouraged students to demonstrate spontaneity, problem-solving, innovation and artistic imagination. The participants presented their skills through JAM sessions, robotics, adver-

tisement-based performances, best-out-of-waste creations, talent showcases and doodle art. Their work reflected originality, environmental awareness and confidence in presenting fresh ideas.

Senior students in Category D took part in powerful and engaging events such as Brand Architects, Boundless Canvas, Beyond Words, Airwave Explorers, Launchpad Legends and Runway to Tomorrow. Through Ad-Mad, oil painting, mime, RJ challenge, think tank pitching and fashion design showcases, they demonstrated persuasive communication, artistic maturity, silent storytelling, entrepreneurial thinking and futuristic design concepts. Their performances reflected not only talent but also critical thinking and awareness of contemporary themes.

The Open Category witnessed energetic participation in Street Pulse, Open Skies Gallery, Dance of the Ages, Infinite Melody and Global Bites. Students across grades came together for nukkad natak, poster making, group dance, group singing and fireless cooking. These events carried meaningful messages on

society, sustainability, unity, culture, creativity and global awareness, reinforcing the educational value of art as a medium of communication and change.

Each competition was evaluated on well-defined criteria including creativity, originality, relevance to the theme, confidence, presentation, coordination, clarity of message and overall impact. The judges appreciated the participants for their preparation, imagination, teamwork and commitment to excellence.

The opening day of IMPULSE 2026–2027 proved to be a memorable celebration of young talent and limitless possibilities. It successfully captured the spirit of “Infinite Horizons” by inspiring students to move beyond familiar boundaries, embrace creativity and experience the joy of learning through participation.

The event concluded with heartfelt appreciation for all participating schools, students, teachers, coordinators, judges and the organising team, whose collective efforts made Cultural Day 1 a vibrant and inspiring beginning to IMPULSE 2026–2027.

Memorial Events Mark Mohanaranga’s 79th Birth Anniversary

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI,
JULY 4

In a city simmering with memories and meaningful deeds, the 79th birth anniversary of Vangavati Mohanaranga was observed in Kukatpally with a sense of reverence and somber reflection. The day, held at the KPHB Colony 3rd Phase Temple Bus Stop under the auspices of the Kukatpally Kapu Welfare Association, carried a weight that went beyond celebration—it’s a tribute to a life of public service and a quiet lament for those who have passed beyond our reach.

The wreath-laying ceremony at the late leader’s statue offered a solemn moment for mourners to pause, remember, and honor a life dedicated to service. Prominent figures who gathered to pay respects included Bandri Ramesh, Chairman of the Telangana State Kamma Corporation and Congress Party In-Charge for Kukatpally, along with former Kukatpally Congress



party president Sheari Satish Reddy, and other association members.

Dignitaries and supporters spoke of Mohanaranga as a fearless advocate for dignity and equality, whose work prioritized the marginalized and underprivileged. Their words carried both gratitude and a quiet sorrow for a leader who walked the path of social justice until his last breath. The event drew a broad chorus of voices—senior Congress leaders, regional presidents, youth Congress units, and community organizations—each echoing a shared commitment to

the enduring ideals Mohanaranga championed: courage in the face of hardship, unwavering dedication to public service, and a steadfast belief in social equality.

Several dignitaries addressed the gathering, including senior Congress leaders Karunakara Naidu, HN Murtis, Gandham Raju, Bharat Kumar, Nalini Kanth, Arvind Reddy (Congress party KPHB division president) and Rajesh Goud (Congress Party Balaji Nagar Division president). Regional presidents and leaders from various social organizations, youth Congress units,

and large numbers of party workers, supporters, and local residents attended the event.

Attendees reflected on his legacy as a beacon of courage and compassion, underscoring the ongoing responsibility to carry forward his mission of uplifting underserved communities in the Kukatpally region and beyond. In the quiet moments between thoughts and prayers, the gathering reminded all that a life devoted to the people leaves an imprint not just in statutes and ceremonies but in the daily acts of kindness, justice, and solidarity that continue long after laughter fades. As the community honors his memory, there is a shared resolve to keep Mohanaranga’s ideals alive—through service, through advocacy, and through the simple, enduring practice of lifting up every neighbor in need. Our thoughts go out to his family, friends, and all who carry forward his legacy in their work and in their hearts.

Railway Board Chief Visits Sec-bad Station

Hyderabad: Satish Kumar, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board, today (July 4, 2026) conducted a detailed inspection of the ongoing redevelopment works at Secunderabad Railway Station. He was accompanied by Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager of South Central Railway, Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan, Divisional Railway Manager of the Secunderabad Division, and other senior railway officials. Mr. Satish Kumar began his inspection from the southern side of Secunderabad Railway Station, where he reviewed the redeveloped station façade and the newly constructed entrance area. He also inspected the completed works on the ground, first, and second floors of the station, along with the newly developed underground parking facility.

Railway officials briefed the Chairman on the overall project plans and the progress of the redevelopment works. He directed officials to accelerate construction activities to ensure the project is completed on schedule. He also instructed them to strictly adhere to safety guidelines at all construction sites. The Chairman further emphasized that inconvenience to passengers should be kept to a minimum during the execution of redevelopment



ment works, particularly those involving major infrastructure modifications.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Satish Kumar also carried out a comprehensive inspection of Medha Servo Drives Private Limited in Hyderabad, including a review of its manufacturing facilities and production operations.

Modi: India Beat Century's Worst Energy Crisis

➤FROM PAGE 1

Cooking Gas and Fuel Subsidies
Modi said the crisis had threatened to push domestic LPG cylinder prices toward ₹2,000, but government intervention kept the price near ₹950 for consumers. He noted that oil marketing companies absorbed losses of close to ₹75,000 crore between April and June to cushion citizens from rising global petrol and diesel prices.

He further claimed that Indian farmers continued paying about ₹300 per bag for urea even as international prices for the fertiliser climbed to nearly ₹3,000 per bag amid the West Asia and Ukraine conflicts.

Criticism of Political Opponents

The Prime Minister took aim at critics who, he said, spread panic during the crisis rather than acknowledging the sustained efforts of officials working behind the scenes. He also renewed his attack on the previous Congress state government, accusing it of neglecting Rajasthan’s long-standing water shortages, particularly in the Shekhawati region, and contrasted it with what he called his government’s “Nation First” approach.

Other Launches

Modi also inaugurated a new terminal building at Jodhpur Airport, which he said would boost tourism, trade and jobs in the Marwar region, and launched an expanded version of the UDAN regional connectivity scheme to improve air links to smaller towns. He virtually laid the foundation stone for Phase II of the Jaipur Metro and handed appointment letters to about 54,000 newly recruited employees across Rajasthan government departments.

CS Orders Food Safety Inspections

➤FROM PAGE 1

at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, he said the Drug Control and Food Safety departments should work in close coordination to ensure effective implementation of food safety standards and regular inspections to maintain food quality, thereby ensuring the availability of safe and quality food to the public.

Sanjay Jaju instructed officials to prepare suitable proposals within a week to bring the two existing departments onto a common platform for better coordination and efficiency. He noted that such integration would enable the departments to discharge their responsibilities more effectively. He also directed officials to study the best practices being followed in other States and prepare an appropriate implementation plan for the state. The meeting also reviewed the cases registered so far in the State, their progress, staffing, and other related issues.

The meeting was attended by CM’s Advisor, Ex-Officio Special CS K.Ramakrishna Rao, Director General of Police C.V. Anand, CMO Principal Secretaries Sheshadri, N. Sridhar, GAD Principal Secretary Ahmed Nadeem, Additional Director General (Intelligence) Vijay Kumar, Principal Secretary, Health department Christina Z. Chongthu, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, Health Commissioner Sangeetha, Drug Controller General Avinash Mohanty, and other senior officials.

Jupally Welcomes NITI Aayog Nod to..

➤FROM PAGE 1

significantly enhanced investor confidence and accelerated private participation in the tourism sector. The Telangana Tourism Policy 2025- 2030 has already generated encouraging investor interest, paving the way for substantial investments, employment generation, and sustainable tourism-led economic growth, he said.

The Minister recalled that this is not the first time NITI Aayog has acknowledged Telangana’s achievements in tourism. On earlier occasions too, the State’s tourism destinations and best practices had found a place in NITI Aayog’s reports. The latest recognition of Telangana’s Ease of Doing Business initiatives further validates the government’s consistent efforts to promote transparent, reform-oriented, and investor-centric governance in the tourism sector, he said.

Jupally Krishna Rao reaffirmed the government’s commitment to pursuing progressive reforms, strengthening tourism infrastructure, and ensuring seamless facilitation for investors. These efforts, he said, would further position Telangana as one of India’s most attractive destinations for tourism and hospitality investments.

“NITI Aayog’s appreciation is a matter of pride for Telangana. It reflects the success of our reform-driven approach and our unwavering commitment to ease of doing business in the tourism sector. Under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, we will continue to create a robust investment ecosystem, unlock the State’s immense tourism potential, and establish Telangana as a leading tourism destination in the country,” Jupally Krishna Rao said.



ECI REJECTS KAVITHA’S TRS PARTY NAME

HYDERABAD, JULY 4

In a major setback to Kalvakuntla Kavitha, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has rejected the name of her newly floated party, the ‘Telangana Rakshana Sena’ (TRS). Citing an outpouring of public opposition, the regulatory body issued explicit directives stating that the acronym ‘TRS’ cannot be retained. The ECI has given Kavitha a 15-day window to propose three alternative names for her political outfit, warning that failure to comply will result in the outright rejection of her party registration application. According to sources, the com-

mission received massive pushback regarding the name, with critics arguing that using the ‘TRS’ acronym causes immense public confusion given its historic association with the state’s regional movement.

Responding to the directive, Kavitha acknowledged receipt of the ECI’s letter but remained defiant. While confirming that her team had addressed two specific objections raised by the panel, she emphasised that they will not be submitting any alternative name suggestions. Choosing confrontation over compliance, Kavitha stated that her party is prepared to legally challenge the ECI’s order in court to protect its identity.

MODI IS WORLD'S HOPE FOR PEACE: NRR

➤FROM PAGE 1

Warning against the growing threat of nuclear warfare, he recalled the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and said wars can never resolve disputes. “Peace must begin at home, in schools and society before it spreads across nations”, he told thousands of students, parents, teachers and spiritual leaders attending the event.

Rao praised the school for organising the conference and revealed that nearly one lakh postcards, including around 20,000 from DPS Nacharam students, would be sent to the Prime Minister urging him to champion global peace.

He expressed confidence that the initiative would evolve into a nationwide and international peace movement.

Electing Rahul as PM is a..

➤FROM PAGE 1

. On July 2, 2006, the people of Midjil Mandal wrote history in golden letters. “The sapling planted by Midjil people grew into a mighty tree standing before you as the Chief Minister. It brings me joy to hold this gratitude meeting on this very day, exactly 20 years later”.

CM Revanth Reddy remarked that this district has a legacy of giving great leadership to the country and the state. Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, the first Chief Minister of Hyderabad State, Jaipal Reddy, an outstanding parliamentarian and Dyapa Gopal Reddy, who helped Jaipal Reddy’s political rise, hailed from the same district.

Appealing to Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikaramarka to adopt the Midjil Mandal and develop it as a role model in the country, the Chief

Minister said that Midjil and Gattu Mandals were once declared “Dark Mandals” (areas with severe groundwater depletion). In 2006, the locals made a decision to bring the extremely backward people out of darkness and into the light. It paved the way for his rise to the position of Chief Minister and announced that he was shouldering the responsibility of developing Palamuru—a region plagued by migration and drought.

Stating that the People’s government was moving forward by maintaining a balance between welfare and development, the CM said that the opposition parties mocked him that he knew nothing in administration since he hailed from Nallamala forest. He has first hand experience of the struggles of the poor and is able to provide solutions. Is the son of Palamuru not

fit for governance? There is a limit to the arrogance of the BRS leaders, the CM charged.

In a scathing attack on former CM and BRS leader KCR, CM Revanth Reddy said that the BRS was trying to come back to power because their avenues for profiteering, looting, and theft have been cut off. What kind of business did the BRS leaders run in those 10 years to amass thousands of crores? The BRS leaders looted Rs one lakh crore and put Rs 8 lakh crore debt burden on the state during the 10 year rule, the Chief minister criticized.

The CM warned that If those who incur big debts and committed such wrongs return to power, people won’t even be able to speak freely on the phone in the state. Can a man who secretly listens to women’s conver-

sations even be considered a human being? The Chief minister castigated KCR for not attending Assembly and not raising people’s issues but ready to come to power and plunder the state again. “Pashupathi (KCR) will remain in the farm house and wither away.

CM Revanth Reddy also recalled how the then CM KCR humiliated revolutionary writer Gaddar by not permitting him to meet and wait before the ‘Gadi’ for hours. Even a death sentence would be a small punishment for KCR.

Listing out the welfare schemes launched and implemented successfully since 2023, the Chief minister took strong exception to the opposition charges against his government. Is it not a fact that the people’s government provided fine-quality rice

to the poor? Is it not true that we implemented farm loan waivers, Rythu Bharosa, bonuses for fine-variety paddy, free bus travel, and 200 units of free electricity? What did KCR do for the people after mounting a debt of ₹8.21 lakh crore over ten years? Did anyone in your village receive a double-bedroom house? Did they fulfill the promise of providing a job to every household?

The Chief minister also accused the KCR government of failing to provide irrigation facilities and jobs to the youth. Why should the BRS come back to power? Why should the people’s government be ousted? The state government paid ₹80,000 crore to farmers during the procurement. The BRS leaders are wicked who even pocketed commissions on Bathukamma sarees, the CM charged.

Barrages to Resume Only After NDSA, CWC Nod: Uttam

➤FROM PAGE 1

Fresh geotechnical investigations, non-destructive testing, Ground Penetrating Radar surveys, drone-based studies and more than 100 boreholes had been undertaken to assess the condition of the structures, he said.

The Minister said the barrages are presently being maintained in an unloading condition with all gates kept open, strictly following NDSA recommendations.

He said international experts, the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) and the Central Water Commission were jointly examining the reha-

bilitation designs to ensure that every technical deficiency was rectified before the barrages were put back into service.

Uttam Kumar Reddy assured that all repair works would be taken up systematically and completed without compromising safety or engineering standards.

He also informed that the maintenance and safe operation of the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam would remain the state government’s highest priority. He directed irrigation officials to ensure timely maintenance, strengthen canal infrastructure and accelerate pending irrigation works.

EDITORIAL

The Pulse of Democracy – Why the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Matters

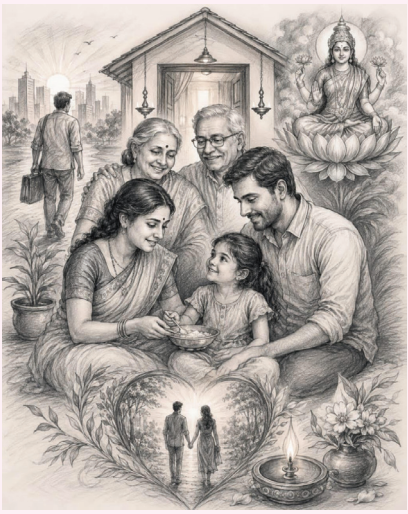
In the intricate machinery of Indian democracy, the electoral roll is not merely a list of names; it is the fundamental registry of our collective voice. Every so often, the Election Commission of India (ECI) undertakes a massive, nationwide administrative exercise known as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). While it may sound like a dry, bureaucratic chore confined to government offices, it is, in reality, the heartbeat of our representative system. It serves as the periodic calibration required to ensure that the foundation of our republic—the voter list—remains robust, accurate, and truly inclusive. The core objective of the SIR is the sanctity of the ballot. In a country of over 1.4 billion people, where internal migration for education, employment, and lifestyle changes is a constant reality, electoral rolls are prone to becoming outdated. Entries for citizens who have passed away, duplicate records caused by relocation, and the unintentional exclusion of newly eligible voters can undermine the integrity of an election. The SIR acts as a surgical intervention. Through rigorous door-to-door verification and data cross-referencing, the ECI identifies these discrepancies, ensuring that the principle of “one person, one vote” is upheld with absolute precision.

What distinguishes the modern SIR process is the seamless blending of traditional field intelligence with digital convenience. Booth Level Officers (BLOs)—the unsung heroes of our democracy—traverse neighborhoods to provide the human verification that technology alone cannot match. Simultaneously, the integration of digital tools, such as the Voter’s Service Portal and dedicated mobile applications, has revolutionized accessibility. Citizens can now verify their own details, submit corrections, or register for the first time from the comfort of their homes. This hybrid approach is a necessary evolution, transforming a once-arduous administrative burden into an accessible, user-friendly avenue for civic participation.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the SIR is the deliberate emphasis on transparency. By actively requesting political parties to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to oversee the process, the ECI ensures that the revision is not conducted in a vacuum. A participative exercise that brings together electors, political stakeholders, and election officials is the best possible safeguard against administrative errors and allegations of bias. It shifts the perception of the exercise from a top-down government directive to a collective, public-spirited effort in civic maintenance. However, the challenge of achieving 100% inclusivity remains. There are populations, particularly those who are internally displaced or those whose documentation may have been disrupted by economic or social circumstances, who risk falling through the cracks. The ECI’s commitment to making the enumeration process more responsive is commendable, but it requires constant vigilance. Ensuring that the system does not inadvertently disenfranchise the most vulnerable among us is the true test of a healthy democracy.

As the SIR rolls out across various regions, it serves as a poignant reminder that democracy is not a spectator sport. It requires the sustained cooperation of every citizen. Whether you are checking your registration status or assisting a neighbor in navigating the online portal, your involvement strengthens the republic. The Special Intensive Revision is more than just counting heads; it is about affirming our shared identity as citizens. When the rolls are accurate, our democracy is stronger, and our collective future is more secure. Let us participate with the seriousness this process deserves.

