HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 | VOL NO. 17 | ISSUE NO.: 95 | RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) | PAGES: 12 | RS. 1/-

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026 | WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM



ETHANOL-BLENDED PETROL: Usage Needs a Review?

OPINION 06



SAPTAMI ELEGENT SAREE CHARM

BOX OFFICE 12

PM: PAPER LEAK MAFIA Will NOT BE SPARED



New Delhi, July 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday welcomed Parliament's passage of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, describing it as a major step towards creating a transparent and reliable examination system.

In a video message after the Rajya Sabha cleared the Bill, the Prime Minister said paper leaks had affected students for decades and vowed strict action against those involved. "The paper leak mafia and those playing with the future of the country's children will not be spared," he said, adding that stringent laws and greater use of technology were essential to curb examination-related crimes.

The Bill, passed by both Houses of Parliament within two days, proposes tougher penalties, including imprisonment of up to 10 years and fines up to ₹50 lakh for offenders, besides Special Fast Track Courts, time-bound investigations and a Special Task Force to probe paper leak cases. Union Minister Jitendra Singh said the legislation would protect nearly 7.65 crore students by ensuring transparent and fair public examinations. The Bill will now be sent to the President for assent.



Comprehensive Action Plan to Tackle El Niño Conditions

Expert Committee Recommends Key Measures to Protect Agriculture and Allied Sectors

Dr. G. Chinna Reddy Submits Comprehensive Report to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy

Implementation of the Action Plan Estimated to Require ₹ 802.92 Crore

Hyderabad, July 30: A State-level comprehensive action plan to tackle the impact of El Niño and drought-like conditions in Telangana was submitted to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy by Expert Committee Chairman Dr. G. Chinna Reddy at the MCRHRD Bodhi Centre on Thursday.

The report, prepared by senior government officials, scientists, agricultural experts and research institutions, outlines immediate, medium- and long-term strategies to protect agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, irrigation and rural livelihoods. Agriculture Secretary Surendra Mohan, Agriculture Director Gopi and senior officials were present during the submission. Speaking to the media later, Dr. Chinna Reddy said the committee had anticipated the challenges posed by El Niño and prepared a coordinated action plan focusing on water conservation, promotion of alternative crops, quality seed distribution, fodder security, expansion of horticulture and weather-based advisories to minimise farmers' losses.

The committee noted that Telangana had received only 234.80 mm of rainfall against the normal 740.60 mm southwest monsoon

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WHEN PARLIAMENT ERASES WORDS, QUESTIONS ONLY GROW LOUDER

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

What happened in the Lok Sabha on 29 July 2026 was not merely another noisy exchange between the government and the Opposition. It became a debate about something much larger. Who decides what history remembers? When controversial remarks are expunged from the parliamentary record, does the controversy disappear, or does it simply move outside Parliament?

Every Parliament has two stories. One unfolds before news channel cameras. The other survives in the official record. On 29 July 2026, those two stories parted ways.

During the debate on the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi delivered an attack on the Union Government over the police action against protesting students in Delhi. He referred to allegations of pellet gun injuries, nail-studded lathis and excessive use of force. He directly questioned the political accountability of

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Rajya Sabha Clears Anti-Paper Leak Bill

New Delhi, July 30: Parliament on Thursday passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, after the Rajya Sabha approved it, a day after it was cleared by the Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to strengthen measures against examination malpractices and ensure greater transparency, credibility and fairness in public examinations. During the debate, the INDIA bloc walked out before Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh replied, protesting the government's handling of examination paper leaks.

Replying to the discussion, Singh rejected the Opposition's claim that 152 examination paper leaks had occurred under the NDA government, saying the figure was unverified. He said the legislation would protect the interests of students and deserving candidates by curbing organised examination-related crimes.

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the NEET paper leak and police action against protesting students, besides seeking the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. While the DMK did not join the walkout, its amendments to the Bill were defeated before the legislation was passed by the Upper House.

"Who Gave Revanth the Right to Insult Telangana's Young Engineers?"

Hyderabad, July 30: BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) strongly criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that insulting the talent of Telangana's young engineers by calling them "criminal waste" reflects the Chief Minister's arrogance. He expressed his strong reaction through the social media platform 'X'.



KTR questioned what qualification Revanth Reddy had to make remarks that demean the capabilities of Telangana's youth. He posed a series of questions, asking whether Revanth Reddy had ever appeared for a competitive examination, attended a job interview, or had experience working in any professional organization.

KTR said that the people of Telangana have not forgotten Revanth Reddy's past and alleged that his journey began as a real estate broker and later moved into "blackmail politics." He said it was extremely unfortunate that a person who came to power after allegedly "buying the Chief Minister's post in a bankrupt Congress party" was insulting the youth of Telangana, who are contributing technical experts and engineers to the nation.

KTR demanded that the Chief Minister immediately withdraw his remarks insulting Telangana's youth and apologize to them, stating that the hard work and talent of Telangana's young people are being recognized globally.

Relentless rains raise reservoir levels across Telangana

HYDERABAD, JULY 30

Incessant rainfall driven by the impact of a deep depression continues to lash several parts of Telangana, triggering severe swelling of local streams and bringing heavy flood inflows into major reservoirs across the Krishna and Godavari basins.

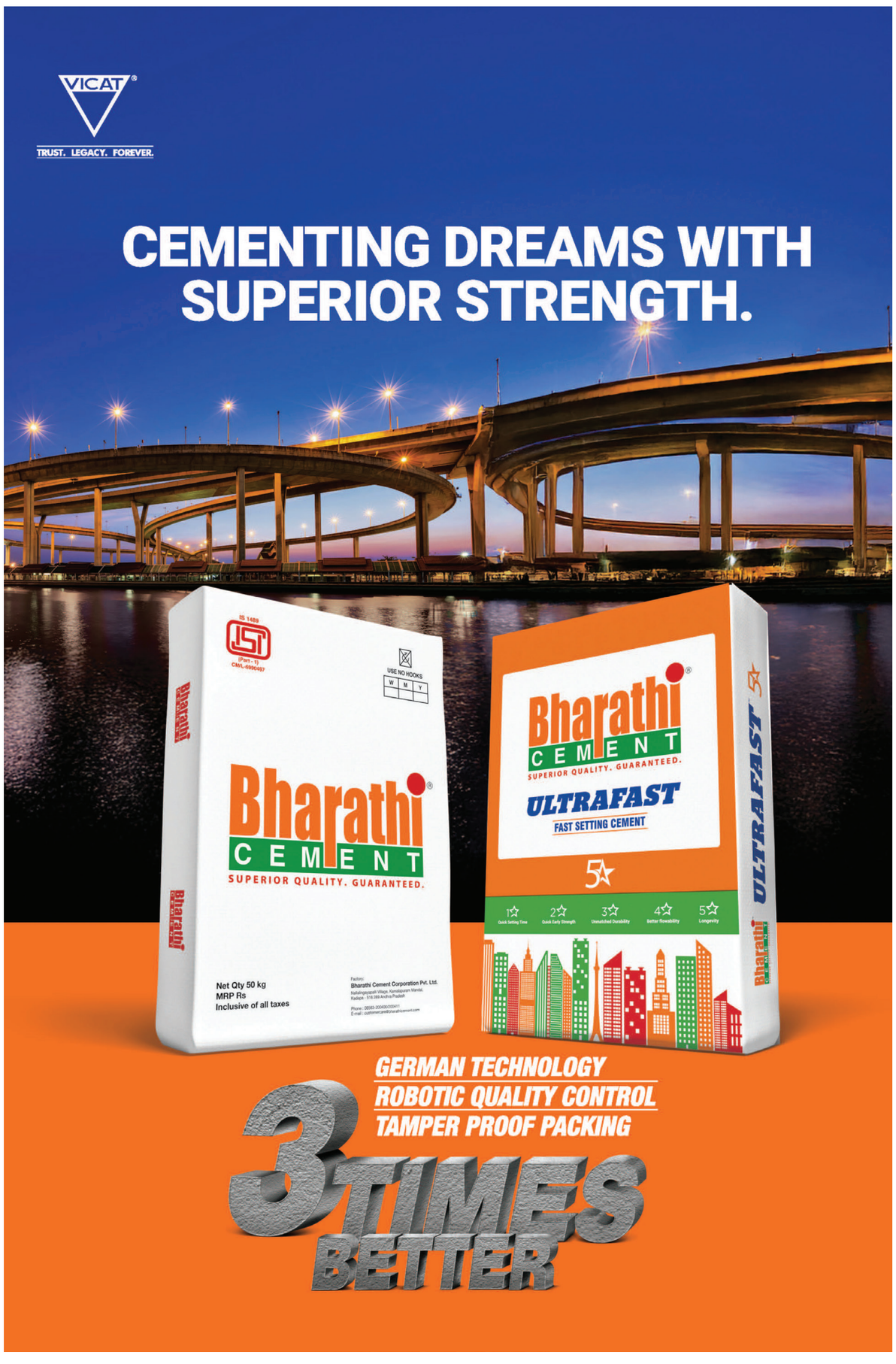
Water levels have risen sharply at the Jurala, Sriramsagar and Nizamsagar projects. The flood situation is also intensifying in the Godavari River at Bhadrachalam, where the water level has now reached 27.4 feet. Several waterfalls are in full spate due to the incessant rains, prompting authorities to issue advisories urging tourists to remain cautious.

The Priyadarshini Jurala Project in Mahabubnagar district is witnessing heavy flood inflows. Officials have lifted 10 spillway gates to release excess water downstream. The project is currently receiving an inflow of 91,000 cusecs, while the outflow stands at 81,695 cusecs. Against the full reservoir level (FRL) of 318.516 metres, the present water level is 317.35 metres.

The reservoir's full storage capacity is 9.657 TMC, while the current storage has reached 7.371 TMC. Amid the heavy inflows, power generation is continuing in 11 units at the upstream and downstream hydel power stations.

The Sriramsagar Project (SRSP) in Nizamabad district is also receiving moderate flood inflows following the continuous rains.

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CS CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN TO BOOST TELANGANA EXPORTS

Hyderabad, July 30: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to accelerate the State's export growth by addressing exporters' concerns, strengthening infrastructure, exploring new international markets, and implementing export-friendly policies. Chairing the meeting of the State Export Promotion Committee (SEPC) at the Secretariat on Thursday, the Chief Secretary instructed all concerned departments to work in close coordination to promote exports

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Govt releases final ₹2,000 crore to settle employee arrears



NEXT DOOR 05

Chengicherla Substation Gets Power Boost

12.5 MVA Transformer Commissioned to Strengthen Supply for 25,000 Households.

BY SAMUDRALA KIRAN , CORRESPONDENT



Hyderabad, July 30, 2026: Under the visionary leadership of Honorable Chief Minister, A. Revanth Reddy and Honorable Deputy Chief Minister & Power Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, TGSPDCL is steadily working to further strengthen the electricity distribution network to ensure quality, uninterrupted power to consumers.

To meet the rising electricity demand, capacity enhancement works are being carried out across substations. As part of these efforts, a 12.5 MVA power transformer has been installed at the Chengicherla 33/11 kV substation in the Medchal Zone—Habsiguda Circle, Keesar Division, Ghatkesar Subdivision, Medipalli Section. The new transformer has been commissioned in place of the existing 8 MVA unit and was successfully charged on Wednesday.

This upgrade will benefit approximately 25,000 electricity service connections in the Chengicherla substation area. The additional capacity will help reduce load on the transformer, manage growing demand more efficiently, prevent overloading, and improve voltage levels—leading to a more stable and reliable electricity supply for consumers.

The improved power supply is expected to enhance service in Chengicherla village and surrounding colonies including Kranti Colony (Phases 1 to 5), MLR Colony, Akshaya Nagar, Venkatasai Nagar, Privilege, Sai Residency, Venkataadri Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Nandini Nagar, Dattatreya Nagar, Rajesh Nagar (Phases 1 to 3), Dwaraka Nagar (Phases 1 & 2), Radhika Nagar, Stalin Colony, TS Foods Colony, Shiva Ganesh Nagar, Yadaiya Nagar, Kakatiya Colony, Kamala Nagar, Chinna Kranti Colony, Jaya Sri Colony, Aravind Enclave, Akshaya Enclave, Buddha Vihar, Ramakrishna Nagar, My Villas, and nearby areas.

The program was attended by Director (Operations) Shri N. Narsimhulu, Chief Engineer/Medchal Zone Shri P.V. Ramesh, Superintending Engineer/Habsiguda Shri P. Venkanna, DE/Keesar Shri T. Lingayya, DE/TREE Medchal Shri K. Ramakrishna Reddy, ADE/Ghatkesar Shri Y. Vijay Kumar Reddy, ADE/TREE Shri N. Sridhar, ADE/Protection Jaya Sri, ADE/Lines Shri M. Ratnachari, along with other officials and staff.

TGSPDCL reiterated that it is continuing priority measures to deliver quality, uninterrupted, and dependable electricity by strengthening substations, upgrading transformers, and enhancing the distribution network in line with demand growth.