THE BREATH OF HEROES



THE GRACE OF HOME

A home is never built by hands alone
it rises where hearts learn to beat as one.
Its walls are shaped by quiet sacrifice,
its roof by trust, its doorway by grace.
She is the dawn before the morning wakes,
the silent music breathing through the rooms
a gentle flame that never seeks applause,
yet teaches darkness how to blossom into light.
She gathers not her riches from glittering gold,
but from the dignity of honest labor.
Each drop of her husband’s sweat she treasures as tomorrow’s harvest,
turning little into enough,
and enough into abundance.
She welcomes his mother with a daughter’s heart,
his father with a daughter’s reverence
where blessings rest upon the threshold,
even the humblest dwelling wears the radiance of a temple.
She is not imprisoned by the restless glow of passing screens.

She gathers scattered moments into shared laughter,
shared silence,
shared life
the only treasures time cannot steal.
Her forgiveness is stronger than anger.
Her kindness outlives beauty.
Her patience outlasts every storm.
Her love asks for no witness,
yet becomes the quiet miracle upon which generations stand.
When husband and wife choose understanding over pride,
service over selfishness,
gratitude over complaint,
their home is no longer merely a place
it becomes a living sanctuary.
Gold will fade.
Beauty will surrender to time.
Power will pass into memory.
But a family founded upon love,
honor, humility, and faith becomes a light
that neither years nor death can extinguish.
For heaven is not first found beyond the skies.
It begins where two hearts become one prayer,
one purpose,
one unbroken promise
and one everlasting home.



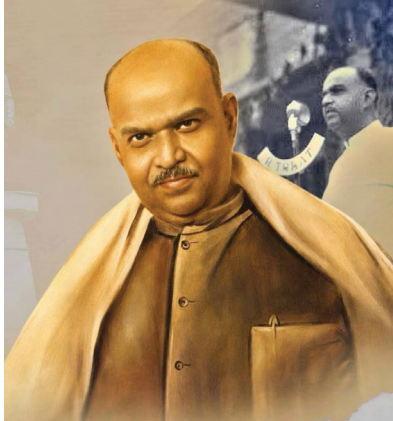
... Dr. Peruka Raju ...
National Poet
7810032847



OPINION

On the 125th Birth Anniversary (6 July 2026)

Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee: Visionary Nation-Builder and the Architect of New India



History remembers not only those who held political power but, more importantly, those visionary statesmen who shaped the destiny of a nation. Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee was one such nation-builder whose vision transcended the politics of his time and was firmly rooted in the creation of a strong, self-reliant, culturally awakened, and united India. His 125th birth anniversary comes at a defining moment when India is advancing rapidly toward the national aspiration of “Viksit Bharat 2047” (Developed India 2047) and emerging as one of the world’s leading powers. This is not merely a coincidence; it is a historic convergence where Dr. Mukerjee’s ideals resonate profoundly with India’s contemporary journey of transformation.

Dr. Mukerjee was far more than a politician. He was an eminent educationist, an erudite scholar, a visionary thinker, a fearless nationalist, an accomplished administrator, and an unwavering champion of democratic values. For him, nationalism was never a narrow political doctrine; it was the cultural soul of India, the foundation of national unity, and the guiding force behind public welfare. He believed that India was not merely a geographical entity but a living civilization shaped by thousands of years of shared cultural consciousness.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks to realize the vision of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” (One India, Great India), “Atmanirbhar Bharat” (Self-Reliant India), “Viksit Bharat 2047,” and “Vishwaguru Bharat” (India as a Global Leader), Dr. Mukerjee’s ideological legacy assumes even greater significance. Prime Minister Modi has repeatedly acknowledged him as one of the foremost architects of modern India. The historic abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir was not merely a constitutional reform; it represented the fulfillment of Dr. Mukerjee’s unfinished mission, for which he ultimately laid down his life. His immortal declaration—“One nation cannot have two constitutions, two prime ministers, and two national flags”—was not merely a political slogan but a powerful affirmation of India’s indivisible national identity. He firmly believed that national unity could never become a subject of compromise. Today, the complete constitutional integration of Jammu and Kashmir stands as a living tribute to his supreme sacrifice.

While Dr. Mukerjee’s political achieve-

ments are widely celebrated, his intellectual and academic contributions were equally remarkable. At the age of just thirty-three, he became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, a distinction that reflected his extraordinary brilliance. He regarded education not merely as a means of livelihood but as the very foundation of nation-building. He envisioned an educational system that harmonized scientific advancement with spiritual and ethical values, believing that only such an approach could restore India’s status as a global center of knowledge.

The emphasis placed today on India’s knowledge traditions, mother-tongue education, research, innovation, and holistic learning under the National Education Policy echoes many aspects of Dr. Mukerjee’s educational philosophy. His economic vision was equally farsighted. He strongly advocated self-reliance, indigenous enterprise, and production-oriented growth, maintaining that political independence remained incomplete without economic freedom. India’s remarkable progress today in manufacturing, digital technology, startups, semiconductors, green energy, defense production, and global investment reflects the spirit of self-reliance envisioned by many of the nation’s early architects, among whom Dr. Mukerjee occupied a distinguished place.

For Dr. Mukerjee, democracy extended far beyond periodic elections. It embodied civil liberties, freedom of expression, equality before the law, and an unwavering commitment to the national interest. He possessed the courage to speak the truth as he perceived it, even when it meant opposing those in power. His resignation from Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru’s Cabinet remains one of independent India’s finest examples of principled politics. At a time when public life increasingly calls for integrity, ethical leadership, and ideological con-

viction, his life continues to offer enduring inspiration.

During the Partition of India, Dr. Mukerjee played a decisive role in ensuring that the Hindu-majority regions of Bengal remained within India. Without his determined intervention, present-day West Bengal might not have been part of the Indian Union. Although he accepted Partition as a tragic historical compulsion, he never abandoned his belief in the cultural unity of India. His concept of Akhand Bharat (United India) was never about territorial expansion; rather, it represented the ideal of civilizational unity, cultural harmony, and a shared historical heritage. As the founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Dr. Mukerjee laid the foundations of a political culture that placed the nation above all else, promoted transparent governance, and viewed politics as an instrument of public service. The maturity and resilience of Indian democracy as the world’s largest democratic system owe much to the institutional and ideological contributions of leaders like him. He regarded a principled opposition as an indispensable pillar of democracy and consistently advocated constructive democratic dialogue.

Today, India is on course to become the world’s third-largest economy. The national vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 encompasses far more than economic prosperity. It represents a comprehensive commitment to social justice, cultural confidence, technological leadership, environmental sustainability, good governance, and responsible global engagement. The intellectual foundations of this national vision bear the unmistakable imprint of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee’s thought. He believed that India could lead the modern world only by remaining deeply rooted in its own civilizational ethos—a philosophy that increasingly defines the identity of New India. For India’s youth, Dr. Mukerjee’s life remains an enduring source of inspiration. He demonstrated that it is not age but vision that shapes history. As the youngest Vice-Chancellor, a young Member of Parliament, a young Union Minister, and the founder of a new political movement, he exemplified courageous leadership, intellectual excellence, and unwavering patriotism. At a time when India possesses the world’s largest youth population, his ideals inspire young citizens not merely to pursue success but to shoulder their responsibilities toward the nation.

Dr. Mukerjee’s nationalism was fun-

damentally inclusive. He regarded India’s diversity as its greatest strength and firmly believed that despite differences of language, region, caste, and faith, India’s national identity remained one and indivisible. The contemporary vision of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” reflects this very spirit of national integration. His life also reminds us that nation-building is not the responsibility of governments alone; it is the collective duty of every citizen. If India is to achieve its aspiration of becoming a developed and globally respected nation by 2047, economic growth alone will not suffice. The country must also nurture citizens of character, provide quality education, strengthen social harmony, encourage scientific temper, foster cultural self-confidence, uphold ethical politics, and deepen democratic responsibility. This was the enduring message of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee.

Therefore, the true tribute to him lies not merely in commemorating his birth anniversary but in translating his ideals into national action. As India prepares to play an increasingly influential role on the global stage, Dr. Mukerjee’s life reminds us that only a nation firmly rooted in its cultural heritage can confidently ascend the heights of modernity. The most meaningful homage on his 125th birth anniversary would be to embrace his ideals of patriotism, democratic values, educational excellence, self-reliance, cultural consciousness, and national unity as integral elements of India’s collective character. If we remain committed to these ideals, the vision of a developed, prosperous, self-confident, and globally respected India by 2047 will cease to be a distant dream. It will become a historic reality, realized through the far-sighted vision of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerjee and the collective endeavour of millions of Indians. His thoughts continue to illuminate the path of New India and will remain an inexhaustible source of inspiration for generations to come.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

Special on Van Mahotsav Week (July 1-7)

THE GREEN PLEDGE OF ‘ONE EARTH, ONE FAMILY, ONE FUTURE’ IS VAN MAHOTSAV

Forest Conservation is a Question of Existence, Not Just Environment



VAN MAHOTSAV

1st JULY –7th JULY

India increases even more. In recent years, India has made remarkable efforts toward forest conservation and tree plantation. According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) by the Forest Survey of India, the country’s total forest and tree cover has increased to 8,27,357 square kilometers, which is 25.17 percent of the country’s total geographical area. This includes 7,15,343 square kilometers of forest area and 1,12,014 square kilometers of tree cover. Compared to the previous assessment, an increase of 1,445 square kilometers was recorded in the total green cover. In terms of area, Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country, followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. On the other hand, in terms of forest density ratio, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya are the leading states. Internationally, the Global Forest Resources Assessment Report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations ranks India ninth in the world based on total forest area, and puts it among the leading nations in terms of annual gain in forest area.

However, certain serious challenges are linked to these achievements. Experts believe that a major portion of the increase in green cover has occurred in open forests and commercial plantations rather than natural dense forests. Natural forests are not just collections of trees; they are complex ecosystems consisting of thousands of flora, fauna, microorganisms, and water sources. Artificial plantations can never replace them. A matter of particular concern is Northeast India, where a decline in forest cover has been recorded in several areas due to road construction, hydroelectric projects, Jhum (shifting) cultivation, landslides, and other development activities. In my book ‘Pradushan Mukht Saansein’, I have explained in detail that the impact of forest degradation is not limited to the environment alone, but directly affects wildlife and human life. Due to the destruction of natural habitats, animals like elephants, tigers, leopards, and other wildlife are entering human settlements in search of food and water, leading to a continuous rise in incidents of human-wildlife conflict. On the other hand, while compensatory afforestation is carried out after large-scale cutting of trees for development projects, most of the saplings fail to survive due to a neglect of their care, irrigation, and protection. Merely planting saplings is not enough; protecting them until they grow into trees is the real success.

Today, forests have become the greatest guardians of human health. Trees are the most effective and affordable solution to problems like air pollution, water crisis, and desertification of land. They absorb carbon dioxide to slow down climate change, provide oxygen, balance the rainfall cycle, maintain groundwater levels, and prevent soil erosion. Due to rising pollution, there is a rapid increase in diseases related to cancer, heart ailments, asthma, bronchitis, and lungs. Moreover, erratic monsoons, severe heatwaves, droughts, cloudbursts, and forest fires are clear signs

that nature’s balance is deteriorating rapidly. To tackle this crisis, India has set a target to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030, in which forests will play a decisive role.

Nevertheless, the real message of Van Mahotsav is not limited to planting millions of saplings in a single week; its success lies in prioritizing native species suitable to the local climate—such as Neem, Peepal, Banyan, Bael, Jamun, Arjun, among others—and ensuring regular care for each sapling for at least three years. Until tree plantation is transformed into a campaign of public participation and public responsibility, the dream of a Green India will remain unfulfilled. Development and environment are not contradictory but complementary to each other. Economic progress, modern technology, and infrastructural development are essential, but they cannot replace clean air, pure water, and a balanced climate. If forests are protected, rivers will remain alive, groundwater will thrive, biodiversity will be preserved, and the future of human civilization will also be secure. Therefore, Van Mahotsav should not remain just a government program, but must become the moral responsibility of every citizen and a national movement. Today, the need is not just to plant trees but to save them, because future generations will want a legacy of a clean, breathable Earth from us, not tall buildings of development.



YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL
senior journalist



Sreeleela Reveals Her Ideal Life Partner

Telugu actress Sreeleela recently spoke about relationships during an interview and shared her honest thoughts about the kind of life partner she would like to have. Her simple and practical answer has caught the attention of many fans on social media. When asked about relationship advice, Sreeleela said she believes a good relationship depends on the qualities of the person rather than anything else. She shared that she would like to be with someone who is sensible, sensitive, and has a good sense of humor.



Kalyani Stuns in Fringe Glam

Kalyani Priyadarshan continues her winning streak with magazine covers, and her latest for Elle India is proof she has truly mastered the art of the perfect shoot. The actress posed against a stunning sunset backdrop, radiating elegance and confidence in every frame. For the cover, Kalyani chose a dazzling gold sequined mini dress with a sweetheart neckline, layered crystal detailing, and a dramatic fringe skirt with a thigh-high slit. She paired the look with a statement beaded necklace and soft, tousled waves, giving the entire shoot a glamorous, jet-set energy. Beyond her fashion moments, Kalyani has an exciting lineup ahead. She will be seen in the Tamil film Genie opposite Ravi Mohan and in Marshal alongside Karthi, with a possible superhero sequel also in the works. Clearly, her best chapters are only just beginning.

Don't Waste This Opportunity Koratala



After he turned to direction with "Mirchi", writer emerged as one of the promising talents in Tollywood. Later, he has carved out movies like Janatha Garage, Bharat Ane Nenu and Srimanthudu, and all of them worked out. However, when he started making films like Acharya and Devara, people lost hope in his writing skills. He made very pale characters, unbelievable and illogical stories, and the films won him lots of trolling. Here's the golden chance, however. After waiting with the hope that Jr NTR might greenlight his Devara 2, Koratala Siva literally waited for 2 years, but then it came out that there is no chance of that. Though Devara made some good collections owing to Jr NTR's craze after an adrenaline-rushing performance in RRR, Koratala Siva failed as writer-director with that movie, as most of the scenes and ideas sounded old, illogical and abstract. Now that he has a chance to direct Balakrishna in #NBK112 and the senior star hero is in super form, Koratala shouldn't waste this opportunity. Currently, even average content when delivered with Nandamuri Balakrishna has the potential to become crores of rupees revenue-getter at the box office. So Koratala Siva should think about utilising this chance well, as he is making a political action thriller with Balayya and shouldn't be making some routine scenes like in his last two films. Also, with Balayya's image at its peak, Koratala shouldn't get things wrong.

Kalyan Ram's Insta Debut Tomorrow

Nandamuri actor Kalyan Ram is all set to make his official debut on Instagram. Staying away from the platform until now, the actor will finally join Instagram on July 5, marking the occasion of his birthday. His team officially announced the news, revealing that Kalyan Ram will kick off his Instagram journey with a special post at 10:11 AM on Sunday. The move is said to be aimed at connecting more closely with his fans by sharing both personal and professional updates. Going forward, Kalyan Ram is expected to use his Instagram account to post movie updates, shooting experiences, behind-the-scenes moments, and glimpses from his day-to-day life. The announcement has created excitement among Nandamuri fans, who are eagerly waiting to welcome their favorite star to the social media platform. On the professional front, Kalyan Ram is currently busy with multiple projects. He is starring alongside Venkatesh in a high-profile multistarrer directed by Anil Ravipudi. The film features Keerthy Suresh and Krithi Shetty as the female leads and is being jointly produced by Shine Screens and Suresh Productions. The makers are planning to release the film during the Sankranti festival season in 2027.



Regina Cassandra Bags A Role In Lokesh Kanagaraj's Film!

Hollywood star director Lokesh Kanagaraj is all set to begin a new chapter in his career. After establishing himself as one of Tamil cinema's most successful filmmakers with blockbusters like Kaithi, Vikram, Leo, and Coolie, Lokesh is now gearing up to make his debut as a hero with DC. At the same time, reports suggest that he is preparing to step into film production as well. According to the latest buzz, Lokesh Kanagaraj will bankroll a female-centric film to be directed by Vishal Venkat. Actress Regina Cassandra has reportedly been roped in to play the lead role in the project. Sources say the script has already been locked, and the film is expected to go on floors soon. An official announcement regarding the project is likely to be made in the coming days. While Lokesh is currently busy promoting DC, he is also said to be focusing on expanding his career as a producer by backing content-driven films. Industry insiders believe this female-oriented project could mark another significant opportunity for Regina Cassandra, who has been looking for strong, performance-driven roles. However, details regarding the supporting cast, technical crew, and shooting schedule are expected to be revealed only after the makers make an official announcement.

Samantha's Bangaaram BACK IN ACTION

When Maa Inti Bangaaram posted an impressive second weekend, many expected the film to lose steam once it entered its third week. With new releases arriving and weekdays usually slowing collections, trade expected a gradual decline. Surprisingly, the film has remained steady despite witnessing a noticeable dip during the weekdays. More importantly, it has managed to hold its ground better than many had predicted. Now, the third weekend has begun, and the early trend looks encouraging. Even with fresh competition at the box office, Maa Inti Bangaaram appears to be attracting family audiences once again. The film is currently hovering around the Rs 90 crore mark worldwide. That puts it within touching distance of the prestigious Rs 100 crore milestone. Everything now depends on how strongly the film performs over the next couple of days. A solid weekend could put the century mark well within reach. For Samantha, this is more than just a box office number. A Rs 100 crore finish would further strengthen her position as one of the biggest crowd pullers in South cinema. It will be interesting to see whether Maa Inti Bangaaram can gather enough momentum this weekend and complete a memorable century at the box office.



I'm A Proud Telugu Man: Sriman

Veteran actor Sriman, who has carved a niche for himself with hundreds of memorable roles in the Tamil film industry, is now making a direct comeback to his mother tongue, Telugu. The actor has recently completed a week-long shooting schedule for the upcoming comedy entertainer starring Venkatesh, Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, and directed by Anil Ravipudi. Sharing his excitement on X, Sriman penned an emotional note. "Thank God. Thanks to Anil sir. One week of shooting is completed. I still can't believe I'm acting in my mother tongue. The positive energy on the sets, the comedy rollercoaster, and working with such a wonderful team is truly a blessing," he wrote. Sriman also revealed that he is originally from Gollala Mamidada in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district and expressed disappointment that many Telugu audiences recognize his face but not his name. "People identify me at airports and railway stations, appreciate my work, but in the end they ask, 'What is your name, sir?' Even after acting in so many films, my name hasn't really registered here," he said. The actor added that he has always admired Anil Ravipudi's films and even turned down a few Tamil projects to be part of this movie. Sriman said he is delighted to share screen space with Venkatesh, Kalyan Ram, and Keerthy Suresh, and believes this film will finally make Telugu audiences recognize that "Sriman is a Telugu man." Interestingly, the actor's real name is Kumaravatha Srinivasa Reddy, and his father, Prakash Reddy, was a film producer who backed several movies.

Bandla To Move Supreme Court

Film producer Bandla Ganesh has suffered a legal setback after the Telangana High Court upheld the Union Bank's auction of his family's property in Hyderabad. The court set aside an earlier order of the Debt Recovery Tribunal that had cancelled the auction. The dispute is linked to the recovery of a loan taken by Sri Parameswara Poultry Farm Private Limited. Bandla Ganesh and his family had stood as guarantors, following which their property was brought under the recovery process. According to the bank, the property was taken over under the SARFAESI Act in 2019 and auctioned in 2022. The sale fetched Rs 8.51 crore, which the bank sought to adjust against the settlement amount agreed under a one-time settlement. Reacting to the High Court verdict, Bandla Ganesh said his property was sold at an unfairly low price through a secretive deal involving bank officials. While expressing disappointment over the ruling, he reaffirmed his faith in the judiciary and announced that he will challenge the verdict in the Supreme Court. The bank argued that Bandla Ganesh and his family had agreed to withdraw all legal challenges as part of the settlement. However, they later approached the Debt Recovery Tribunal, which ruled in their favour and cancelled the auction. The High Court found merit in the bank's arguments and observed that the auctioned property belonged to the guarantors and not to the company undergoing insolvency proceedings. Therefore, the restrictions applicable under insolvency law did not apply. With this verdict, the High Court has validated the property auction and overturned the earlier relief granted to Bandla Ganesh and his family, bringing the legal battle in the bank's favour.



SS Vaigaichelvan joins TVK, calls AIADMK right party under wrong leader

Former AIADMK minister SS Vaigaichelvan joined the ruling TVK on Saturday, a day after quitting the AIADMK, and launched a sharp attack on the Edappadi K Palaniswami-led party. He described the AIADMK as a "right party under a wrong leader" and said he and others had left because of "bitterness, wounds and tears".



Former legislator V P Kalairajan, who quit the DMK, was also among those who joined the TVK. After joining the party, Vaigaichelvan praised TVK founder-chief Vijay as a "chosen leader of our times" and said there was a need for his leadership for decades to come.

Speaking to reporters after joining the TVK, Vaigaichelvan, a former AIADMK literary wing functionary and spokesperson, said, "The chief minister is a very good leader." He added, "He spoke sweetly and softly; he tried to understand our views on issues such as the Mekedatu dam proposal of Karnataka (strongly opposed by Tamil Nadu)."

Asked about his decision to leave the AIADMK, Vaigaichelvan said he and others had to quit due to some "bitterness, wounds and tears". He further said: "AIADMK is a right party under a wrong leader (AIADMK Edappadi K Palaniswami)."

Well-known actor and

AIADMK functionary Ravi Mariya was among the others who joined the TVK at the party headquarters in Panaiyur near Chennai. Kalairajan, before joining the DMK years ago, had also held positions in the AIADMK and in TTV Dhinakaran-led Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam.

On July 3, 2026, Vaigaichelvan had accused the AIADMK leadership of "prioritising self-interest over the well-being of the party and the cadres". He had also alleged that the party leadership was trying to "make compromises" with the DMK. C Vijayabaskar and M R Vijayabaskar were among the former AIADMK ministers who recently joined the TVK, adding to the party's latest round of inductions.

With Vaigaichelvan, Kalairajan, Ravi Mariya and others joining the TVK, the latest political shift also comes against the backdrop of Vaigaichelvan's criticism of the AIADMK leadership and his public endorsement of Vijay's leadership.

Rail Ministry Orders Immediate Tunnel Work

MUMBAI: (JUL 4)

The railway ministry on Saturday postponed the formal launch of tunnel-boring work for the bullet train project in Mumbai due to inclement weather, and told authorities to commence the work immediately. Ministry officials said it has been raining in Mumbai for the past few days, and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued 'red' and 'orange' alerts for the next couple of days.

"Considering the adverse weather conditions, we have decided to postpone the formal launch by the Hon'ble Railway Minister of the underground tunnel boring work using tunnel boring machines for the first time on the bullet train project," a senior official said.

Festive atmosphere in Kangundi village

CM resolves six decades old land Issue of Kangundi benefitting 322 poor families

Kuppam : As many as 322 families of Kangundi village of Kuppam Assembly constituency are happy as Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu distributed land ownership (DKT) pattas bringing an end to a six-decade-long wait. The beneficiaries, who had been cultivating these lands for generations without legal ownership, finally received official title deeds for 460.19 acres of land. The Chief Minister also unveiled a plaque marking the distribution of the pattas.

Later addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said the 61-year-old land issue had remained unresolved despite decades of efforts, but was finally settled after a comprehensive examination of land records and detailed study from multiple perspectives. He explained that the State Cabinet approved the conver-

sion of forest poramboke land into assigned waste dry land, enabling the government to legally distribute the land to eligible farmers.

Expressing happiness over providing ownership rights for 460.19 acres to 322 families, the Chief Minister described the initiative as a reflection of the government's unwavering commitment to social justice and equal opportunity. He said it was particularly satisfying to hand over the pattas in the historic presence of Kangundi Fort. Referring to similar initiatives, he noted that the government had recently resolved the Shettipalli land issue, securing nearly 90 acres of government land while ensuring justice for farmers. Likewise, a centuries-old land dispute in Vatticherukuru had also been settled. The government, he said, is committed to



resolving all pending land disputes across Andhra Pradesh, a process expected to be completed within the next year.

Criticising the previous government, the Chief Minister alleged that it had created numerous land disputes and even printed photographs of ruling party leaders on patadar passbooks. His government, he said, replaced them with new passbooks carrying the official State emblem. The Chief Minister also expressed

concern over family property disputes, urging citizens to respect the rights of parents and sisters. "There is no place for rowdiness or goondaism in Andhra Pradesh," he asserted, adding that the government is attracting investments and industries to create employment opportunities. Kuppam, he said, would be developed into a major tourism destination, generating more jobs for local youth.

The Chief Minister urged the people of Kuppam to adopt solar energy and reduce dependence on petrol and diesel by using solar-powered mobility solutions. He called upon citizens to work towards achieving a "Net Zero", "Clean Kuppam - Golden Kuppam" vision. Highlighting women's empowerment, he said the government is transforming DWCRA women into entrepreneurs, with nearly 1.5 lakh

women already becoming entrepreneurs. A dedicated brand has also been created to market DWCRA products internationally. The Chief Minister recalled participating earlier in the day in development programmes related to 30 projects worth Rs 9,322 crore at Pogurupalli in Kuppam.

He alleged that the previous government had damaged Andhra Pradesh's brand image and driven industries away, while his government had restored investor confidence over the past two years. He remarked that while the government is making efforts for development of State, opposition leaders are attempting to obstruct progress.

Minister Mandipalli Ram Prasad Reddy, Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasada Rao, APSRTC Vice Chairman Munirathnam and others participated.

Governments and the Beggar-Free Dream

S. N. VERMA

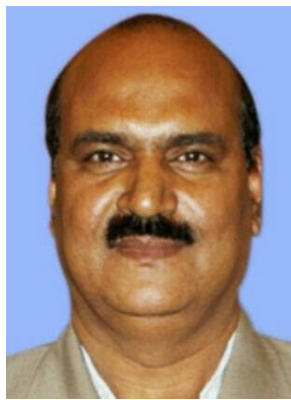
Despite India's rapid economic growth, begging is still one of India's biggest problems. It is estimated that there are about 5 lakh beggars in India and this is despite the fact that begging is a crime in most states of India. Sadly, the problem of begging in India is much more severe than it seems. The most common problem is that beggars have become so accustomed to begging that they don't really like to work. In addition, many of them earn more money than they work by begging. In such a situation, the dream of a country free from beggars to come true is still a very big goal. However, it has already started. Indore in Madhya Pradesh has become the first beggar-free city in the country. At the same time, according to Sanchi officials, there is not a single beggar in their area. A few years ago,

the central government had implemented a scheme to liberalise 30 major tourist destinations and religious cities under the Begging Free India Campaign. These include 10 religious sites such as Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh and Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh. According to an official of the Ministry of Social Justice, beggars will be displaced from here by 2026.

Some states in India have a higher number of beggars than other states. According to the government census (2011), West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have the highest number of beggars. Child begging is especially prevalent in Uttar Pradesh, while the number of disabled beggars is high in West Bengal. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Assam and Odisha also have relatively high number of beggars. According to the data given by

the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in Parliament, since October 23, 2023, a total of 31,055 persons engaged in begging have been identified. Out of these, 9,855 persons, including 2,480 children, have all been rehabilitated through Smile's (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) sub-scheme "Massive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in Begging".

The Smile-Bagri survey mobile application was also launched during the Chintan camp organised by the same ministry with the states and union territories in Chandigarh from 24 to 26 April 2026. This mobile application has been developed under the Smile-Bhikshapti Sub-Scheme (Extensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in Begging). This app will be identified and updated after identifying people involved in begging. The status of



beggars in India is associated with serious social and economic challenges. This problem is the result of poverty, unemployment, physical disability, and sometimes exploitation by organised criminal gangs (mafia) who force vulnerable people and children to beg. The main reasons for begging are poverty and unemployment. When many people who migrate from villages to cities fail to get a livelihood, begging be-

comes a compulsion for them. Begging becomes a compulsion even due to disability and illness. People with physical disabilities or mental illness who cannot find other employment often become dependent on begging. Many organised gangs are also active in big cities. Children and women are kidnapped or drugged by the organised mafia. In general, beggars can be categorised into two types. One is those who beg under compulsion, and the other is those who have mastered the art of begging and earn a good amount of money from it. To get the right to beg in a particular area, each beggar hands over his earnings to the gang leader, who keeps a large part of it. There have even been cases of beggars deliberately hurting and defusing themselves to get more money. Beggars hire babies from mothers every day to make their begging more

believable. They beg these babies (who are unconscious and hanging lifeless in their arms) as sick. In addition, many children in India are kidnapped and forced to beg. The figures are alarming. According to the National Human Rights Commission of India, up to 40,000 children are kidnapped every year. Of these, more than 10,000 children are untrained. Not only this, it is estimated that children across India are drugged, beaten and begged. This is a multi-crore business controlled by human trafficking gangs. The police do not take specific steps to solve this problem because they often assume that children are with their family members or other people who know them. At the same time, there are also discrepancies in the laws on dealing with child beggars. Many children are too young to be punished.

There is no central law to

prevent begging in India. Union Territories and many states consider begging a punishable offence under their state-specific laws, such as the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act. The Supreme Court of India in the year 2021 dismissed a public interest lawsuit seeking to ban monks from public places and ruled that begging is not a criminal issue but a socio-economic problem. Another shocking thing has come to light in the government figure and that is that every fourth beggar in the total population of beggars is a Muslim. That is, 25 percent of the total population of beggars are Muslims. According to the data, 72.2 percent of the beggars are Hindus and their share in the total population is 79.8 percent. Apart from this, if we talk about religious figures, then the population of Christians in India is 2.3 percent and the

population of beggars is 0.88 percent. Apart from this, out of the total 3.7 lakh beggars, 0.25 percent are Buddhists, 0.45 percent are Sikhs and 0.06 percent are Jains. According to statistics, the population of women among Muslim beggars is the largest, while among the beggars of other religions, there are more men. On average, 53.13 percent of the total beggars are male and 46.87 percent are female, while Muslim beggars are 43.61 percent male and 56.38 percent are female. When will the dream of a country free from beggars come true? This is a very big and profound problem. To eliminate it, it is necessary to address major issues such as poverty, illiteracy and employment. The ongoing schemes in various states are paving the way, but more time and concerted efforts are needed to make the entire country beggar-free.

Yogi Adityanath Reviews Cancer Care and Emergency Healthcare Plans in UP

LUCKNOW:

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today chaired a high-level meeting in Lucknow with officials from the Medical and Health Department, the Medical Education Department, and various healthcare experts to review the action plans of the Uttar Pradesh State Cancer Task Force and the Uttar Pradesh Trauma and Emergency Network (UPTEN).

The Chief Minister directed that cancer treatment facilities be developed in every district in a phased manner and that modern cancer centers be established in each division of the state. He emphasized the need to focus on cancer prevention, timely screening, early diagnosis, and access to quality treatment. He also instructed officials to develop an integrated trauma and emergency network across the state to ensure that people injured in road accidents or other critical emergencies receive medical treatment within the "golden hour," the crucial period immediately following a serious injury when prompt care can significantly improve survival

and recovery.

The Chief Minister called for effective coordination among medical colleges, district hospitals, trauma centers, and community health centers. He also directed the development of an artificial intelligence (AI)-based digital referral system and stressed the importance of real-time monitoring of ambulance services, hospital bed availability, and treatment facilities. In addition, he emphasized strengthening emergency medical services along national highways and expressways. e said that the state's healthcare system should evolve beyond a treatment-focused model into an integrated system centered on disease prevention, early detection, quality treatment, rehabilitation, research, and technology-driven coordination. The Chief Minister further directed officials to ensure the availability of specialist doctors, nursing staff, and paramedical personnel. He also called for the promotion of integrated healthcare services combining modern medicine with rehabilitation, mental health support, yoga, and AYUSH-based therapies.

Andhra: YSRCP attacks Chandrababu Naidu-led govt for 'vindictive attitude'

VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 4

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Saturday reiterated its accusation against the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu-led government that it has "failed" to keep its poll promises and has been exhibiting a "vindictive attitude". Addressing the media, Leader of Opposition in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, said that all the election promises of the state's coalition government "went for a toss" and that the Rs 3 lakh crore loan has no accountability. "There is nothing for the coalition government to boast about as the promises made to women remain unfulfilled, the education reforms have come to a standstill, the school bag and kits are still not distributed, and the functioning of government hospitals is in dismay," he said.

Further, Satyanarayana said that the party took serious objection to CM Naidu for not coming to receive President Droupadi Murmu during her recent visit, which "is equivalent to insulting the highest office, a woman and a tribal". The controversy erupted since the Chief Minister was in the state during the President's visit "but could not take time out to welcome her". Botsa Satyanarayana reiterated that the Machilipatnam-Vijayawa-



da-Guntur (MAVIGUN) proposal remains a major election issue for YSRCP in the 2029 Legislative Assembly elections, as previously stated by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. MAVIGUN is the state capital corridor proposed by Jagan Mohan Reddy. "Next election will be fought on the battle, MAVIGUN versus Amaravati. We stand by it. We are for MAVIGUN. Everybody who is for MAVIGUN will vote for YSRCP. Everybody who is for Amaravati will vote for Chandrababu," Reddy had said during a previous press conference. Referring to the proposal, Satyanarayana said: "It is the most viable option with its existing infrastructure, and there would be lesser expenditure."

Further, the YSR Congress Party leader said: "Amaravati is steeped in corruption and the favoured contractors are being paid exorbitant rates in lieu of commissions and farmers are being badly affected. Still, it is not clear who the promoter of the capital city is. There is no clarity on whether CM Chandrababu is dealing with the Singapore government or his business partners over there."

Major Crackdown on Prostitution Racket in West Bengal: 17 Minor Girls Rescued

KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL:

Police rescued 17 minor girls from a site of commercial sexual exploitation during a raid conducted in the Islampur police station area of Uttar Dinajpur district, West Bengal. The youngest rescued child is 11 years old, while the others are between 13 and 17 years of age. Of the rescued girls, 13 are from Bihar, three from West Bengal and one from Assam. All the rescued children have been produced before the Child Welfare Committee and subsequently shifted to safe shelter homes after counselling. Police have arrested four alleged operators of the establishment under provisions of the anti-trafficking laws and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Several other accused

Operation launched based on intelligence provided by Just Rights for Children's Partner NGOs, Association for Voluntary Action and Kosi Lok Manch_
Rescued girls include 13 from Bihar, three from West Bengal and one from Assam_
Drone surveillance used during the operation; four accused arrested_

are absconding. The operation was carried out following intelligence gathered and shared by the Association for Voluntary Action (AVA) and Kosi Lok Manch, both partner organisations of Just Rights for Children (JRC), India's largest child rights network comprising more than 250 NGOs working across 451 districts towards Child Protection and Support. AVA received information from one of its field workers that a large number of minor girls were being trafficked, sexually exploited and forced into commercial sexual exploitation at the location. Following the tip-off, AVA and Kosi Lok Manch formed a joint



team of activists from West Bengal and Bihar, which conducted continuous surveillance of the site for nearly two months. After confirming the presence of approximately 30 to 40 minors, the

organisations alerted the district Superintendent of Police. Acting swiftly, the police planned and executed the rescue operation in coordination with AVA and Kosi Lok Manch. Drone surveillance

was also deployed considering the sensitivity of the area. Despite the extensive operation, some accused managed to flee with several children. During their interaction with the police, the rescued girls described the severe abuse they had endured. They alleged that they were forced to sexually service eight to ten customers every day and were never paid by those operating the establishment.