Dr. Ramteja Sajja's Specialized AI Research Points to a More Trusted

Efficient and Impactful Future for Education, Science, and India



HYDERABAD, JULY 30

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming modern life, but Dr. Ramteja Sajja's work focuses on a deeper challenge: how AI can become a trusted expert in specialized fields rather than remain a general-purpose chatbot. After earning his Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Iowa under the mentorship of Professor Ibrahim Demir, Dr. Sajja joined Tulane University as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow, where he continues his research under Professor Demir's guidance. With more than 20 peer-reviewed publications, nearly 1,800 citations, and internationally recognized contributions across educational AI, hydrology, retrieval systems, and large language models, his research is centered on building AI systems that solve practical problems in education, scientific discovery, environmental planning, and decision-making.

A major outcome of Dr. Sajja's doctoral research is Educational AI Hub, an AI-powered learning platform designed specifically for higher education. Unlike general-purpose AI assistants, the platform is integrated into university learning management systems and grounds its responses in instructor-provided course materials, allowing students to ask questions, receive personalized explanations, summarize lectures, generate quizzes and flashcards, and prepare for exams using reliable course-specific information. Already deployed at the University of Iowa with approximately 150 students, the platform is expected to expand to Tulane University in Fall 2026, supporting nearly 600 students across multiple courses. Evaluation studies involving engineering and nursing students showed strong acceptance, with students describing the system as convenient, easy to use, and especially helpful for understanding difficult concepts and preparing for assignments. In engineering courses, the platform recorded more than 600 AI-assisted learning interactions and over 100 survey responses, with nearly half of participating students saying they felt more comfortable asking questions through the AI assistant than approaching instructors or teaching assistants directly. At the same time, Dr. Sajja's research emphasizes responsible AI adoption, showing that students viewed the platform as a learning companion rather than a replacement for educators.

To strengthen the intelligence behind educational AI systems, Dr. Sajja developed EduEmbed, a family of open-source embedding models trained specifically for educational content. General-purpose embedding models often struggle with academic terminology, course-specific language, and institutional documents, limiting the reliability of AI assistants in university settings. EduEmbed addressed this limitation by training on 3,197 educational sentence pairs and evaluating performance across 28 university course syllabi. The models consistently outperformed widely used open-source embedding systems such as all-MiniLM-L6-v2 and multi-qa-MiniLM-L6-cos-v1, while substantially narrowing the performance gap with proprietary commercial systems such as OpenAI's text-embedding-3 models. Dr. Sajja extended this domain-specific approach to hydrology and environmental science through HydroEmbed, one of the first embedding model families built specifically for hydrology. Fine-tuned using the HydroLLM Benchmark and evaluated on 400 held-out hydrology question-answer pairs, HydroEmbed matched or exceeded leading proprietary and open-source baselines, demonstrating that specialized AI can outperform general-purpose systems in technical scientific domains.

Dr. Sajja also helped develop HydroLLM, one of the first comprehensive benchmark datasets for evaluating large language models in hydrology. Built from hydrology textbooks and scientific literature, the benchmark contains approximately 8,800 domain-specific questions across multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and open-ended reasoning tasks. It has been used to evaluate advanced models including GPT-4o-mini and multiple Llama variants, giving researchers a standardized framework to measure how well AI systems understand specialized scientific knowledge. Beyond language models, Dr. Sajja has explored multi-agent AI systems for water-resource planning and flood mitigation. In one framework, 1,000 AI agents representing diverse demographic and social characteristics simulated how communities negotiate priorities involving flood protection, environmental conservation, and infrastructure investment. The study found that age was the strongest predictor of mitigation preferences, highlighting AI's potential not only to model technical systems but also to capture the human dimensions of environmental decision-making.

Today, Dr. Sajja's research is focused on post-training, alignment, reasoning, preference optimization, and small language models—areas widely viewed as the next frontier of artificial intelligence. While recent AI breakthroughs have often depended on building increasingly massive foundation models, Dr. Sajja believes the future will also depend on making AI more intelligent, efficient, and trustworthy after pre-training. This direction has major implications for universities, hospitals, government agencies, and research organizations that need powerful AI without the enormous cost of frontier-scale computing infrastructure. It is especially relevant for India, which is rapidly emerging as a global AI leader. Dr. Sajja believes India's greatest opportunity lies not only in using frontier AI models but in building specialized systems that address national needs in education, agriculture, healthcare, flood forecasting, water-resource management, digital governance, and public services. By advancing efficient, domain-specific AI tailored to local languages, institutions, and societal priorities, his research aims to help translate cutting-edge innovation into practical solutions that strengthen education, accelerate scientific progress, and support sustainable national development.

Annual Foreign Tours for Govt Teachers

Hyderabad, July 30: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday announced that the Telangana government will organise annual foreign study tours for government teachers to enhance their teaching skills and expose them to global best practices, on the lines of overseas training programmes for IAS and IPS officers. Addressing delegates of the Finland and Germany Exposure Programme, the Chief Minister said the government would bear the expenses for teachers' overseas training as part of its commitment to improving the quality of public education.

Revanth Reddy directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan by December for the next academic year, with every mandal treated as an educational cluster to strengthen planning and implementation. Emphasising that education is the key to social progress, he said true backwardness is caused by a lack of education rather than economic or social status. The State government's objective, he added, is to generate higher revenues and utilise them for the welfare of the poor through quality education.

The Chief Minister said the government spends around ₹1.08 lakh per student in government schools and pointed out that nearly one lakh additional students had enrolled in government institutions this academic year. He described the increase as a sign of growing public confidence in government schools. Assuring teachers that their concerns would be addressed, Revanth Reddy said the government has undertaken several reforms, including providing breakfast to students from Nursery to Class XII, conducting teacher recruitment and promotions, upgrading Industrial Training Institutes into Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs), and establishing a Skills University with industry participation.

He urged teachers to focus on students' welfare and create greater awareness about the importance of education, stating that teachers play a vital role in shaping future generations. Calling for collective efforts, he appealed to educators to transform government schools into world-class institutions and make Telangana a model State in the education sector. During his address, the Chief Minister also referred to the country's rising debt, criticising the Centre's fiscal management, while reiterating that the State government's priority remains strengthening public education and expanding opportunities for students from all sections of society.