In September 2025, based on information provided by AVA, police had rescued nine minor girls from another commercial sexual exploitation site in the same district. However, the accused allegedly attacked the police

station afterwards and succeeded in taking away all the rescued children. Commending the West Bengal government for the swift action, Ravi Kant, National Convenor, Just Rights for Children, said, "The rescue of such a large number of minor girls from a single site of commercial sexual exploitation reflects the deep-rooted and widespread nature of human trafficking networks. The trafficking of girls as young as 11 and 12 from Bihar and Assam and their forced sexual exploitation is a horrifying reality. It demands the full commitment and resources of governments and law enforcement agencies. This operation demonstrates that the West Bengal government and police have the necessary resolve to protect children. It marks a significant and encouraging change."



Landslide Blocks Yamunotri Highway Again

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot, Uttarakashi, Uttarakhand : The Yamunotri National Highway was blocked once again on Saturday morning after a fresh landslide struck near Syana Chatti, disrupting traffic and leaving hundreds of Char Dham pilgrims, tourists, and local residents stranded for several hours. Continuous rockfall and debris from the hillside damaged both carriageways, causing long queues of vehicles on either side of the road.

According to officials, the landslide occurred at around 10 a.m. when a large volume of debris, boulders, and fallen trees crashed onto the highway, bringing traffic to a complete halt. Earthmoving machinery was immediately deployed to clear the road, but continuous falling debris hampered restoration efforts.

Local residents, including Dinesh Rana, Shailendra Rana, Baldev Singh, Jaipal Singh, and Chitra Mohan Singh, alleged that unscientific hill cutting during the ongoing highway widening

project has made the Syana Chatti stretch highly vulnerable to landslides. They claimed that inadequate slope stabilization and the absence of proper safety measures have resulted in repeated road blockages even after light rainfall.

Residents said the recurring closures are severely affecting local businesses, daily commuters, and thousands of pilgrims travelling to Yamunotri Dham. They urged the administration and the concerned departments to undertake permanent slope stabilization, construct retaining walls, improve drainage systems, and conduct an independent assessment of the highway widening project to prevent further disruptions during the monsoon season.

Meanwhile, Srinivas Reddy, Project Manager of the executing agency, said that heavy rainfall triggered the landslide. He stated that large boulders and uprooted trees had fallen onto the highway and that machinery was deployed immediately to remove the debris and restore traffic at the earliest.

Be Job Creators, MP Vamsi Urges Youth

Hyderabad: Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna delivered a powerful keynote address at the "Bower UG Summit 2.0" organised by the Bower School of Entrepreneurship at T-Hub, urging the youth to become job creators rather than job seekers. The summit, held with the theme "What if I were 18 years old today?", saw the MP speak on "Future of Indian Youth - Construction, Leadership and

Youth Should Focus on Entrepreneurship and Innovation: MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna

Industrial Opportunities." Addressing students and young entrepreneurs, Vamsi Krishna advised the youth not to limit themselves to conventional jobs but to develop entrepreneurial skills. He encouraged them to align with changing global conditions, acquire technological knowledge, and pursue creative ideas to showcase India's



potential on the world stage. The MP highlighted that such platforms are essential for developing leadership qualities, social responsibility, and innovation among the youth. He called upon every student to convert their dreams into goals and work dedicatedly towards achieving them. "The power to shape the future of the country lies in the

hands of the youth," Vamsi Krishna said. Students from various educational institutions, young entrepreneurs, teachers, startup representatives, education experts, and dignitaries attended the summit in large numbers. The organisers felicitated MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna after the session and expressed gratitude for his inspiring address

Army Corners Two LeT Terrorists in Shopian

SRINAGAR: (JUL 4)

The Army on Saturday launched a major counter-terrorist operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district after two local terrorists belonging to the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba were cornered in a dense orchard, officials said. Acting on a specific intelligence input on the presence of terrorists in the area, a joint team comprising various columns of Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) laid a tight cordon around the Meemandar area. The two trapped terrorists, identified through technical intelligence as Latif and Zakir, opened fire on the approaching security personnel, which the Army jawans effectively retaliated, triggering a gunfight.

Expand Area Under Low-Water, Short-Duration Crops: CM Dr. Mohan Yadav

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal : Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that natural farming offers immense potential and is a highly profitable agricultural practice. He urged farmers to gradually shift from conventional farming to organic and natural farming methods. In view of the possibility of below-normal rainfall this year, the Chief Minister Dr Yadav appealed to farmers across the state to adopt scientific and practical crop planning and prioritize crops that require less water and have a shorter growing duration while ensuring good yields. He stated that the State Government is making all necessary preparations to safeguard farmers' interests and secure agricultural production. Continuous district-wise monitoring and required arrangements are being ensured through the Departments of Agriculture,

Horticulture and other allied departments.

Chief Minister Dr Yadav emphasized that under the prevailing circumstances, water conservation and the judicious use of available water are of utmost importance. He advised farmers to conserve soil moisture in their fields, promote rainwater harvesting, and make maximum use of micro-irrigation systems. Farmers should also follow the technical advisories issued by agricultural scientists and the Agriculture Department and select crops suitable to local conditions.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav especially appealed to farmers to expand the cultivation of ShriAna (Millets) such as kodo, kutki, ragi, sorghum (jowar), pearl millet (bajra), and other crops that can be successfully cultivated with limited water. He said these crops are well suited to the challenges posed by climate



change and offer significant advantages in terms of lower cultivation costs, higher nutritional value, and improved farm incomes. He added that the Government is continuously promoting the production, processing and marketing of millets.

The Chief Minister Dr Yadav said that in the face of changing climatic conditions, adopting scientific farming practices is the only way to safeguard agricultural production and farmers' incomes.

He expressed confidence that the farmers of Madhya Pradesh, through their experience, hard work and adoption of modern technologies, are fully capable of successfully overcoming every challenge.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav assured farmers that the State Government stands firmly with them under all circumstances. Necessary instructions have been issued to all departments to ensure timely technical guidance, availability of agricultural inputs, and every possible support according to the prevailing situation. The Government's objective is to ensure that no farmer faces undue hardship, agricultural production remains unaffected, and farmers' interests are fully protected. He further stated that agriculture and farmers are the backbone of both the state's and the nation's economy. Increasing farmers' incomes and providing them

with modern facilities is the Government's responsibility. With this objective, the year 2026 is being observed as the "Farmer Welfare Year" in Madhya Pradesh.

Farmers Being Sensitized and Informed

Chief Minister Dr Yadav has also emphasized the use of social media-based messaging systems to keep farmers updated on monsoon conditions and rainfall forecasts. In the event of inadequate rainfall, farmers are being encouraged to adopt seed treatment practices, scientific sowing techniques, and cultivate low-water crops such as bajra, jowar, urad, moong, pigeon pea (arhar), kodo and kutki. These crops are considered ideal options for achieving better productivity under conditions of limited water and shorter crop duration. In addition, farmers are regularly receiving weather forecast-based advisories through mobile messages.

Residents Demand Immediate Restoration of Barkot-Dehradun Roadways Bus Service

SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot, Uttarkashi: Public resentment is growing in Barkot following the suspension of the Uttarakhand Roadways bus service connecting Barkot and Dehradun for nearly two months. The disruption has caused significant inconvenience to commuters, particularly students, patients, government employees, traders, and daily travelers who rely on the service for essential travel.

Raising the issue, the social organization Jai Ho Group submitted a memorandum to the District Magistrate of Uttarkashi through the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), demanding the immediate resumption of the bus service. The group's coordinator, Sunil Thapliyal, said the morning Roadways

bus was a lifeline for residents of the region. Its suspension has forced people to depend on expensive private transport, increasing both financial burden and travel difficulties. The memorandum warned that if the service is not restored promptly, the organization, along with local residents, would be compelled to launch a public agitation. The group urged the authorities to treat the matter as a priority and ensure the immediate restoration of the bus service in the interest of the public. The memorandum was signed by Sunil Thapliyal, Ajay Singh Rawat, Ankit, Vinod Bisht, Mohit Agrawal, Mahitab, Dinanath, Pradeep Jain, Dinesh, Madan Painyuli, Bhagwati, Nitin, Anil, Mastu, and several other local residents.



The bail of the accused detained in jail in the "Bagicha Mandir" controversy

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Shivpuri : Last month, in the dispute regarding the ownership of the new Ram temple built in the premises of the famous religious place "Bagicha Mandir", which is considered to be the center of faith of Karera region, the President of Lord Shri Ram Hanuman Manav Seva Ram Mandir Committee, Pt. Rajesh Dubey (Bhola Maharaj) and his family members, his elder brother and senior journalist Akhilesh Dubey, Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper

Naye Panna, the bail of the accused who carried out the deadly attack has also been canceled by the High Court. Let it be known that all the people made accused in the said case are detained in Karera Jail, who were arrested by Karera Police and sent to jail. Whose earlier bail application was submitted in the Gwalior Bench of the High Court after the bail was canceled from the District Court, Shivpuri, on which the bail application has been rejected by the Honorable High Court today while hearing it

Tripura CM Launches Northeast's First MEMU

MALIGAON, 4 JULY, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) ushered in a new era of passenger rail transportation in Tripura and the Northeast with the inauguration of the region's first Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train service. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura, Professor (Dr.) Manik Saha, flagged off the inaugural run of Train No. 75679/75680 (Agartala-Karimganj-Agartala) MEMU at Agartala Railway Station on 4 th July, 2026. The train, which had been operating earlier as a Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) service, has now been successfully replaced and upgraded by a new Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU), marking a major technological advancement following the electrification of the route. The historic event marks another



significant milestone in NFR's continued efforts towards modernization, sustainable transportation and enhanced passenger convenience following the rapid electrification of railway routes across the region. The flagging-off ceremony was held in the august presence of dignitaries like Shri Sushanta Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport

and Tourism, Govt. of Tripura, Shri Rajib Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Smt. Mina Rani Sarkar, Hon'ble MLA alongwith the Divisional Railway Manager of Lumding Division of NFR and other senior railway officials. The introduction of the first MEMU service in Tripura as well as the entire NE is a landmark achievement for NFR in its mission to pro-



vide faster, cleaner and more efficient rail connectivity. Unlike Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) trains, MEMU services operate on electric traction, making them environmentally friendly, energy-efficient and economical to operate. MEMU trains offer superior acceleration and deceleration, enabling quicker movement between stations and reducing overall journey time on suburban and short

distance routes. They also ensure smoother rides, less noise levels, reduced maintenance requirements and zero emissions at the point of operation, thereby contributing to Indian Railways' commitment towards green and sustainable transportation system. The new Agartala-Karimganj-Agartala MEMU service will significantly benefit daily commuters, students, office-goers, traders and

tourists by providing a reliable, comfortable and more eco-friendly mode of transportation between Tripura and the adjoining areas of Assam. Improved connectivity will facilitate easier movement of people, strengthen social and economic ties between the neighbouring states and promote regional development. The service will also support local commerce by enabling convenient travel for small business owners and workers while encouraging greater use of rail transport over road travel mode. As the first MEMU train in Tripura and the Northeast, this pioneering initiative underscores NFR's vision towards transforming rail infrastructure, enhancing passenger experience and supporting the overall development of the region through modern, sustainable and customer-centric railway services.



HDFC Bank Posts Strong Q1 FY27 Deposit, Loan Growth

NEW DELHI, JULY 4

HDFC Bank -- India's largest private lender -- on Saturday reported double-digit growth in both deposits and advances for the quarter ended June 30 (Q1 FY27). According to the bank's latest business update, total deposits increased 14.7 per cent year-on-year to Rs 31.70 lakh crore as of June-end, the bank said in an exchange filing. Time deposits increased more than 17 per cent from a year ago to Rs 21.45 lakh crore, while current account and savings account (CASA) deposits grew about 9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 10.25 lakh crore, it added. On the asset side, the private sector lender's gross advances rose 15.4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 30.61 lakh crore. The bank's total assets under management (AUM) stood at Rs 31.27 lakh crore at the end of the reporting quarter, up 12.4 per cent from the corresponding period last year, according to the bank.

The quarterly business update comes amid controversy related to the bank's corporate governance. Earlier this year, Atanu Chakraborty stepped down as part-time chairman, citing concerns over practices that he said were not aligned with his personal values and ethics.

Meanwhile, reports said HDFC Bank's Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) did not consider the reappointment of the bank's chief executive officer (CEO) in a recent meeting.

E20 even powers F1 cars: Auto experts dismiss concerns, back govt amid backlash

Industry experts defended the rollout of E20 fuel, saying extensive testing found no concerns in compatible vehicles. They said the ethanol push is tied to lower emissions, defined standards and reduced oil dependence.

A panel of automobile and energy experts on Saturday defended India's E20 ethanol blending programme amid growing public criticism, asserting that extensive testing has found no evidence that the fuel poses concerns for vehicles.

They also highlighted that ethanol is used in Formula 1 racing cars and argued that the transition to E20 followed years of scientific evaluation and regulatory approvals.

The experts made the remarks during a press conference on ethanol amid an ongoing debate over the government's E20 petrol mandate and claims circulating on social media about its impact on vehicle performance.

The panel included former Engineers India Limited (EIL) CMD Vartika Shukla, Bajaj Auto Circle Head Manpreet Singh, TVS Senior Vice President (Corporate Affairs) Prashad Krishnan, Toyota Kirloskar Motor Country Head and Executive Vice President (Corporate Affairs and Governance) Vikram Gulati, Maruti Suzuki Senior Executive Officer Rahul Bharti, Hyundai India representative Puneet Anand and Hero Moto representative Ashutosh Ver-



ma.

'EXTENSIVE TESTING CARRIED OUT BEFORE E20 ROLLOUT'

Former Engineers India Limited (EIL) CMD Vartika Shukla said ethanol blending did not happen overnight and noted that India achieved its E20 target in December 2025. She said the automobile industry carried out extensive testing before the rollout and added that the programme aims to reduce carbon emissions. She also said several countries, including Canada and Paraguay, already use E20 fuel and that E20 fuel complies with Bharat Stage VI (BS VI) standards.

VERY GOOD FUEL: TOYOTA'S VIKRAM GULATI

Toyota's Vikram Gulati said the automobile industry operates under a strong regulatory framework and that fuel specifications are clearly defined. He said manufacturers engineer vehicles thoroughly before independent testing agencies approve them for consumers.

Calling ethanol "a very good

programme in an interview with ANI. He said India's ethanol blending programme has strengthened the country's energy security, increased farmers' incomes and reduced carbon emissions. Ashok added that scientific studies have found no evidence that E20 fuel damages vehicle engines or significantly affects mileage, describing many concerns surrounding E20 as misconceptions or exaggerated claims rather than scientific evidence.

GOVT JUNKS E20'S EXCESS WATER CONSUMPTION CONCERNS

The press conference came after the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued a detailed 10-point rebuttal to what it described as misinformation circulating on social media about the country's E20 ethanol blending programme.

The ministry rejected claims that producing one litre of ethanol consumes 10,000 litres of water. It said only surplus rice, cleared after meeting national food security requirements, is diverted for ethanol production. According to the ministry, ethanol distilleries consume around 3-5 litres of processed water for every litre of ethanol produced and increasingly operate Zero Liquid Discharge systems to recycle water.

The ministry also rejected claims related to engine damage, insurance invalidation and environmental harm, saying the E20 programme is backed by scientific studies,

international experience and regulatory safeguards. The Ethanol Blending Programme was launched in 2003 to reduce crude oil imports, improve energy security and promote environmental sustainability. The programme progressed in phases through technical preparedness and stakeholder consultations before the rollout of 20 per cent ethanol blending from 2023 onwards.

The government's E20 petrol mandate has triggered widespread debate and protests, particularly among owners of petrol vehicles manufactured before 2023. Many have reported lower fuel efficiency, rising maintenance costs and increased wear and tear.

BHUTAN DECLINES INDIA'S E20 OFFER

The debate over E20 has also extended beyond India. Bhutan has declined an offer from Indian Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to switch to E20 fuel and has instead requested that India continue supplying conventional petrol for as long as it remains available in the Indian market. According to The Bhutanese, the decision was not based on concerns over E20 itself but on Bhutan's existing fuel storage infrastructure. The report said the country has ageing underground fuel tanks, raising the risk of water seepage into stored fuel. A Bhutanese official cited this infrastructure-related concern as the primary reason for continuing with conventional petrol.

Top Ministers to Visit Brussels for India-EU Trade Talks

NEW DELHI, JULY 4

Indian ministers -- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw -- will soon travel to Brussels for the India-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC) dialogue, which will complement the recently concluded India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) and facilitate its implementation, Goyal said on Saturday. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the 17th Toy Biz International B2B Expo, the minister said we will all be going for a meeting with the European Commission. "Our effort is that it becomes a supplement to the free trade agreement which we have finalised and will help us to smooth the edges and make it easier to implement and benefit from the FTA going forward," Goyal added.

The minister also said that the TTC dialogue is expected to strengthen cooperation between India and the European Union in key areas, including trade, technology and resilient supply chains, while supporting the effective implementation of the FTA. On other trade negotiations, Goyal said



discussions on the proposed India-Canada free trade agreement are progressing well, with an Indian negotiating team scheduled to leave for Canada on Monday. "We are trying to conclude it in the next six months," he said. However, the minister indicated that the proposed FTA with Peru is unlikely to be concluded soon as India has concerns over providing market access for several products. On the proposed trade pact with Israel, Goyal said negotiations are continuing despite the ongoing conflict in West Asia, although at a slower pace.

He also expressed hope that the talks would gather momentum once the situation in the region stabilises.

Moreover, speaking at the event, Goyal urged domestic toy manufacturers to capitalise on expanding global market access and target a 10-fold increase in exports over the next four years, while assuring the industry that the government will not dilute mandatory quality standards.

Jio Delivers Record Download Speeds in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, 4 JULY 2026

Reliance Jio has once again demonstrated its network leadership in Hyderabad, according to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) latest Independent Drive Test (IDT) report for May 2026. The audit, conducted across 157.9 kilometres of key city corridors -- including Madhapur, Ameerpet, Mehdiapattanam, and Shamshabad -- placed Jio's data and voice performance well ahead of its own declared benchmarks.

The standout finding was Jio's average data download speed of 222.12 Mbps across its 5G and 4G networks -- over 14 times its declared typical download throughput of 15.00 Mbps. Upload speeds told a similar story, with Jio clocking an average of 19.43 Mbps against a declared benchmark of 7.00 Mbps.

Near-flawless coverage across the city

22,063 network samples were collected in auto-se-



lection mode along the drive test route. Notably, the test recorded zero instances of "No Coverage" anywhere along the route, underscoring the consistency of Jio's network across Hyderabad's mix of residential, commercial, and transit zones.

Jio's voice network fared just as strongly. Of 202 successfully established calls, not a single one was dropped. Separately, out of 191 established calls assessed for continuity, the network recorded zero instances of call silence exceeding three seconds -- a clean sweep on both key

Gold Logs First Weekly Gain Since May

MUMBAI, JULY 4

Gold recorded its first weekly gain since May as trader expectations for further US Federal Reserve rate hikes moderated, pushing bullion prices around 3.1 per cent for the week. Soft US job numbers and lower energy prices led to investors reducing the expectations of monetary policy tightening.

However, on Friday, MCX gold August futures eased 0.01 per cent while MCX silver July futures inched up 0.04 per cent. Currently, gold futures stand at Rs 1,47,365, while silver futures at Rs 2,37,499 per kg.

The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,46,344 on Friday, up from Rs 1,41,911 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA).

"Gold extended its recovery for the fourth consecutive session and touched a 10-day high on Friday. The rebound comes after more than a month of sustained selling following the May 13



import duty hike, with improving sentiment supported by a softer US dollar," an analyst said.

The analyst said that the recent pullback in the Dollar Index has encouraged fresh buying in bullion, and forecasted that the bullion is expected to trade in the Rs 1,45,000--1,49,000 range, with global cues continuing to drive sentiment.

Market participants said softer US labour data and easing energy costs reduced the probability of further Fed tightening. US hiring slowed sharply in June and traders trimmed the probability of a quarter-point rate increase at the Fed's next meeting to below 20 per cent, down from roughly one-third earlier in the week.

Lower energy costs and softer job growth have led analysts to forecast a gradual easing of inflationary pressures in coming months.

Oil prices have witnessed their sharpest quarterly correction since 2020 as shipments from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates near pre-war levels.

US President Donald Trump and allies have renewed efforts to clear the way for more of the president's own picks at the Federal Reserve after the Supreme Court blocked an attempt to remove Governor Lisa Cook.

Similar efforts last year, challenging Fed's independence, helped fuel gold's rally as investors sought protection against potential policy shifts.

India's auto demand remains resilient in June: Report

NEW DELHI, JULY 4

Auto sector demand in India remained resilient in June, with personal mobility segments continuing to outperform, a report has said. The report from Asit C Mehta Investment Intermediates said easing of supply-side bottlenecks at several OEMs, healthy retail demand and sustained export momentum supported volume growth during June. Export momentum for two- and three-wheelers is also expected to remain supportive, the report added. Two-wheeler YoY retail growth rate accelerated across all players for June, compared to slightly slower traction seen in May 2026, while wholesale growth was mixed across OEMs "June 2026 remained another healthy month for the domestic auto industry, with demand

holding up well across all segments despite macro and geopolitical risks and price hikes," the brokerage said. Retail demand was supported by healthy consumer sentiment, while exports maintained strong momentum across most OEMs. "Overall, demand remained resilient despite concerns around fuel prices, inflationary pressures and monsoon uncertainty," it noted. For commercial vehicles, retail traction did not show high growth, but wholesale growth was very strong across OEMs for the month, with improving infrastructure activity, replacement demand and export recovery being major positives. Tractor demand should remain supported through H1FY27 on a favourable base, while monsoon progression and weather risks remain the key variables for H2, the firm forecasted.



HYDERABAD (SINGARENI BHAVAN), JULY 4, 2026:

Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, today emphasized that the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), the only major coal-producing public sector company in South India, must play a much larger role in strengthening the country's energy security by expanding its operations, securing new coal blocks, and increasing coal production to meet the nation's growing energy demand.

Chairing a comprehensive review meeting at Singareni Bhavan, Hyderabad, the Minister conducted an extensive review of SCCL's operational performance and future strategy. He examined mine-wise production, dispatch, overburden removal, status of ongoing and proposed mining projects, statutory clearances, and future expansion plans. He directed

SCCL to Strengthen South India's Energy Security

SCCL to actively participate in the upcoming coal block auctions conducted by the Ministry of Coal to secure additional mining blocks and strengthen its production capacity. The Minister stressed the need to prepare a comprehensive 10-15 year long-term strategic action plan, keeping in view the rapidly increasing demand for electricity across the country. He observed that coal would continue to remain a critical component of India's energy mix for many years and advised SCCL to significantly enhance coal production while simultaneously reducing production costs and improving operational efficiency.

He stated that SCCL should not confine itself to commercial success alone but should move forward with a long-

term vision aligned with the country's future energy requirements.

Highlighting the increasing competition in the energy sector, Shri Kishan Reddy said that public sector enterprises must continuously improve quality standards and enhance productivity through dedicated efforts by all employees. He emphasized the importance of creating awareness among employees regarding the actual status and challenges of the company through transparent communication. The Minister further suggested the constitution of a special committee to formulate and implement reforms aimed at ensuring the company's long-term growth and sustainability. He called upon all stakeholders to collectively contribute towards SCCL's



development and assured the company's management of the Central Government's full support.

Focus on Coal Gasification

Shri G. Kishan Reddy observed that coal gasification offers significant opportunities in India and advised SCCL, being the only government-owned coal producer in South India, to initiate a coal gasification project, even on a pilot scale. He particularly suggested exploring such a project in the Ramagundam

alongside Coal India Limited, SCCL must remain fully prepared to ensure uninterrupted coal supplies for power generation. He advised the company to strengthen coal production and supply systems well in advance to meet the anticipated increase in electricity demand and also directed SCCL to reinforce its transportation infrastructure in line with future production growth. The Minister instructed the company to expedite the finalization and execution of transportation contracts so that additional coal production reaches consumers without delay.

Employees Are the Strength of the Company

Shri Kishan Reddy emphasized that employees constitute the greatest strength of SCCL and should be ac-

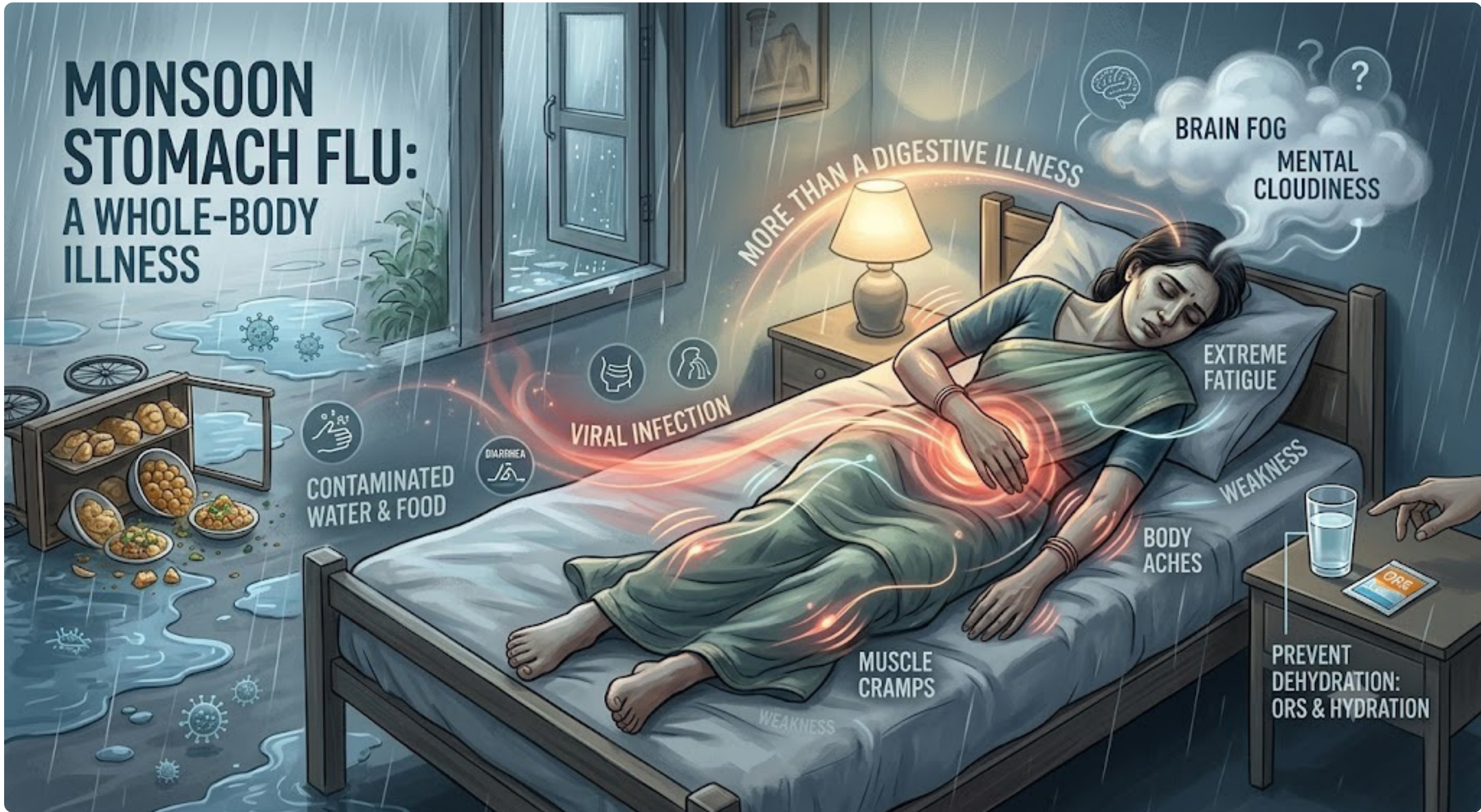
tive partners in the company's future growth plans. He advised the management to enhance employees' confidence and ensure that every employee considers the company's success as his or her own achievement. Earlier, welcoming the dignitaries, Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti, IAS, Chairman and Managing Director, SCCL, presented a detailed overview of the company's coal production, dispatch performance, and the challenges presently confronting the organization. He also highlighted various issues affecting the commencement of new mining projects. The CMD particularly informed the Minister that the withdrawal of SCCL's Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) status has created difficulties in obtaining forest land clearanc-

es. Responding to the issue, Shri Kishan Reddy assured that efforts would be made to facilitate an early and positive resolution.

The Minister also assured that he would take up with the Government of Odisha the issues relating to transportation of coal from SCCL's Naini Coal Mine in the state.

The review meeting was attended by Shri Vikram Dev Dutt, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shri Sanjeev Kumar Kassi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shri Pankaj Jain, Private Secretary to the Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri Veera Reddy, Adviser, Ministry of Coal, SCCL Directors Shri L. V. Suryanarayana, Shri K. Venkateswarlu, Shri Gautham Potru, and Shri M. Tirumala Rao; Shri B. Venkanna, Executive Director (Coal Movement), Shri T. Srinivas, General Manager (Coordination & Marketing), and other senior officials.





Brain Fog, Body Pain?

How Monsoon Stomach Flu Affects More Than Your Gut

The arrival of the monsoon brings welcome relief from intense summer heat, but it also ushers in a seasonal rise in gastrointestinal infections. Across many parts of India, hospitals and clinics see a noticeable increase in cases of viral gastroenteritis, commonly referred to as the stomach flu. Most people recognise the illness through symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting and stomach cramps. However, many patients are surprised when they also experience brain fog, body aches, extreme fatigue, headaches and a lingering sense of weakness.

Doctors say these symptoms are not unusual. The stomach flu is often a whole-body illness, not merely a digestive problem. Viral infections trigger an immune response throughout the body, while dehydration and electrolyte loss can affect the brain, muscles and cardiovascular system. Understanding why this happens, who is at higher risk, and when medical attention is needed can help prevent complications during the monsoon season.

Monsoon Stomach Flu: More Than a Digestive Illness

Viral gastroenteritis becomes more common during the rainy season because of contaminated food and water, poor sanitation, increased humidity and easier viral transmission. Crowded environments and improper food handling can further accelerate the spread of infection.

While the illness typically begins in the stomach and intestines, its effects can extend far beyond the digestive tract. Many people report feeling mentally cloudy, physically exhausted and unable to concentrate even after vomiting and diarrhea begin to improve. This happens because the body is dealing with both the viral infection itself and the consequences of fluid and electrolyte loss.

What Causes the Stomach Flu?

Despite its name, the stomach flu is not caused by the influenza virus. The most common culprits are:

- Norovirus – highly contagious and often responsible for outbreaks.
- Rotavirus – a major cause of severe diarrhea in children.
- Adenovirus – can affect the digestive tract, especially in younger children.
- Astrovirus – another viral cause of gastroenteritis.

These viruses infect the lining of the stomach and intestines, causing inflammation that interferes with the body's ability to absorb water and nutrients properly. The result is diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain and sometimes fever.

Why Does the Whole Body Feel Sick?

Many people wonder why a stomach infection can make their head, muscles and energy levels feel affected as well. The answer lies in the body's immune response.

When a virus enters the body, the immune system releases inflammatory chemicals called cytokines. These chemicals help fight the infection but can also produce symptoms such as:

- Fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Headaches
- Weakness
- Reduced concentration
- General malaise

At the same time, repeated vomiting and diarrhea cause significant fluid loss. Dehydration reduces blood flow to tissues, including the brain and muscles, while electrolyte imbalances disrupt normal nerve and muscle function. Together, these factors can make a person feel much

sicker than a simple stomach infection might suggest.

Brain Fog: Why Thinking Feels Difficult

One of the most common complaints during recovery is brain fog—a feeling of mental cloudiness, forgetfulness or difficulty focusing.

The brain is extremely sensitive to dehydration. Even mild fluid loss can affect:

- Attention and concentration
- Memory
- Reaction time
- Mood
- Mental clarity

Electrolytes such as sodium and potassium are essential for nerve signalling. When these levels fall because of prolonged vomiting or diarrhea, cognitive symptoms can become more noticeable. Many patients describe feeling as though they are "not fully awake" or unable to think clearly.

When brain fog needs urgent attention

Temporary mental cloudiness usually improves with hydration and rest. However, confusion, excessive drowsiness, difficulty staying awake, disorientation or altered consciousness may indicate severe dehydration and/or other serious complication and

require immediate medical evaluation.

Why Does the Entire Body Ache?

Body pain during viral gastroenteritis is often overlooked, but it is a genuine and common symptom.

Two main mechanisms are responsible:

- 1. Immune-Mediated Inflammation**

The same inflammatory chemicals that help fight the virus can also trigger muscle soreness and joint aches, similar to what many people experience during other viral infections.

- 2. Electrolyte Loss**

Vomiting and diarrhea can deplete potassium and magnesium, minerals that are essential for proper muscle function. Low levels may cause:

- Muscle cramps
- Weakness
- Widespread body aches
- Difficulty climbing stairs or walking

If fever is present, muscle pain may become even more intense.

Why Fatigue Can Last for Days

Many people expect to feel normal as soon as diarrhea stops, but fatigue often lingers.

Recovery takes time because

the body is still:

- Repairing the intestinal lining damaged by infection.
- Replenishing lost fluids and electrolytes.
- Restoring energy stores.
- Calming the immune response.

For some individuals, especially those who were severely dehydrated, tiredness may persist for several days after the acute illness has improved.

Who Is at Greater Risk of Complications?

Most healthy adults recover within a few days, but certain groups can become seriously ill much more quickly.

Higher-risk groups

- Young children – they lose fluids rapidly and may not be able to communicate thirst.
- Adults over 65 years – dehydration can develop quickly and may worsen existing medical conditions.
- Pregnant women – fluid loss can affect both mother and baby.
- People with diabetes – infections can make blood sugar control more difficult.
- Individuals with kidney disease – they may have reduced ability to manage fluid and electrolyte changes.
- People with weakened immune

systems – infections may become more severe or prolonged.

The Role of Chronic Stress in Recovery

Doctors also point out that chronic stress may influence how people experience and recover from infections.

"People often say this is being 'addicted to cortisol,' but medically it is more accurate to say we become conditioned to chronic stress. The body was never designed to remain in a constant state of high alert."

According to Dr. Narendra BS, prolonged stress can contribute to:

- Poor sleep
- Anxiety
- Digestive disturbances
- Headaches
- Reduced concentration
- Elevated blood pressure
- Abdominal weight gain
- Burnout

Stress does not directly cause viral gastroenteritis, but chronic sleep deprivation and ongoing physiological stress may weaken immune responses, potentially making recovery more difficult.

How Is Monsoon Stomach Flu Treated?

There is no specific cure for most viral stomach infections, and antibiotics usually do not

help because the illness is caused by viruses, not bacteria.

The primary goal of treatment is preventing dehydration.

Doctors commonly recommend

- Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) to replace lost fluids and electrolytes.
- Frequent small sips of water or ORS instead of large amounts at once.
- Light, easily digestible foods such as rice, bananas, toast or khichdi once vomiting subsides.
- Adequate rest and sleep.
- Avoiding alcohol and excessive caffeine, which can worsen dehydration.
- Good hand hygiene to prevent spreading the infection to family members.
- Warning Signs That Need Immediate Medical Care
- Seek medical help immediately if you notice

Blood in the stool.

- Persistent vomiting lasting more than 24 hours.
- Severe dehydration (very dry mouth, extreme thirst, dizziness, fainting).
- High fever.
- Confusion or unusual drowsiness.
- Very little urine output.
- Symptoms lasting beyond three days.