Govt releases final ₹2,000 crore to settle employee arrears

Hyderabad, July 30 (NSS): Acting on the directives of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, the state government on Thursday released ₹2,000 crore to clear the long-pending dues of government employees and pensioners. With this final tranche, authorised by Finance Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, the government has fulfilled its pledge to clear ₹6,000 crore in arrears within a 100-day deadline.In an official statement, the government highlighted that the commitment made to the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of employees' unions stands completely honoured. The newly released funds fully resolve all pending commutation arrears for pensioners, alongside General Provident Fund (GPF) dues and other small pending bills. The Finance department added that remaining administrative liabilities will be systematically cleared in a phased manner over the coming days.

Comprehensive Action Plan to..

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rainfall up to July 27, leaving the State with a rainfall deficit of nearly 30%. However, the recent rains over the past three days have brought relief to rainfed crop growers and improved soil moisture. To address water scarcity, the report recommends reducing water-intensive paddy cultivation and promoting crops such as red gram, green gram, black gram, maize, millets, oilseeds, vegetables and fodder crops, supported by village-level action plans and quality seeds with up to 75% subsidy.

The committee also advocated wider adoption of drip and sprinkler irrigation, rainwater harvesting, farm ponds, groundwater recharge and other water conservation practices. It recommended expanding horticulture through short-duration vegetables, fruit orchards, oil palm and sericulture, along with subsidies for drip irrigation and protected cultivation.

For the livestock sector, the report proposes district-level fodder banks, increased fodder cultivation, silage production, Azolla cultivation and cattle camps wherever necessary. It also recommends using MGNREGS for check dams, farm ponds, tank desilting and groundwater recharge to strengthen water resources while creating rural employment.

The report stresses that Mission Bhagiratha should continue prioritising safe drinking water supply and calls for coordinated efforts by government departments, agricultural universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras to provide continuous weather-based advisories to farmers.

The committee estimated that implementing the proposed action plan would require ₹802.92 crore, stating that timely execution would help safeguard agricultural production, protect farmers' livelihoods and strengthen Telangana's resilience against El Niño-related challenges.

CS CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE ACTION..

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from key sectors, including industries, manufacturing, agriculture, food processing, pharmaceuticals, handicrafts, and IT-enabled services. He directed officials to expedite measures that would further boost the State's economic growth through exports and position Telangana as one of the country's leading export hubs.

Officials informed the meeting that Telangana recorded exports worth ₹1,22,655 crore during the last financial year. They noted that the State has significant potential to increase exports of agricultural produce, horticultural products, poultry products, vegetable seeds, red chillies, and other commodities. They also highlighted that Telangana offers a favourable ecosystem to expand the export of these products to international markets.

The Chief Secretary further advised officials to strengthen coordination with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Union Government to drive higher export growth in the State.

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PARLIAMENT ERASES THE WORDS..

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Union Home Minister Amit Shah, arguing that if such force was authorised, responsibility rested with the Home Minister, and if it was not authorised, the ministry still had questions to answer.

Treasury benches immediately objected. The Speaker ordered several portions of the speech to be expunged from the proceedings. The official parliamentary record no longer contains those remarks. The political debate, however, has only intensified.

WHAT WAS REMOVED

The Speaker's authority to expunge remarks is neither new nor extraordinary. The Rules of Procedure allow the Chair to remove words considered defamatory, unparliamentary, undignified or otherwise inconsistent with the dignity of the House. That power exists to preserve decorum.

But every exercise of that authority inevitably raises another question. Where should Parliament draw the line between maintaining order and preserving political accountability? The portions removed reportedly included Rahul Gandhi's direct allegations against the Home Minister, references to the RSS and the expression "andhbhakt."

Those deletions have now become almost as significant as the speech itself. Because sometimes, what disappears from the record attracts more public attention than what remains.

THE WORDS WERE REMOVED. THE QUESTIONS WERE NOT.

The Speaker's order erased portions of Rahul Gandhi's speech from the official Lok Sabha record. It did not erase the allegations, the government's denial, the reported injuries, or the public demand for clarity. Parliamentary procedure may settle what appears in the proceedings. It cannot decide what remains in the national conversation.

THE CENTRAL DISPUTE

At the heart of this controversy lies a factual disagreement. Rahul Gandhi has alleged that protesting students suffered pellet gun injuries and has cited an AIIMS medical certificate to support that claim.

The Government has consistently denied the use of pellet guns, maintaining that only standard crowd-control measures, including tear gas, were employed. These are competing claims. They require evidence, investigation and verification. They cannot be settled merely through political speeches or political denials. That is precisely why the demand for greater transparency has continued outside Parliament.

A LAW ABOUT EXAMINATIONS BECAME A DEBATE ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY

Ironically, the legislation under discussion was intended to strengthen the integrity of public examinations and curb unfair practices. Instead, much of the parliamentary attention shifted to the events surrounding student protests against examination irregularities. That shift is politically significant. It reflects the wider public anxiety over repeated allegations of paper leaks, recruitment delays and uncertainty faced by young aspirants. For many students, the debate is no longer confined to examination reforms. It is also about how the State responds when frustration spills onto the streets.

CAN HISTORY BE EDITED WITH A STROKE OF THE PEN?

Expungement protects the dignity of Parliament when rules are breached. But when the deleted remarks concern alleged use of force by the State, another question inevitably arises. Does removing the accusation strengthen parliamentary discipline, or does it deepen public curiosity about what was considered too contentious to remain on the record? The answer lies not in deletion, but in transparent facts and credible accountability.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL BALANCE

Article 105 of the Constitution grants Members of Parliament freedom of speech inside the House, subject to parliamentary rules. That privilege protects legislators from legal action for what they say during proceedings.

It does not prevent the Chair from directing that certain remarks be removed from the official record under established parliamentary procedures. This creates a constitutional balance. Members enjoy wide freedom to speak. The Chair retains authority to regulate what forms part of the permanent proceedings.

The challenge is ensuring that this balance is seen as fair by both the government and the Opposition. Public confidence depends not only on procedural correctness but also on the perception of impartiality.

EXPUNGED BEFORE. DEBATED AGAIN.

Parliament has erased controversial words before. But every deletion has left behind a larger political argument. The controversy surrounding Rahul Gandhi's expunged remarks on 29 July 2026 is not without precedent. Speakers of both Houses have long exercised their authority to remove remarks considered defamatory, unsubstantiated, unparliamentary or contrary to the Rules of Procedure. Rahul Gandhi himself has been here before. In July 2024, soon after becoming Leader of the Opposition, substantial portions of his first major Lok Sabha speech were expunged. Those deleted passages included remarks concerning the Prime Minister, the BJP, the RSS, the Agnipath scheme and the NEET controversy.