How to Prevent Stomach Flu During the Monsoon

- Prevention remains the most effective strategy.
- Simple preventive measures
- Drink boiled, filtered or treated water.
- Eat freshly cooked food.
- Avoid raw or uncovered street food during outbreaks.
- Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly.
- Wash hands with soap before meals and after using the toilet.
- Stay home when sick to reduce transmission.
- A Whole-Body Illness, Not Just a Stomach Problem

Monsoon stomach flu is often underestimated. While diarrhea and vomiting are the most visible symptoms, the infection can also trigger brain fog, body aches, headaches and profound fatigue through a combination of inflammation, dehydration and electrolyte imbalance. Most people recover fully with adequate hydration, rest and proper nutrition. However, recognising warning signs early is essential, particularly in children, older adults, pregnant women and people with chronic medical conditions.



Telangana Voter Rights Forum Holds Public Consultation on SIR 2026

*** Calls for Urgent Measures to Prevent Exclusion of Eligible Voters**

HYDERABAD

“The voter ID personifies the right to equality described in the Constitution,” Retired Judge of the Supreme Court Justice Sudershan Reddy said while speaking at the public Consultation organised to-day at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram, Hyderabad, by the Telangana Voter Rights Forum (TVRF) to review the implementation of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls which commenced on 25 June 2026. Describing the early history of enumeration in India Justice Reddy said that Indians were recognised as voters before the process of citizenship was fully debated as Dr Ambedkar’s demand for universal adult franchise was implemented by enumerating voters from the remotest habitations by the time Constitution was adopted in 1950. The SIR process is taking us back into the colonial era, where the Empire decided who could vote.

Addressing the gathering, Prof Kodandram said that SIR it is not voter registration but citizenship registration form. Mr Akunuri Murali pointed out that of the 11 documents, only the Permanent Residence Certificate is accessible to the poor, marginalised and women. He said that the representation given to the State Chief Minister’s office by the Telangana Voter Rights Forum requested the state government to explore ways of issuing PRCs to voters who have no other



documentation available, and regretted that the SIR process appears to be a conspiracy to deprive a large number of the poor their right to vote and citizenship entitlements.

The Telangana Voter Rights Forum (TVRF) also unanimously expressed its concern at the complexity of the Special Intensive Revision process underway in Telangana and the possibility of a large number of voters losing their Constitutional right to vote. At a public consultation, the Forum put forward several demands both to the state government and to the State Chief Electoral Officer to ease the SIR process and to make it more citizen-friendly.

Representatives of several civil society organisations, grassroots volunteers, community leaders, and individuals working directly with voters from across Telangana participated in the consultation. Participants shared field-level experiences and highlighted a range of practical difficulties being faced by electors in completing the enumeration process.

The consultation heard that inadequate public awareness, procedural complexity, of pro-

curing supporting documentation, inconsistent implementation across polling areas, and the limited availability of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are creating barriers for many eligible voters. Participants expressed particular concern that large numbers of economically weaker households, migrant workers, elderly persons, women, and people employed in the unorganised sector may face difficulties in producing the prescribed documents, increasing the risk of exclusion from the electoral rolls.

Following detailed deliberations, the Forum urged the State Chief Electoral Officer, Telangana, to take immediate corrective measures to ensure that the Special Intensive Revision is conducted in a transparent, accessible and inclusive manner.

The Forum’s principal demands to the Chief Electoral Officer include:

- Launch an intensive multilingual public awareness campaign in Telugu, English and Urdu through newspapers, television, radio, digital media and public hoardings, clearly informing every elector that submission of the Enumeration

Form is mandatory, including for those already possessing EPIC (Voter ID) cards.

- Strengthen the role of Booth Level Officers by ensuring their daily availability at designated public assistance centres within every polling area, publicising their contact details and timings, and organising periodic Booth Sabhas to facilitate community verification and address voter grievances.

- Establish dedicated voter helplines operating from 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. and create local voter help desks through Gram Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies and other institutions to assist citizens in completing forms, identifying documents and resolving procedural issues.

- Extend the Special Intensive Revision timeline by at least three months, including corresponding extensions for BLO visits, submission of enumeration forms, claims and objections, and the verification and disposal process.

- Direct District Election Officers to hold regular consultations with Civil Society Organisations to receive feedback, identify implementation

challenges and strengthen voter outreach.

The Forum also appealed to the Government of Telangana to take urgent administrative measures to enable eligible residents to obtain acceptable documentary proof for the SIR process.

In particular, the Forum called upon the State Government to immediately introduce a system for issuing Permanent Residence Certificates through Gram Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies and Mee Seva centres. The Forum noted that while the Election Commission recognises the Permanent Residence Certificate as an acceptable document, many poor households and workers in the unorganised sector do not possess the other prescribed documents. A simple, accessible and time-bound mechanism for issuing Permanent Residence Certificates would help ensure that eligible citizens are not deprived of their constitutional right to vote due to lack of documentation.

The Forum also urged the state government to ensure that the voters lists are updated immediately for the upcoming Urban Local Body elections to ensure that the voters lists are robust and reliable.

The Forum emphasised that the objective of the Special Intensive Revision should be to improve the accuracy of electoral rolls while safeguarding the principle of universal adult franchise. It urged the Election Commission and the State Government to act expeditiously on the concerns emerging from the field so that no eligible voter is excluded because of inadequate awareness, procedural barriers or lack of access to documentation.

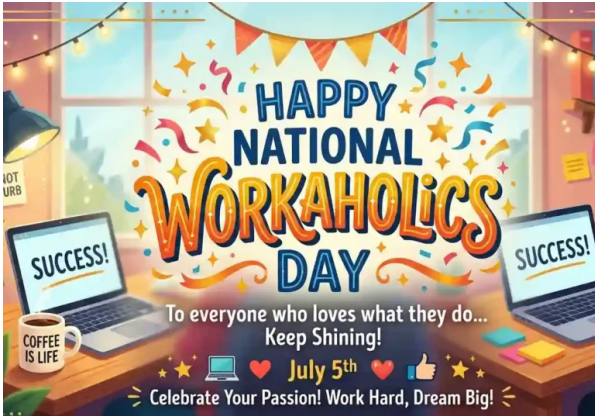
Achieve a Healthier Work-Life Balance

(On the occasion of "National Workaholics Day" on 05 July)

The word ‘workaholic’ comes from combining two words - work and alcoholic. This term was used extensively to refer to people who excessively and compulsively work. The workaholic people are those who spend all their time working and tend to ignore other pursuits in life. Workaholism is the tendency to work too much and neglect all the other areas of life. It’s not just about working hard, it’s also about working all day and feeling a constant need to be busy when it’s not necessary.

National Workaholics Day

To raise awareness about the fact that all work and no play can be harmful to the mental and physical health of workers, the world countries are observing “National Workaholics Day” on 05 July annually. The theme of 2026 National Workaholics Day-2026 is “Work-Life Balance Awareness” to equally give importance to both work and personal life. This day encourages workaholics to make lifestyle changes so that they give other aspects of their lives as much importance as their work. This day must remind us that we should always prioritise our well-being and healthy relationships along with a work-life balance. We should not glorify workaholism but can promote awareness and change. We request to take a pause, reflect, and make a conscious effort on this day to achieve a healthier work-life balance.



Signs of Workaholism:

A workaholic can take a day off and take them out to do something fun. Perhaps a trip to a theme park or a bike can ease their work pressure that can add to their health. If you are a workaholic, take a day off to reevaluate your life and take some time off for yourself. The important signs of workaholism are that they prioritise work above all (including personal relationships and self-care), feel anxious or guilty when not working, neglect hobbies and daily activities that bring joy, experience physical symptoms (like fatigue, insomnia, headache due to over work), not experience any emotion other than stress

and anxiety. All ther relationships, be it friendship, family, or a romantic one, are impacted by workaholic. Overworking beyond the limit leads to burnout, stress, and even broken bones. Set clear boundaries for work hours, trust colleagues to share tasks, take breaks for better productivity and prioritise self-care with activities outside work. Make achievable goals for a balanced life where work and personal time complement each other. Remember, happiness in life matters as much as success at work. This day encourages a balanced approach for a fulfilling life.

-Prof: Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
9949700037.

Candidates Should Not Fall into Political Traps and Jeopardize Their Future

Telangana state Police officers association president Y.Gopireddy

HYDERABAD

Unemployed youth aspiring to join the police service should remain focused on their goal and avoid being drawn into politically motivated agitation programmes. Certain vested interests may attempt to use job aspirants for political mileage by encouraging them to participate in protests. Candidates should carefully assess the possible legal and career-related consequences before involving themselves in such activities.

Participation in unlawful protests or incidents that lead to criminal cases may have serious implications for future government employment. Even a minor offence committed in the heat of the moment could adversely affect a candidate’s prospects during character and antecedent verification. A criminal record, however small, may become a significant obstacle in securing a government job. Therefore, candidates should exercise restraint, act responsibly, and safeguard their future by



staying away from activities that may put their careers at risk.

The police recruitment process is conducted in a transparent, fair, and merit-based manner by the Recruitment Board. Aspirants should devote their time and energy to systematic preparation rather than getting distracted by unnecessary controversies. In today’s highly competitive environment, success depends on disciplined preparation, consistent practice, and a well-planned strategy.

The State Government has adopted a phased recruitment policy to strengthen the police department while providing employment opportunities to eligible candidates. As part of the first phase, the Finance Department has accorded approval for filling 5,000 police vacancies,

including Civil Police Constables, Armed Reserve Constables, and Sub-Inspectors. Candidates are advised to utilize this opportunity by beginning their preparation without delay.

The government has also indicated that, following the completion of the first phase, recruitment for an additional 2,000 police posts is expected in the next phase. However, some groups are allegedly attempting to create confusion among candidates without taking into account the government’s phased recruitment strategy. It is important to understand that recruiting a very large number of personnel in a single phase presents significant administrative and technical challenges.

Senior police officials have observed that large-scale recruitment in one phase could affect the quality of training imparted to newly selected personnel. Effective police training requires adequate infrastructure, qualified instructors, and practical exposure in crucial areas such as law and order management, crime investigation, and public service. If the intake exceeds the capacity of police training institutions, maintaining high

training standards may become difficult.

Similarly, appointing an unusually large batch at one time may create long-term administrative issues, particularly regarding seniority, promotions, and career progression. Since promotions cannot be granted simultaneously to all personnel, such situations may lead to avoidable disputes and dissatisfaction within the force.

Keeping these long-term administrative and professional considerations in view, the government has adopted a phased recruitment approach aimed at ensuring efficient training, smooth administration, and sustainable career growth for police personnel.

Candidates should therefore avoid misconceptions and remain cautious of politically motivated campaigns. Instead, they should make the best use of the opportunities provided, concentrate on their preparation, and work towards achieving their dream of serving in the police department through dedication, discipline, and merit.

-Y.Gopireddy

President, Telangana state police officers association.

Inter-Collegiate Seminar on “GST 2.0” Held Grandly at IIMC College under IAS

HYDERABAD

To create awareness on new changes in the economy and the impact of tax reforms, the Indian Accounting Association, Hyderabad Branch, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management and Commerce - (IIMC), organized an Inter-Collegiate Seminar on the topic “GST 2.0 - The New Tax System and its Impact on the Economy”. The seminar was held successfully at the IIMC campus auditorium.

CMA Dr. K. Ch. A. V. S. N. Murthy, Vice-Chairman, IAA, attended as the Chief Guest. He said that seminars like this help in enhancing the professional skills of faculty and students, and that IAA will continue to organize such programs in the future.



Prof. G. Naresh Reddy, Registrar, Osmania University and Secretary, IAA Hyderabad Branch, who attended as the Guest of Honour, said that such programs should be conducted in more colleges to increase awareness on GST-related issues. The program was presided over by *Prof. Vangapalli

Viswanatham*, Chairman, IIMC College.

Speaking as a Resource Person, prominent Chartered Accountant *Bapu Venkatesam Maruvada* said that GST 2.0 is not just a change in the tax system. It plays a key role in digital transactions, compliance, and ease of doing business.

He explained with examples the benefits, challenges, and future opportunities for small and medium enterprises due to GST.

Another keynote speaker, *Prof. Indrakanti Sekhar*, Principal, UCC & BM, Osmania University, said that students should not limit themselves to textbook knowledge and should develop an understanding of economic policies. He added that the implementation of GST has made the country’s economy more transparent and that it provides a good opportunity for faculty and students to conduct research on this subject. The program continued with an interactive Q&A session. The seminar, which brought clarity on GST to faculty and students, received appreciation from all.

STRONG EPOXY FOR ANY SEASON • ANY REASON



SHORT
TAKES

Questioning injustice
is the best tribute to
Alluri Sitarama Raju:
Dy CM Bhatti

HYDERABAD: Deputy Chief Minister M Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday asserted that questioning injustice and working for the upliftment of marginalized communities is the greatest tribute to freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju. Paying floral tributes to Alluri's statue at Tank Bund along with Minister Vakiti Srihari on the occasion of Alluri's birth anniversary, Bhatti praised the revolutionary's sacrifice for India's freedom and tribal rights at the age of 27. Describing Alluri as an enduring symbol of courage and freedom, the Deputy Chief Minister said his ideals continue to inspire generations. As part of the celebrations, Bhatti handed over an ambulance, arranged by the Kshatriya Seva Samithi, to the Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate, expressing confidence that it would strengthen emergency response and public service.

IIIT-Hyd student dies
by suicide on campus

HYDERABAD: A 20-year-old student of International Institute of Information Technology - Hyderabad allegedly died by suicide after jumping from the sixth floor of a campus building at Gachibowli here on Saturday. The deceased, identified as Abhirup, was a second-year student from Bayyaram village in Mahabubnagar district. According to preliminary information, he had been suffering from health issues and was reportedly under severe mental distress due to academic pressure and deteriorating health. He sustained critical injuries in the fall and died on the spot. Gachibowli Police shifted the body to Osmania General Hospital for post-mortem examination. Police have registered a case and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Online Gambling Addiction Leads to
Kidnapping, Robbery and Attempt to Murder



Karimnagar Police Crack Sensational Case Using Technical Evidence

KARIMNAGAR

A 21-year-old youth, allegedly driven by mounting debts after losing over ₹4 lakh in online gambling, kidnapped a woman labourer, robbed her of her gold and silver ornaments, and attempted to murder her by throwing her into a farm well. Karimnagar Police Commissioner Ghaus Alam disclosed the details while addressing the media on Saturday.

According to Police Commissioner

Ghaus Alam, the victim, Gangadhara Lakshmi (55), went missing from the labour adda near Tower Circle on July 1. During the investigation, police found that she had been kidnapped, robbed and attacked. The accused was identified as Dhamma Dinesh Reddy (21), a second-year degree student from Gollapalli village.

Police said the accused had become addicted to online gambling platforms, including DIUWIN, Jio Lottery and colour trading games, and had accumulated heavy debts through loan apps. In an attempt to clear his debts, he planned the crime after conducting reconnaissance at

several locations. The accused allegedly lured the victim on a Rapido bike to the outskirts of Nustulapur near Thimmapur, assaulted her, robbed about five grams of gold ornaments and 20 grams of silver anklets, and pushed her into an agricultural well. However, the victim survived by holding onto another rope inside the well and was rescued by local farmers the following morning.

Using CCTV footage, mobile phone analysis and other technical evidence, police arrested the accused near Amaraveerula Stupam in Karimnagar. The stolen ornaments, cash, mobile phones and the

motorcycle used in the crime were recovered. Police Commissioner Ghaus Alam cautioned the public against online gambling and illegal betting apps, warning that such addictions could lead to serious financial distress and violent crimes. He also advised daily wage labourers to avoid accompanying strangers and to inform their family members or co-workers before leaving for work.

The Police Commissioner appreciated ACP Venkataswamy, Inspectors K. Ramachander Rao and Tirumal, SI Suman and the investigating team for solving the case swiftly using technical evidence.

Fast cracks down on food
adulteration, books 185 cases
in first 100 days

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's specialised Food Adulteration Surveillance Team (H-FAST) has registered 185 cases and seized nearly 122 tonnes of adulterated and unsafe food during its first 100 days of operation, delivering a major blow to food adulteration networks across the city.

Launched on March 19 under the Hyderabad City Police, H-FAST has carried out extensive raids with the support of GHMC, Food Safety and Veterinary departments. The biggest seizures included over 60 tonnes of chicken waste and substandard meat, 27 tonnes of adulterated ginger-garlic paste, 25.8 tonnes of chemically ripened fruits, stale pickles, synthetic paneer, adulterated khoya, spurious tea powder, cream, ghee, curd and dry fruits.

The highest number of cases was reported from Rajendranagar (55), followed by Golconda (44), Secunderabad (35), Charminar (21), Shamshabad (13), Jubilee Hills (12) and Khairatabad (5). Police have also referred 247 cases

to GHMC Food Safety Officers for regulatory action against paneer units, restaurants, bakeries, hostels, water plants, meat shops and other food establishments.

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police V. C. Sajjanar said food adulteration is being treated as a serious crime and warned that repeat offenders could face action under the Preventive Detention (PD) Act. He urged citizens to report suspected adulteration through Dial 100 or the H-FAST helpline, assuring complete confidentiality for informants.

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police, V.C. Sajjanar, appreciated the H-FAST team for achieving significant results in a short span and for establishing a commendable precedent in inter-departmental cooperation. He extended his gratitude to the collaborating departments and the public, noting that the Commissioner's office now receives an average of 15 public tip-offs daily. The police will not hesitate to invoke the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against the food adulteration mafia, he warned.