Rahul Gandhi responded then with a pointed observation: "Truth can be expunged from Parliament's records, but not from reality." Nor is the practice confined to one political party. Over the decades, Speakers have ordered the deletion of remarks made by MPs from across the political spectrum whenever they were found to violate parliamentary rules. The power is recognised as an essential instrument for maintaining the dignity of the House.

Yet every high-profile expunction has produced the same constitutional debate. Does deleting controversial allegations protect parliamentary decorum, or does it unintentionally amplify public interest in what has been removed? That question has resurfaced with fresh intensity after Rahul Gandhi's latest speech. This time, the controversy extends beyond political rhetoric to allegations concerning police action against protesting students and competing claims over the use of force. The Government has rejected those allegations, while the Opposition has continued to demand an independent inquiry.

History suggests one lesson.

Parliamentary records can be edited. Political controversies rarely can.

THE REAL TEST OF DEMOCRACY

Healthy democracies are not measured by the absence of uncomfortable questions. They are measured by their willingness to confront them. Governments have every right to reject allegations they consider unfounded. Oppositions have every right to demand accountability within parliamentary rules. Institutions gain credibility when both principles operate together.

When allegations concern the use of force against citizens, especially students, the public naturally expects facts to emerge through transparent processes rather than prolonged political confrontation.

MY SHOT

An expunged sentence is not necessarily an answered question. Removing words from the parliamentary record may settle a procedural issue inside the House, but it rarely settles the political debate outside it.

If the Government's position is supported by the evidence, transparency strengthens that position. If the Opposition's allegations are unsupported, evidence should demonstrate that as well. Parliament exists not only to pass laws but also to test governments through scrutiny and debate. The official record may omit certain words. Public memory rarely does.

Relentless rains raise reservoir levels across Telangana

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The current inflow stands at 6,250 cusecs. Against its FRL of 1,091 feet, the present water level is 1,065 feet.

The reservoir has a total storage capacity of 80 TMC, of which 16 TMC is currently available.

The Nizamsagar Project, also in Nizamabad district, is witnessing an inflow of 3,935 cusecs. The project has an FRL of 1,405 feet and a storage capacity of 17.802 TMC. The current water level is 1,395.83 feet, with storage at 7.146 TMC.

The Singur Project in Sangareddy district is receiving a marginal flood inflow. The reservoir is recording an inflow of 517 cusecs and an outflow of 470 cusecs. Against its full storage capacity of 29.9 TMC, the present storage is 4.249 TMC.

Meanwhile, continuous rainfall over the past two days has disrupted coal production in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district. Floodwater has inundated the Open Cast-II and Open Cast-III coal mines in the Bhupalpally Division, forcing suspension of operations for two days. Around 12,000 tonnes of coal production has been affected, with officials estimating losses of nearly ₹4 crore to Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

GITAM Continues Tradition of Supporting Govt School Students with Educational Kits





HYDERABAD

Reinforcing its commitment to community service and sustainable development, GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, distributed Classmate notebooks, crayons, pens, pencils, stationery kits and meals plates to students of Rudraram Zilla Parishad High School and Government Primary School on Saturday.

The initiative is part of GITAM's long-standing outreach programme, which has been carried out consistently for the past 12 years to support the educational needs of children from government schools in the surrounding villages.

The distribution programme is closely linked to GITAM's sustainability efforts under the theme "Wealth out ofWaste (WoW)." Through this initiative, GITAM students collect used newspapers, old records, books, and other recyclable paper materials from the campus, with the help of Hospitality Department. These materials are handed over to ITC Paperboards and Specialty Papers Division for recycling. In return, ITC provides Classmate educational products, which are distributed to underprivileged students, thereby promoting both environmental conservation and social responsibility.

The educational kits were distributed by D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director, GITAM Hyderabad; Dr.P.V.Nagendra Kumar, NSS Coordinator. GITAM alumnus Anuj SuRao, Madhav Bhaskar, President of the E-Club, and members of the E-Club, also actively participated in organizing and conducting the programme.

The students received the notebooks and stationery kits with great enthusiasm and expressed their happiness through cheerful smiles and heartfelt gratitude. The Headmasters and teachers of the respective schools extended their sincere appreciation to GITAM and ITC for their continued support and cooperation to their students.

Speaking on the occasion, the university representatives reiterated GITAM's commitment to fostering quality education, environmental sustainability, and meaningful community engagement through initiatives that create a lasting positive impact on society.

BJP Leaders Acquitted in Alleged False Cases Registered in 2019 at Amberpet Police Station

HYDERABAD



The Hyderabad Chief Metropolitan Magistrate IV Criminal Court has dismissed a case that the BJP claims was falsely and maliciously filed by the previous BRS government against BJP leaders from the Amberpet constituency, who had been continuously fighting on public issues.

According to the statement, in 2019, the then KCR-led government registered a case at Amberpet Police Station (CrPC 12570/2019) with the alleged intention of suppressing BJP leaders who were leading protests and movements in support of public causes.

Despite the alleged attempts to intimidate them, the BJP leaders continued their legal battle for the past seven years under the leadership of advocate Sri Chintala Krishna, displaying what the statement describes as "56-inch courage."

During the trial, the police were reportedly unable to produce sufficient evidence. After examining all aspects of the case, the Honorable Judge today declared all the BJP leaders not guilty and dismissed the case. Following the verdict, Geetha Murthy, former State President of the BJP Mahila Morcha and National Council Member, said that the then KCR government had harassed opposition parties, especially the BJP, in various ways. She alleged that whenever BJP leaders organized movements in support of the people, false police cases were filed against them. She expressed satisfaction that they had ultimately won the legal battle after seven years.

Later, BJP leader Yedelli Ajay Kumar said:

"The court has rejected the conspiracy of the KCR government, which tried to frighten us by filing false cases for fighting on behalf of the people. This verdict proves that truth ultimately prevails. Our struggle for public issues will continue with even greater determination."

BJP leaders acquitted in the case: Yedelli Ajay Kumar

Smt. Geetha Murthy, Former BJP Mahila Morcha State President and National Council Member

Former Corporator Smt. Y. Amrutha, Rangampalli Raju, P. Nagaraju Chary, A. Yashwanth, Yedelli Balu, Mallikarjun, Sandeep Yadav

Non-teaching staff key to university development: BRAOU Registrar

HYDERABAD

Emphasising the vital role of non-teaching employees in higher education, Dr. L. Vijaya Krishna Reddy, Registrar of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, said the non-teaching staff are crucial to the efficient functioning and overall development of the universities.

Speaking as the chief guest at the first Executive Meeting of the Telangana State Universities Non-Teaching Staff Association (TUNTEA) held at BRAOU, Dr. Reddy said dedicated service by non-teaching staff ensures smooth administration and quality student services.