Let's Make the Jagannath Rath Yatra a Grand Success -
Bandi Sanjay, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs



KARIMNAGAR

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay has called for a large number of devotees to participate in the Sri Jagannath Rath Yatra program starting from the Mahalakshmi Temple

premises on Thursday afternoon, July 16, 2026, and to attain salvation by pulling the chariot. Today, participating in the wall poster launch event organized by the Sri Jagannath Rath Yatra Utsav Committee under the leadership of ISKCON Narahari Prabhu

Ji, he unveiled the wall posters and said that the pilgrimage on the chariot of Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra will take place from Mahashakti Temple, Mankamma Thota, Telangana Chowk, Bus Stand and Tower Circle to Vaishya Bhavan. He asked

the devotees to make the necessary arrangements for this Rath Yatra.

He said that it is a great fortune that a Hindu relative from Karimnagar got the opportunity to pull the chariot of Jagannath. Narahari Prabhu Ji said that devotees should participate in large numbers in the Jagannath Rath Yatra, which is being held for the fifth time in Karimnagar, to show their devotion and to gain the good fortune of pulling the chariot. Kanna Krishna, on behalf of the Jagannath Rath Yatra Festival Committee, explained the arrangements to Bandi Sanjay. In this program, along with the President of the Festival Committee, Kanna Krishna, committee members Dr. L. Rajabhaskar Reddy, Tummalam Ramesh Reddy, Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, Komuravelli Venkatesham and others participated.

Modernisation of Rice Mills
Key to Making Telangana a
Rice Export Hub: Uttam

Incentives in the offing
for mills exporting rice

HYDERABAD

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the State Government is committed to transforming Telangana into India's leading rice processing and export hub through large-scale modernisation of rice mills, improved infrastructure and value addition. Inaugurating the Bandar Agrotech, a state-of-the-art modern rice mill at Miryalaguda, the Minister said Telangana has emerged as the country's rice bowl with record paddy production and procurement.

He said the government now intends to extend incentives to rice mills exporting rice enabling them to focus on improving the quality, branding and global competitiveness of Telangana rice.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the era of conventional rice milling is giving way to modern technology. He urged millers to upgrade their units with automated machinery, scientific drying systems, silos and quality-control mechanisms to meet international standards.

"Modernisation is no longer an option but a necessity," he observed. Telangana should move beyond merely supplying rice to the Central Pool and instead build strong domestic and international markets for branded Telangana rice. He stressed that value addition would benefit farmers, millers and consumers alike.

He noted that paddy procurement this Rabi Marketing season crossed 81 lakh metric tonne mark significantly surpassing the corresponding period last year. It reflected the confidence of farmers in the government's procurement system. He said the government is encouraging millers to adopt



world-class processing technologies, improve storage infrastructure and reduce post-harvest losses. Scientific storage, efficient milling and better branding would help Telangana capture premium markets in India and abroad, he added.

The Minister appreciated the promoters of the Miryalaguda rice mill for investing in advanced processing technology and said such initiatives would create employment, enhance the value of farmers' produce and strengthen Telangana's agricultural economy.

The new rice mill equipped with 6 silos with 35,000 metric tonne capacity was established at a cost of Rs 150 crores. Reiterating the government's commitment to farmers, Uttam Kumar Reddy said every policy—from irrigation and procurement to processing and marketing—is aimed at ensuring better incomes and making Telangana a permanent leader in the rice sector.

Equipped with advanced Satake Japanese milling technology and an intelligent SCADA automation system, the Bandar Agrotech plant has a processing capacity of 16 tonnes per hour. It features a Photons Industries paddy drying system and six Symaga (Spain) steel silos ensuring scientific storage and year-round operations.

Harish refutes Bhatti's state debt claims, caps BRS loans at 4.17 lakh crore

HYDERABAD

Former minister and BRS deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao has strongly refuted the allegations made by Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka regarding the borrowings of the previous BRS government.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday, Harish Rao accused the Congress government of deliberately spreading falsehoods and presenting misleading figures to divert public attention from its failure to implement election promises and from the alleged scams that have surfaced during his tenure. Presenting what he described as documentary evidence, he said the Congress gov-



ernment's own records prove that the total borrowings of the BRS government amounted to only ₹4.17 lakh crore, including FRBM loans and government-guaranteed borrowings. The BRS MLA explained that the figures being quoted by Congress were inflated

by including loans that predated the formation of Telangana as well as borrowings made after the Congress assumed office in December 2023. He further stated that official documents, including the CAG Report, the State Budget documents, the White Paper

released by the Congress government, and RBI data, support the BRS position. According to him, the CAG has placed the BRS government's borrowings at around ₹4.10 lakh crore, while the Congress government's own White Paper indicates borrowings of approximately ₹4.17 lakh crore.

Harish Rao alleged that the Congress government itself has repeatedly changed its figures on state debt. While one Minister claimed the previous government borrowed over ₹8 lakh crore, another later claimed ₹7 lakh crore, and different figures were presented in the Assembly, White Paper and press conferences. He termed these contradictions proof that the government has no consistent position, he said.

Harish Rao also questioned the

Congress government's own borrowings, alleging that it had accumulated nearly ₹4.5 lakh crore in just 31 months, according to publicly available data. He questioned the discrepancies between figures quoted by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka regarding loans raised after the Congress assumed office.

Harish Rao further alleged that the Congress government was paying huge brokerage commissions to raise loans through corporations by mortgaging government lands. He termed this an unprecedented practice and accused the government of allowing middlemen to profit from public borrowings instead of adopting transparent financial practices.

Vijay Deverakonda, Harish Rao visit
child heart care centre in Siddipet

SIDDIPET

Actor Vijay Deverakonda and former minister and BRS leader Thanneeru Harish Rao on Saturday visited the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Centre for Child Heart Care and Research in Kondapaka, Siddipet district, where they interacted with children undergoing treatment for congenital heart diseases.

Addressing a gathering, Vijay Deverakonda lauded Harish Rao as the "Lion of Siddipet", recalling that the former minister had allocated land for the hospital during his tenure as Health Minister. He praised Harish Rao's efforts in facilitating life-saving heart surgeries for underprivileged children, saying such leaders emerge only once in a generation.

The actor expressed his immense happiness at participating in this special medical camp for children and



witnessing Harish Rao's public service firsthand. Harish Rao said nearly 6,000 pediatric heart surgeries are performed annually through the hospital, with children from across the country receiving free treatment. He urged people to contribute to humanitarian causes, saying good deeds are the true legacy one leaves behind.

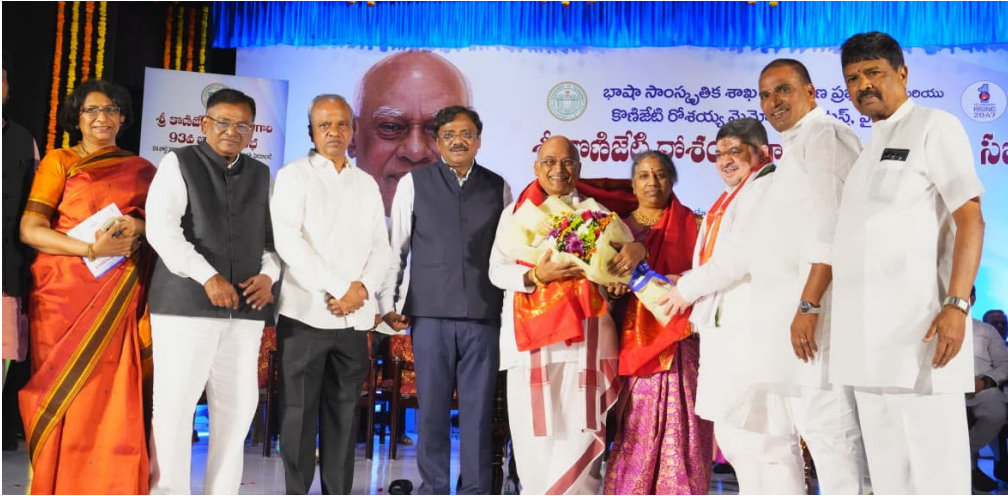
Vivek hails ex-CM Rosaiah as an exemplary statesman

HYDERABAD

Minister for Labour, Employment, Training, Factories, Mines & Geology Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy described former united Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Konijeti Rosaiah as an exemplary statesman whose life and public service continue to inspire future generations.

The Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the 93rd birth anniversary celebrations of the late leader, jointly organised by the Telangana government's department of Language and Culture and the Konijeti Rosaiah Memorial Trust at Ravindra Bharathi on Saturday. Dr. Vivek paid floral tributes to Rosaiah's portrait and recalled his remarkable contribution to public life.

Reflecting on his long association with the veteran leader, Vivek said Rosaiah played an instrumental role as the Leader of the Opposition during the Telugu



Desam Party regime. He noted that Rosaiah meticulously studied budget proposals, held governments accountable on public issues, and went beyond criticism by offering constructive suggestions on strengthening the state's economy. As Finance Minister, he possessed a clear vision for the

state's priorities, welfare, and development, he said. Dr. Vivek also recounted Rosaiah's gracious support during the inauguration of the Jaipur Power Plant, where despite protests, he personally conveyed that development projects should not be viewed through political differences and attended

the event to encourage everyone involved.

Praising Rosaiah's administrative excellence, the Minister said he set high standards in governance through his integrity and diligence. He recalled that Rosaiah was known for working late into the night at the Secretar-

iat, carefully examining every file before taking a decision. Rather than acting in haste, he would thoroughly evaluate whether a proposal was legally sound and beneficial to the people before approving it.

Minister for Transport Ponnamp Prabhakar said that former chief minister Rosaiah stood as a symbol of honesty, commitment, and values in politics.

"Rosaiah's immense grasp of financial matters and his conviction that public funds must be utilised with great responsibility set him apart as a distinctive leader. Rosaiah was a leader who commanded respect from all quarters, transcending political differences," Ponnamp Prabhakar said.

Government Whip Birla Ilaiyah, MLA Vinod, former minister TG Venkatesh, former MP KVP Ramachandra Rao, Vysya Corporation Chairperson Kalva Sujatha, Vani Prasad (IAS), and other key leaders were present. (NSS)

JD Vance hails American spirit at US Navy's 250th anniversary celebration

WASHINGTON

US Vice President JD Vance on Saturday used the 250th anniversary celebration of the US Navy to deliver a sweeping tribute to American history, military service and national unity, urging Americans to embrace what he called the country's shared legacy while rejecting narratives focused solely on its flaws.

Speaking aboard the USS Kearsarge in New York Harbor, Vance addressed sailors, Marines, Coast Guard personnel, veterans, Gold Star families and international naval representatives gathered for the commemoration.

"Today we celebrate 250 years of America facing the future without fear. We celebrate 250 years of proving what a free people can achieve by the providence of our Almighty Creator," Vance said.

He thanked military personnel and acknowledged the participation of foreign delegations, saying, "We have over 50 countries from all over the world that chose to send fighters or naval vessels here to honour our country." "And we say from the bot-



tom of our hearts, we are grateful for our friends, grateful for our allies on this special anniversary," he added.

Vance framed his address around the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the role of General George Washington as British forces prepared to attack New York.

Recalling Washington reading the Declaration to his troops, Vance quoted its opening words: "We hold

these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and that among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

"Even today, 250 years later, these words command tremendous power over us as Americans," he said.

Throughout the speech, Vance highlighted three historical figures whom he described as embodying the

American spirit: George Washington, civil engineer James Buchanan Eads and industrialist Henry Kaiser.

He praised Eads for overcoming repeated setbacks to build engineering landmarks, saying, "He said, 'Yes, I can because I'm an American and I'm going to do it myself.'"

Vance also credited Kaiser with rapidly expanding American shipbuilding during the Second World War and treating workers as partners in the national effort.

"He saw them as fellow citizens who could build amazing things," Vance said. The Vice President also praised the crew of the USS Kearsarge for restoring the ceremony site after severe weather.

"What you folks watching at home on TV may not realise is that everything that you see today was destroyed last night in a storm, but these great sailors rebuilt it in 12 hours so that you all could be here, so that we could have this amazing procession, and so we could celebrate our 250th birthday in style," he said.

Turning briefly to contemporary political divisions, Vance said Americans should reject what he described

as a narrow reading of the nation's history. "You will hear a couple of small but loud voices today speak obsessively not of our national greatness but of our national imperfections," he said.

Vance urged Americans to "reject the two-dimensional view of your fellow citizens" and "reject the view of your nation that sees only its sins but not its grace and its greatness".

"Everything that we have done as a country, we have done together. Not as citizens divided against each other, but as a common people working towards a common future," he said.

Concluding the address, Vance called on Americans to carry forward the country's legacy into its next quarter millennium. "All of us will need to do our part to create the next 250 years of American greatness," he said. "I'm proud of you. Happy birthday, and happy birthday to our great nation. Today, my friends, we celebrate, and tomorrow we get back to work." The speech formed part of the United States' year-long America250 observances marking the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

EAM Jaishankar to embark on six-nation visit from Sunday

NEW DELHI



Brussels on July 14-15.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar will visit Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, New York and Brussels from July 5 to 15, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Saturday. According to the MEA, the EAM will travel to Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman from July 5 to July 10, focusing on enhancing the bilateral relationship with the four countries.

"External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar will be on an official visit to Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman from 05-10 July 2026. During the visit to these countries, he will be meeting with his counterparts and the leadership. The visit will focus on enhancing our bilateral relations with the four countries and also provide an opportunity to exchange views on regional developments and issues of mutual interest," noted the MEA.

EAM will thereafter visit New York to launch on July 13, India's official campaign for the UN Security Council tenure 2028-29.

He will then attend the 3rd India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) meeting and interact with his EU and Belgian counterparts in

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, will also travel to Brussels to attend the 3rd India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) meeting, which will complement the recently concluded India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) and facilitate its implementation, Goyal said on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the 17th Toy Biz International B2B Expo, the minister said we will all be going to a meeting with the European Commission. "Our effort is that it becomes a supplement to the free trade agreement which we have finalised and will help us to smooth the edges and make it easier to implement and benefit from the FTA going forward," Goyal added.

Mali army says situation under control after attacks on several military positions

BAMAKO

The Malian Armed Forces said Saturday that attacks against several military positions in the country earlier in the day were repelled and the situation was "fully under control."

In a statement, the army said the attacked positions were located in Aguelhok, Anefis and Gao in northern Mali, Sebare in the country's central region, as well as Kenioroba, south of the capital Bamako, Xinhua news agency reported.

According to the statement, 20 terrorists riding motorcycles or traveling in armed vehicles were killed in the town of Sebare. In the city of Gao, one soldier was killed and four others were wounded, while six terrorists were killed and one vehicle was destroyed.

The army said aerial and

ground clearing operations were still underway.

Earlier in the day, in a brief statement, the army said the attempted attacks targeted the military positions in Aguelhok, Anefis, Gao, Sebare and Kenioroba.

"The situation is being monitored," the army said, without immediately providing details about the suspected attackers, the circumstances surrounding the incidents or any possible casualties.

Mali has faced a volatile security situation for years, with attacks by armed groups occurring frequently, particularly in the northern and central parts of the country.

In April, the country's Defense Minister Sadio Camara was killed in an attack on his residence in the town of Kati, near Bamako, carried out by armed terrorist groups.

US President Donald Trump: Netanyahu knows who the boss

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Saturday said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could visit the White House as early as next week, while asserting that the Israeli leader "knows who the boss is" as the two allies seek to reset ties strained by differences over Iran and the wider Middle East.

"We get along very good. [Netanyahu] knows who the boss is," Trump told Axios in a brief telephone interview on Saturday, referring to himself.

According to the report, Trump said Netanyahu had requested a meeting at the White House and that it could take place after he returns from the NATO summit.

The meeting, if it goes ahead, would be the first between the two leaders since their Situation Room meeting in February, when Netanyahu presented his



plan for launching a joint war against Iran.

However, an Israeli official told Axios that next week could be too soon because of Trump's travel schedule. The official said the meeting "might take place the week after".

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office confirmed that Netanyahu spoke to Trump by telephone on Friday to congratulate him on

the 250th anniversary of American independence, the report said.

"During their conversation, the Prime Minister said that the United States is a guarantor of global freedom, and that Israel greatly values the close relationship between the two nations. Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Trump agreed to meet soon in the United States," Netanyahu's office said.

The Axios report said the possible meeting comes at a time when Trump's relationship with Netanyahu has faced growing strain despite their long-standing political alliance.

Quoting a US official, the report said: "Many of Trump's closest advisers think that Bibi was wrong about everything."

Axios also reported that Trump criticised Netanyahu during a telephone conversation last month over Israel's military escalation in Lebanon, calling the Israeli leader "crazy" and accusing him of ingratitude.

The report said the differences between the two leaders have widened over regional policy. Despite Netanyahu's reservations, Trump signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) last month extending the ceasefire with Iran and beginning a fresh round of nuclear negotiations.

Pakistan's healthcare system faces widening inequalities: Report

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's healthcare system continues to face deep disparities between public and private medical facilities, limiting access to quality treatment for millions of people despite higher provincial health allocations, a report has said.

According to an analysis by Pakistan Today, inadequate public spending, uneven distribution of healthcare infrastructure and rising out-of-pocket medical expenses have created a two-tier healthcare system, with quality treatment remaining out of reach for a large section of the population.

It noted that the federal government allocated Rs 46.10 billion to the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination in the 2025-26 Budget, lower than the Rs 54.87 billion allocated in the previous fiscal year.

Underfunded public hospitals, particularly in rural and underdeveloped areas, continue to struggle with shortages of staff, equipment and other essential resources, forcing many patients to travel to major cities for treatment and putting additional pressure on urban healthcare facilities. The report cited World Bank data to say that poorer households in Pakistan spend, on average, around 20 per cent of their income on healthcare, leaving many families to choose between medical treatment.

Child abuse remains endemic in Pakistan amid failures in justice system: Report

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan continues to grapple with widespread crimes against children amid long-overdue criminal justice reforms and a poor conviction rate. The state's denial and apathy have prevented meaningful action against the scourge of child abuse and its lifelong consequences, a report has stated.