He called upon employees to work with cooperation, coordination, and commitment to strengthen the university system.

He expressed confidence that TUNTEA would emerge as a common platform to address the welfare, service matters, and professional concerns of non-teaching employees across Telangana universities. He added that higher education can be strengthened by protecting employees' rights while encouraging dedication, accountability, and a service-oriented approach.

TUNTEA President Abdul Khadeer Khan, Secretary General K. Prem Kumar, General Secretary Jayaram, Honorary President Srinivas Yadav, and representatives of non-teaching staff associations from universities across Telangana attended the meeting.

Fire Department on Alert Due to Heavy Rains

- **DG Vikram Singh Mann Reviews Preparedness with Officials from All 33 Districts**
- **Instructions Issued to Keep Rescue Teams, Boats, and Dewatering Pumps Ready**

HYDERABAD



In view of the ongoing rains across the state and forecasts of more heavy rainfall, the Telangana Fire Department has gone on high alert. To review preparedness measures for dealing with monsoon-related disasters, Director General of the Telangana Fire, Disaster Response, Emergency and Civil Defence Department, Vikram Singh Mann, IPS, held a video conference on Thursday with District Fire Officers, Assistant District Fire Officers, and Station Fire Officers from all 33 districts of the state. During the meeting, special attention was given to districts that have been issued heavy rainfall warnings. The DG reviewed the readiness of rescue teams, the availability and operational status of boats, dewatering pumps, communication systems, and other emergency equipment in each district. He directed officials to ensure that all fire stations remain fully prepared to respond immediately to any emergency.

Coordination Is Key to Success

DG Vikram Singh Mann emphasized that advance preparedness and swift response during disasters are crucial to minimizing loss of life. He advised officials to apply the lessons learned from the two rounds of flood mock drills conducted at the state level in real-world situations. He also instructed them to strengthen coordination with district administrations, the police, revenue and municipal departments, as well as the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to ensure quick and effective action during emergencies.

He further directed officials to continuously monitor weather conditions throughout the monsoon season and take all necessary measures to safeguard the lives and property of the public. The meeting was also attended by the department's Director, Additional Director, RFO–MZ–II, and other senior officials.

Bandi Sanjay seeks probe into Telangana panchayat fund utilisation

Hyderabad: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has sought a comprehensive and impartial inquiry into the utilisation of Central Finance Commission funds by Gram Panchayats in Telangana, alleging irregularities and violations of prescribed guidelines. In separate letters addressed to Union Panchayat Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh) and Telangana Panchayat Raj Minister Danasari Seethakka, Bandi Sanjay claimed that several Sarpanches had complained of being pressured by officials to spend Finance Commission funds contrary to established norms.

The minister said he had submitted documentary evidence highlighting alleged instances of guideline violations in certain Gram Panchayats. His latest communication follows an earlier letter to the Union Minister, after which Telangana Panchayat Raj Commissioner Divya Devarajan publicly stated that the allegations lacked factual basis.

Railway Development Talks with Telangana Delegation



New Delhi: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed key railway projects with Telangana public representatives.

Highlights:

DPR for the Adilabad–Armur new railway line is complete; approval process to begin soon.

Plans to develop Hyderabad as a major high-speed rail hub within the city to maximize public benefit.

Other important railway connectivity projects in Telangana were also discussed.

Konda Surekha invites Governor to attend Lashkar Bonalu celebrations

HYDERABAD



Minister for Environment & Forests and Endowments Konda Surekha, accompanied by Commissioner of Endowments Hanumantha Rao, visited Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan on Thursday. During the meeting, the Minister extended an invitation to the Governor to participate in the upcoming Ashada Jatara (Lashkar Bonalu) festivities scheduled to take place in Secunderabad.

Earlier, the Governor released the book Footprints in the Forests–Memoirs of a Forester, authored by former principal chief conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Telangana, Paresh Kumar Sharma at Lok Bhavan. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor underscored the importance of conserving forests and protecting biodiversity, stressing the need for sustained efforts to preserve the country's natural heritage for future generations.

Among those present were Supriya Bhale Rao of SRAS Publications, Dr. Manoranjan Bhanja, (Retd.), and psychologist and counsellor Smt. Neha Vyas.

Later, the Governor was called on by Visakha Sri Sharada Peethadhipathi Sri Sri Swaroopanandendra Saraswati Mahaswami at Lok Bhavan. Retired IPS officer K.C. Reddy and My Bharat Telangana State Director Anvesh also met the Governor during the day.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
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Tender Notice No. . 20_2026-27_ Sr.DEE_TRD_HYB, dt: 29.07.2026 PUB/515

Sr.DEE/TRD/HYB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against **Tender No. 20_2026-27_Sr.DEE_TRD_HYB, dt: 29.07.2026, closing date: 20.08.2026, 15:00 hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Sl. No. 1, **Description of work:** Hyderabad Division - Malkajgiri Yard Remodeling: Provision of Down loop line and 02 additional lines, **Tender Advertised Cost (₹):** 5,96,56,768.80, **EMD (₹):** 11,93,100.00, **Completion Period:** 12 Months, **Date of Closing:** 20.08.2026

Website particulars: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen: **Office of the Sr.DEE/TrD/HYB, Hyderabad Bhavan, Secunderabad - 500025.**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD/ Hyderabad

No. NW/148/WIII/Tender Notice/ 2026-27, Date: 29.07.2026 PUB/516

The following tender work uploading on Indian Railway E-Procurement System. The details of the tender which is already uploaded at **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sl. No. 1, **Tender No.:** T-202627-3-028, **Authority:** Co-ord, **Tender value in Rs.:** 6,34,87,323.92, **Earnest money in Rs.:** 12,69,800.00, **Completion period:** Six Months, **Description of the work:** Provision of Quick watering system at Nagarsol Station, **Cost of Tender form in Rs.:** 0.00

Sl. No. 2, **Tender No.:** T-202627-3-029, **Authority:** Co-ord, **Tender value in Rs.:** 4,01,81,973.98, **Earnest money in Rs.:** 8,03,600.00, **Completion period:** Twelve Months, **Description of the work:** SW-I: Construction of TRD Depot at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (CPSN) Station. SW-II: RPF Office Building at Nagarsol along-with Amenities. SW-III: Improvement of Running Room at Manmad Station, **Cost of Tender form in Rs.:** 0.00