It cautioned that this inaction poses a "ticking time bomb" for young generations. Citing the 2025 Cruel Numbers report from Sahil (an Islamabad-based organisation that monitors gender-based violence), Pakistani daily Dawn highlighted a grim picture of the dangers children face in Pakistan.

As per the findings, at least 2,003 child sexual abuse cas-



es were registered across the country, with Punjab recording the highest number with 1,549 cases, followed by Sindh with 330, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 91, and 33 cases in other regions. Additionally, more than 4,200 children experienced sexual violence in 2024, while most cases go unreported. "As a disturbing number of cases frequently appear in

the media, a tragedy unfolds before us. Even so, child safety, despite censure from rulers and activists, helplines, and laws to protect children from all violence, remains in shambles. Crimes against children are endemic because reforms in the criminal justice system are overdue and the conviction rate is pitiful," an editorial in Dawn noted. "While violence

is a reality for a billion of the world's innocent who endure physical, emotional, or sexual abuse annually, Pakistan is a paradox where there is a surfeit of laws to shield children," it added.

Highlighting the scale of child abuse in Pakistan, the report said horrific incidents—from the 2015 child pornography scandal involving hundreds of boys and girls in Kasur to the rape and murder of young Zainab Ansari in 2018 and other similarly gruesome cases—triggered the "Kasur Hamara Hai" movement and prompted a series of legislative measures. However, despite repeated promises, it said, the authorities have failed to bring about any significant reassessment of priorities.

"Yet a child's innocence is

still a disposable commodity. Laws and pledges may be momentary, but the toll of abuse, shame, and disregard is not. It imperils the stability and productivity of our youth. Exploitation also devastates mental and physical health and jeopardises children's academic future. Corrective actions entail protection and psychosocial support for victims and their families with awareness and education. Lastly, a callous police force and society silence survivors. The state must know this damage consumes generations," the report stressed. Recently, a report in the European Times stated that the rising number of child abuse cases in Pakistan showcases not only a disturbing increase in violence but also an equally troubling shift in public response.



from early childhood education.

While Beijing described the legislation as a step towards national cohesion, the report cited analysts who argue that the law formalises long-standing policies designed to

assimilate ethnic minorities into the dominant Han Chinese identity, the report noted. Expressing concerns over the "broad and ambiguous wording" of the legislation, the report said that provisions

targeting actions that "undermine ethnic unity" or create "division" leave considerable room for interpretation, giving authorities wide discretion in enforcement.

"Analysts warn that this ambiguity may enable the law to be used as a legal basis for intensifying existing forms of repression in minority regions. In areas such as Xinjiang and Tibet, policies involving surveillance, detention, and cultural restrictions have already been widely documented. The new legislation, critics argue, consolidates these practices under a unified legal structure," the report highlighted.

"The law also emphasises opposition to what it describes as foreign interference, framing external criticism of China's ethnic policies as attempts to destabilise the country. This positioning further strength-

ens the state's narrative of internal security and sovereignty," it noted.

Citing analysts, the report said that another contentious provision is the law's extraterritorial dimension, which explicitly states that individuals and organisations outside China may be held legally accountable if their actions are deemed to "harm ethnic unity or promote separatism".

This provision has fuelled concerns about the "potential expansion of transnational repression" by Chinese authorities.

"Legal scholars and political commentators argue that the clause could be used to target diaspora communities, activists, academics, and journalists who engage in discussions related to ethnic identity, autonomy, or human rights," the report noted.

Bethell, Brook power England to four-wicket win over India

MANCHESTER

Jacob Bethell produced an unbeaten 76 while Harry Brook's breathtaking assault in the powerplay turned the chase on its head as England chased down 191 with an over to spare, defeating India by four wickets in the second T20I in Manchester. With the win, the hosts took a 1-0 lead in the five-game series.

Earlier, India had recovered from a mid-innings slowdown to post 190/7, with Abhishek Sharma setting the tone, Ishan Kishan anchoring the middle overs and Tilak Varma providing the finishing kick. However, England's fearless batting eventually proved too strong despite a spirited fight from India's bowlers.

The visitors could scarcely have imagined a better start with the ball. Arshdeep Singh struck with the very first delivery, inducing an outside edge from Phil Salt, before removing Jos Buttler for a duck in the same over as Varun Chakaravathy held on to a sharp catch at midwicket. England were reeling at 1/2, and India appeared firmly in command.

That advantage lasted only briefly. Brook responded with a breathtaking display of clean hitting, taking Harshit Rana for two boundaries before completely dismantling Arshdeep in the third over. The England skipper hammered 27 runs from the over, striking three sixes and three fours with astonishing timing to transform the complexion of the chase. From 1/2, England rocketed to 38/2 within three overs, swinging the momentum decisively.

India eventually found relief through Axar Patel, whose successful review ended Brook's electrifying 39 off just 15 deliveries. Axar, who also completed 100 T20 wickets during the innings, slowed the scoring considerably alongside Varun Chakar-



avathy, allowing India to claw their way back into the contest.

Bethell, though, never allowed the required rate to spiral out of control. Calm against both pace and spin, the left-hander accumulated smartly while Tom Banton settled in the early collapse. Their partnership steadied England through the middle overs, with Banton repeatedly using the reverse sweep and conventional strokeplay to keep the scoreboard moving.

Arshdeep returned to break the stand, having Banton caught in the deep for 39, before Varun trapped Will Jacks lbw soon after to leave England needing 49 from the final five overs with five wickets in hand. At that stage, India sensed an opening.

Instead, the match slipped away in one disastrous over. Ravi Bishnoi, who had already overstepped once earlier in the innings, bowled two no-

balls in the 17th over, both resulting in free-hits. Bethell punished every mistake mercilessly, smashing three towering sixes and a boundary in an over that leaked 29 runs.

Bethell reached a superb half-century during that assault and continued to dictate terms. Although Harshit Rana removed Sam Curran and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi celebrated his maiden international catch on the boundary, England were left requiring only manageable runs in the final two overs.

Arshdeep, who finished with excellent figures of 3/40 after his dream opening spell, briefly delayed the inevitable, but Bethell calmly guided England home before Jofra Archer sealed victory with two runs off the final ball of the 19th over.

India's innings had followed a similarly fluctuating script. Teenager Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, making history

as India's youngest T20I debutant, announced himself with two sixes before being stumped for 14. Abhishek Sharma then blazed 43 off 24, while Shreyas Iyer (37) and Ishan Kishan (49) stitched together a valuable partnership after the powerplay.

England fought back impressively through Sam Curran's variations, with the left-armer claiming 3/32, but Tilak Varma's unbeaten 24 from only 11 balls, including three sixes in the closing overs, lifted India to what initially looked like a formidable 190.

That total ultimately proved insufficient against an England batting unit that recovered brilliantly from 1/2. Brook's explosive counterattack ensured the asking rate never became overwhelming, while Bethell's mature, unbeaten 76 provided the perfect finishing touch as England completed a memorable chase to take a lead in the series.

Women's T20 WC: England are much more composed and confident, says Nat Sciver-Brunt

LONDON

Ahead of the high-octane ICC Women's T20 World Cup final against arch-rivals Australia, England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt on Saturday stated that her side is entering the title clash with far greater composure and confidence, adding that they have improved a lot since making an early exit in the 2024 edition.

The iconic Lord's Cricket Ground holds fond memories for England, who clinched the 2017 ODI World Cup title here under Heather Knight's leadership with a tense nine-run victory over India. It was a high-pressure match where Nat top-scored for England with a vital 51 off 68 deliveries. Now leading the side herself, Nat is on the precipice of securing England's first T20 World Cup crown since their inaugural tournament triumph at home in 2009. However, England face a monumental task against six-time champions Australia, a team that has held complete psychological dominance over them with eight consecutive victories across formats over a three-year undefeated streak.

"I guess a lot of cricket has happened between 2024 and now. Initially there was a lot of disbelief that we'd sort of lost one game and didn't quite make it to the semis. I suppose that game (defeat to West Indies) was, chaotic for all sorts of reasons. But I think where we are now is as a much more sort of composed and confident team.

"We have been put under pressure and been able to come out the other side and our batting coach calls it nitty-gritty moments, and there are those in every game that we play. But I suppose so far in this one we've



shown that we can get through those moments and come out the other side. So we're a very different team to 2024," said Nat in the pre-match press conference.

The 'Home of Cricket' is no longer an unfamiliar territory for England, who have gained significant exposure to the ground in recent years via The Hundred. Additionally, England will carry fond recent memories of the venue, having registered a comfortable 38-run victory over the West Indies during their group stage encounter here on June 24.

"It is going to be a big occasion. But it's why we've done everything that we've done so far. Everything that we've worked on and everything was to try and get us to this point. So, I suppose acknowledging that and try and take in as much of the day as you can.

"I mean, being part of the 2017 final, we sort of spoke in a similar way about how special a day

it was going to be and try and, I guess, be really present during the day and try and enjoy yourself as much as you can. So, that was what I've been trying to instill in everybody."

"Everyone has done so much hard work, I suppose, to get ourselves into this position. But I guess we would always work hard before a tournament. But I think the levels of confidence that people have in their own ability to be able to put their skills on display regardless of who we're playing, that's probably the bit that I'm most proud of and most pleased about really.

"There's been so many different people during the tournament who have had their moment to shine and to show what they could do. So as a team we're really well balanced in that every one has had success throughout the tournament and can draw on that moment, and feeling to help us tomorrow," she added.

2nd T20I: '17th over haunted us,' says Iyer on where India's lost the game vs England

MANCHESTER

India captain Shreyas Iyer admitted that one costly over changed the course of the contest after England completed a four-wicket victory in the second T20I in Old Trafford on Saturday, chasing down 191 with an over to spare.

Speaking after the defeat, Iyer assessed how the game unfolded, highlighted Jacob Bethell's decisive innings, backed Ravi Bishnoi despite his expensive spell, and stressed that the young leg-spinner would emerge stronger from the experience.

India had appeared in control for much of England's chase after reducing the hosts to 1/2 in the opening over and keeping the pressure on through the middle phase. However, Bethell's unbeaten 76 and a momentum-shifting 29-run 17th over swung the match firmly in England's favour.

Reflecting on where the match turned, Iyer chose not to single out any individual despite the decisive spell.



"I think we all know where it went away but I don't want to pinpoint a particular player. I was like, okay he's going to come back strong after that (the first no ball). But the 17th over haunted us. But he'll learn," Iyer said post game.

The India skipper also felt his side had posted a competitive first-innings total on a surface that wasn't straightforward for batting. "I think it was a phenomenal score on this pitch with variable bounce. First 15 overs we were on top of the game but suddenly - credit

to the way Jacob played," he added.

Bethell's calculated assault, particularly against the spinners in the closing stages, proved decisive as England overturned India's advantage. Iyer credited the left-hander and England's planning for identifying the conditions and boundary dimensions early in the chase. "They analysed the dimensions of the ground and the wicket early," he said. Iyer also praised Sam Curran for executing England's tactical plans with the ball during India's innings, pointing to the accuracy of his lines.

"He was bowling right outside off stump, and that was very well planned (Curran)," the skipper stated. The India captain reserved special praise for Bethell's fearless mindset, saying the youngster's approach had already stood out during practice sessions, as he said, "He's got that unflinching attitude where he's fearless. The way he bats in the nets... something to learn out of him. I wasn't anticipating him to be nervous."

'Golden day for Bihar cricket': BCA President Harsh Vardhan hails Vaibhav's international debut

PATNA

Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) President Harsh Vardhan on Saturday hailed teenaged batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's international debut for India in the ongoing second T20I against England as a 'golden day in the history of Bihar cricket' and a matter of immense pride for the entire state. Sooryavanshi, 15, etched his name into the annals of cricketing history by making his highly-anticipated international debut during the second T20I against England at Old Trafford on Saturday. At 15 years and 99 days, Sooryavanshi was handed his maiden

cap by vice-captain Tilak Varma, thus becoming the youngest-ever Indian cricketer to debut in international cricket. Eventually, Sooryavanshi, playing at the expense of Sanju Samson, made 14 before being stumped off the bowling of Will Jacks. "Today will be remembered as a golden day in the history of Bihar cricket. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi representing India at such a young age is a matter of immense pride for the entire state. "Through his hard work, discipline, and exceptional talent, he has proved that no dream is impossible when dedication meets opportunity. By surpassing the record of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, he has created his-

tory. "On behalf of the Bihar Cricket Association, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Vaibhav and his family and wish him a long, successful, and illustrious international career," Vardhan said in a BCA statement on Saturday. In doing so, Sooryavanshi has shattered long-standing benchmarks of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar and Shafali Verma, who was previously the youngest cricketer to play T20Is for India in both men's and women's circuit.

Tendulkar had famously made his international debut for India in a Test match against Pakistan in Karachi back in November 1989 at the age of 16 years and 205 days.



Wimbledon

Alex de Minaur reaches fourth round with gritty win over Zachary Svajda

LONDON: Fifth seed Alex de Minaur continued his impressive Wimbledon campaign by overcoming a spirited challenge from American Zachary Svajda 6-2, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday to reach the fourth round at the All England Club for the third consecutive year. The Australian took two hours and 41 minutes to secure his win, showing great composure after losing the second set. De Minaur broke Svajda's serve eight times and won an impressive 70 percent of his second-serve return points. He is on track for potentially his best Grand Slam performance. "I thought it was a high-quality match. A lot of credit goes to Zach. He's a very talented player and made things tough for me," De Minaur said after the match.

Women's T20 WC

Ellyse Perry's fitness to be decided on match day, says Molineux

LONDON: Australia captain Sophie Molineux says a final decision on Ellyse Perry's availability for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 final against hosts England will be taken on match day, but remains confident the veteran all-rounder can still make a significant impact even if she is unable to bowl. Australia and England will reignite one of women's cricket's biggest rivalries when they meet in the title match at Lord's on Sunday. Both teams have remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, leading their groups before winning convincingly in the semi-finals, setting up an exciting finale. Perry suffered a quad injury during Australia's eight-wicket semi-final win over West Indies and had to retire hurt, raising concerns about her fitness for the final.

Wimbledon: Eala ends Swiatek's title defence to enter round of 16

LONDON

Alexandra Eala's remarkable rise reached another milestone on Saturday as the Filipina stunned defending champion Iga Swiatek in straight sets to storm into the fourth round of Wimbledon for the first time.

The 21-year-old, seeded 29th, delivered a fearless display on Centre Court to defeat the third seed 7-6(9), 6-2, overcoming two set points in a gripping opening-set tiebreak before taking complete control of the contest.

The victory makes Eala the first player from the Philippines to reach the second week of a Grand Slam, extending what has already become the finest major campaign of her career.

The opening set proved to be the decisive passage of play. With both players refusing to yield, the contest stretched into a tense tiebreak where Swiatek twice stood within a point of taking the lead. Eala, however, refused to buckle under pressure, producing clutch tennis to edge the breaker before carrying that momentum into a dominant second set.

Once ahead, the Filipina never allowed the reigning champion a route back into the match. She dictated rallies from the baseline, absorbed Swiatek's pressure with composure and raced through the second set to complete one of the biggest upsets of the tournament.

The result also reinforced Eala's growing reputation as one of the tour's most dangerous giant-killers. Since announcing herself with a victory over Swiatek in Miami last year, she has steadily built on that breakthrough with a runner-up finish at Eastbourne and two WTA 125 titles this season, including Birmingham. Her latest triumph improved her record against Top-10 opponents to 7-4 and maintained her unbeaten run against elite players on grass this year.



Having arrived at Wimbledon with just one main-draw win in Grand Slam singles, Eala has now rewritten history for Philippine tennis and moved within three victories of an unlikely title.

Standing between her and a place in the quarter-finals is 13th seed Jasmine Paolini, who enjoyed a far more straightforward afternoon.

Last year's Wimbledon finalist needed only 66 minutes to dispatch Maria Sakkari 6-1, 6-2 in a polished display. Paolini was rarely troubled on serve, conceding only 11 service points throughout the match while saving both break points she faced. She also proved clinical at the net, winning 10 of her 12 approaches to secure a sixth appearance in the second week of a Grand Slam.

The fourth-round meeting carries added intrigue, with Eala holding a psychological edge after defeating Paolini in Dubai earlier this year. With confidence soaring after dethroning the defending champion, the Filipina will now aim to continue her dream run and edge another step closer to the biggest achievement of her burgeoning career.

Wimbledon: Madison Keys stuns Anisimova to reach fourth round

LONDON

No. 26 seed Madison Keys continued her outstanding grass-court form with a superb comeback victory over 2025 Wimbledon finalist Amanda Anisimova, winning 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 on Saturday to book her place in the fourth round at the All England Club.

Following her title success in Eastbourne just a few weeks ago, Keys extended her winning run to 10 matches, reaching the Wimbledon Round of 16 for the

sixth time in her career. The win also represented her 30th career Wimbledon main draw victory and also served as revenge for the only loss she had suffered against Anisimova, which was at the 2025 WTA Finals in Riyadh where Anisimova came back from a set down to beat her.

The American needed one hour and 40 minutes to take her turn in coming back from a set down on Centre Court. In the previous round Anisimova had put immense faith in her serve



to defeat Sofia Kenin, but today it simply deserted her. The sixth seed committed seven double faults against Keys having just committed eight combined in her previous two matches and, after hitting a costly double fault on break point in the second set, which helped fuel Keys' turnaround, she was unable to contain her opponent, with the former Australian Open champion dominating the remaining two sets with her powerful baseline game, continuing her tremen-

dous grass court form. The result opened up the bottom half of the women's singles draw, even further after the shock departures of No.2 seed Elena Rybakina and No.3 seed Iga Swiatek earlier in the day. Keys will next play No.9 seed Linda Noskova for a place in the Wimbledon quarter-finals after the Czech also fought back from a set down in spectacular style to save a match point, as well as overcoming No.17 seed Sorana Cirstea 2-6 6-3 7-6(9).