Sl. No. 3, **Tender No.:** T-202627-3-030, **Authority:** Co-ord, **Tender value in Rs.:** 3,72,25,405.55, **Earnest money in Rs.:** 7,44,500.00, **Completion period:** Twelve Months, **Description of the work:** SW-I: RPF Office Building at HNL and GNH along-with Amenities and 06 Bed Capacity Rest Room. SW-II: Improvement of Running Room at Purna Station, **Cost of Tender form in Rs.:** 0.00

Sl. No. 4, **Tender No.:** T-202627-1-031, **Authority:** Co-ord, **Tender value in Rs.:** 8,85,71,532.05, **Earnest money in Rs.:** 17,71,400.00, **Completion period:** Twelve Months, **Description of the work:** Provision of a new Control Office and standby alternate control in Nanded Division, **Cost of Tender form in Rs.:** 0.00

Sl. No. 1, **Tender No.:** T-202627-03-028, **Sl. No.** 2, **Tender No.:** T-202627-03-029, **Sl. No.** 3, **Tender No.:** T-202627-03-030, **Sl. No.** 4, **Tender No.:** T-202627-01-031. **Similar nature of work (for Costing above 50 lakhs):** Any Railway track work including track maintenance work.

The above tender will closed on **20.08.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.**

The bid document and other details, login at **https://www.ireps.gov.in.** Any corrigendum will be issued online only.

Sr. DEN/Co-ord/ Nanded

Tender Notice No. 1A-OEW -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB, 21-PA -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB & 22-OSW -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB PUB/517

Sr.DEE/M/HYB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tenders Closing date. 25-08-2026, 15:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Sl. No. 1, **Description of work: Tender No. 1A-OEW -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB:** Hyderabad Division: Replacement of LT OH lines with UG cables covering service buildings / Colonies etc. in SLGD , MLY, NLGD Jurisdiction., **Approx. Cost (₹):** 3,42,51,845.00, **EMD (₹):** 6,85,000.00, **Completion Period:** 12 Months, **Date of Closing:** 25.08.2026

Sl. No. 2, **Description of work: Tender No. 21-PA -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB:** Hyderabad Division: SC-DHNE Section:-Provision of COP at A) KRNT for length of 255m on PF No.1 and for a length of 160m for PF No. 2/3. B) MBNR for a length of 275m on PF1 No.1 and for a length of 250m on PF No. 2/3 - Electrical arrangements, **Approx. Cost (₹):** 2,30,62,377.00, **EMD (₹):** 4,61,300.00, **Completion Period:** 12 Months, **Date of Closing:** 25.08.2026

Sl. No. 3, **Description of work: Tender No. 22-OSW -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB:** Hyderabad Division: 1) SC-DHNE Section: Provision of Water Supply arrangements to TM Sidings, Improvements to Service Bldg under the ADEN/ KRNT & KCG - Electrical arrangements (10 Locations Only) 2) Improvements to Drain, Leaky Roof, Water supply arrangements, Plinth Protection works, Internal Service Roads, Parking Sheds & Toilets for Service Buildings under Jurisdiction of ADEN/KCG - Electrical arrangements, **Approx. Cost (₹):** 83,71,044.00, **EMD (₹):** 1,67,400.00, **Completion Period:** 12 Months, **Date of Closing:** 25.08.2026

Website particulars: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Maintenance/ Hyderabad

Open E-Tender Notice No. CAO/Con/RSP/SC/05/2026-Capital (works) dated 28.07.2026 PUB/518

For and on behalf of The President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works **up to 11:00 hrs on 20.08.2026.**

Sl. No. 1, **e-Tender No.:** CONST-CAO-RSP-26-014, **Name of the work:** Secunderabad Division: Raichur-Wadi section: Proposed Construction of New ROB in lieu of LC. No. 225 at Saidapur Station yard, **Approx. Tender Value (₹):** 44,99,46,053.17, **EMD (₹):** 89,98,900.00, **Completion Period (in Months):** 18, **Defect liability period (in Months):** 48, **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria:** B.II (d) Any "Railway/ Metro/ Road Bridge Work having steel composite / Bowstring girder and/or PSC girder in super structure".

Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers will be considered.

Tender conditions / other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at **www.ireps.gov.in** which can be downloaded, view modification, if any and can be participate through the website as mentioned.

Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/RSP/ Secunderabad
A602

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through https://ireps.gov.in) PUB/508

CE/C/Plg.&Sy./SC Construction Organization, S.C.Railway, Secunderabad, respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

S.No.: 01 **NIT No. :** PGMS-01-CAO-C-SC-2026 Date: 08/07/2026 **Name of work:** Appointment of PGMS Agency for providing Project General Management Services for CAO construction unit South Central Railway, Secunderabad **Estimated Cost (₹):** 360,02,60,000/- **EMD (₹):** 7,20,05,200/- **Completion Period:** 60 (Sixty) Months **Date of Opening:** 21/09/2026 15:00hrs.

S.No.: 02 **NIT No. :** 37-CAO- C-SC-2026 Date: 23/07/2026 **Name of work:** SCR Construction Organization - Proposed new BG line works between Manoharabad and Kothapalli Stations - GJWL-LKDM Section - Proposed Construction of new Road over Bridge No. 90/A with approaches on either side comprising 14 x 18.40 m RCC Girder + 1 x 36.00 m Composite Welded Girder (Railway Proper) + 9 x 18.40 m RCC Girder in lieu of existing temporary manned LC No. 2 at Ch: 45190.00 m on Kukunoorpalli and Bobbaipally BT Road between Kodakandla and Lakdaram Stations of Hyderabad Division. **Estimated Cost (₹):** 531591171.90Ps **EMD (₹):** 10631800.00 **Completion Period:** 18 (Eighteen) Months **Date of Opening:** 28/08/2026 15:00hrs.

i) For bid document and other details, please login to website **https://ireps.gov.in.**

ii) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender.

iii) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.

Chief Administrative Officer, Const., Secunderabad

Tender No. 18_2026-27_Sr.DEE_TRD_HYB, dt: 28.07.2026 PUB/509

Sr.DEE/TRD/HYB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against **Tender No. 18_2026-27_Sr.DEE_TRD_HYB, dt: 28.07.2026, closing date: 19.08.2026, 15:00 hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

S.No.: 01 **Description of work :** Hyderabad Division - Secunderabad-Dhone (UP&DN) - Re-alignment of curves- 7 nos. **Tender Advertised Cost (₹):** 4,57,11,066.00/-**EMD (₹):** 9,14,200.00/- **Completion Period:** 12 Months **Date of Closing:** 19.08.2026

Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in

Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen: Office of the Sr.DEE/TrD/HYB, Hyderabad Bhavan, Secunderabad - 500025.

Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer, TrD, Hyderabad
A595

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

SHORT TAKES

BJP demands Kharge's suspension over remarks on Amit Shah



HYDERABAD: *Telangana BJP chief spokesperson and media in-charge N.V. Subhash on Thursday launched a sharp attack on Congress President and Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, alleging that his remarks during the debate on the Anti Paper Leak (Amendment) Bill amounted to a threat against Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Addressing the media here, Subhash accused the Congress of promoting intimidation and "mob politics", and demanded that the Rajya Sabha suspend Kharge for the remainder of the session. He defended Amit Shah's role in strengthening internal security, highlighting the abrogation of Article 370 and the Centre's anti-Naxal operations. Subhash also accused the Congress of lacking moral authority to speak on accountability, citing its role during the Telangana statehood movement and the 1969 agitation. He alleged that the party was resorting to aggressive political tactics after repeated electoral setbacks.*

Holds Video Conference to Review Situation in Godavarikhani, Peddapalli and Ramagundam





HYDERABAD

Telangana Minister for Information Technology and Industries, D. Sridhar Babu, on Thursday directed officials to undertake flood relief and rehabilitation measures on a war footing in Godavarikhani, Peddapalli and the Singareni coal belt, where incessant heavy rainfall over the past two days has inundated several residential colonies.

The Minister reviewed the flood situation through a video conference from the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat with the District Collector of Peddapalli, Chairman and Managing Director of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), Executive Director of NTPC, Chairman and Managing Director of Telangana GENCO, officials of Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL), the Ramagundam Police Commissioner and other senior officials.

Government Whip and Peddapalli MLA Chinthakunta Venkataramana Rao and Ramagundam MLA Makkan Singh Raj Thakur also participated in the review meeting.

The Minister instructed officials to remove all obstructions in drainage channels to facilitate the speedy evacuation of stagnant floodwater from the Ramagundam industrial area. He urged SCCL and NTPC officials to actively participate in relief operations and extend full cooperation to the district administration.

Reviewing the situation in Veerlapalli village, where residential areas have been inundated, the Minister directed officials to divert floodwaters through an alternative channel to prevent further flooding of the village. He also instructed the Peddapalli District Collector to expedite the process of issuing house site pattas so that eligible beneficiaries could construct Indiramma houses.

Noting the severe flooding in Godavarikhani, the Minister directed the Ramagundam Police Commissioner to ensure full support from the police department to the municipal and revenue authorities in carrying out relief operations. He also instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted traffic movement on major roads and deploy disaster response teams across Ramagundam without delay.

The Minister expressed satisfaction that nearly 80 per cent of the 1,021 tanks in Peddapalli district have been filled due to the heavy rains, which would ensure adequate irrigation water for approximately 2.7 lakh acres of agricultural land. He further stated that the water storage in the Sripada Yellampalli Project is expected to reach 20 TMC by Thursday evening. He instructed officials to continuously monitor water levels and ensure that not a single drop of water is wasted.

The Minister also directed Singareni and District Medical and Health Department officials to organise special medical camps in flood-affected Veerlapalli village, Godavarikhani and the Ramagundam industrial area. He instructed officials to remain vigilant, work in close coordination with local public representatives, and ensure that people do not face any inconvenience during the relief operations.

The Minister appreciated the efforts of the Ramagundam Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Corporators for personally monitoring and coordinating flood relief operations in the affected areas.

KU NGO leaders nominated to the State Association

Dr Srinivas Vooradi

HYDERABAD



The executive committee meeting of the Telangana State Universities Non-Teaching Employees Association (TUNTEA) was held at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University on Thursday. TUNTEA President Abdul Khader Khan and Secretary General Kantham Premakumar handed over letters of nomination to Vallala Tirupati General Secretary of Kakatiya University NGO Employees Association as TUNTEA Working President, Boora Naveen Kumar as Vice President and Tati Damodar as Joint Secretary and they will serve in the State association for the next three years.

Speaking on the occasion, State President Abdul Khader Khan called for Health cards for all employees working in the universities, release of pending DA, implementation of PRC, immediate filling up of non-teaching staff vacancies, scrapping of the CPS system and implementation of the old pension scheme, and launching a membership enrollment drive in universities. He said that the association should be strengthened through membership and called for protecting employees' rights. Later, the newly elected executive committee was felicitated.

Life imprisonment for man convicted in 2022 Miyapur murder

HYDERABAD



A court at LB Nagar in Rangareddy district has sentenced Yeddu Sandeep Kumar alias Bablu (26) to rigorous life imprisonment for the murder of N. Shobha and the attempted murder of her daughter Vaibhavi in a sensational 2022 case under the limits of Miyapur Police Station.

The XII Additional Sessions Judge Smt T Anitha also awarded the convict 10 years rigorous imprisonment for attempted murder and three months simple imprisonment for house trespass, besides imposing fine of Rs.10,000.

According to the prosecution, the accused had been harassing Vaibhavi after their relationship ended, suspecting her character and repeatedly threatening her. After learning about her engagement, he entered the family's residence on December 13, 2022, and attacked Vaibhavi and her mother with a knife.

Shobha succumbed to her injuries the following day, while Vaibhavi survived the attack. The accused later attempted suicide and was hospitalized. Following a detailed investigation by Cyberabad Police, the accused was arrested and charge-sheeted. The court convicted him after a full-fledged trial, bringing the nearly four-year-old case to a close.

Tajikistan seeks cultural partnership with Telangana Archives



HYDERABAD

Tajikistan Ambassador to India, Bobokalonzoda Lukmon, visited the Telangana State Archives on Monday and proposed collaboration with the Telangana government for translating, transliterating, and publishing rare manuscripts under the India–Tajikistan cultural exchange programme. The Ambassador praised India's rich knowledge heritage and expressed interest in making the rare manuscripts accessible in the Tajik language. Telangana State Archives Director Dr. Zareena Parveen showcased rare Persian manuscripts, while officials highlighted the institution's ongoing digitisation efforts. Prof Akhtar Ali of the department of Geography, Osmania University, accompanied the Ambassador during the visit.

Assistant director M.A. Raqeeb welcomed the Ambassador and briefed him on the ongoing digitisation project of the Telangana state archives. Assistant directors Sandhya Rani and G Srikanth were also present on the occasion.

TGCSB, DoT join hands to crack down on telecom-enabled cybercrime



HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Thursday held a high-level coordination meeting to strengthen efforts against telecom-enabled cybercrime, with a focus on faster detection, investigation and citizen protection.

The meeting, chaired by TGCSB Director Shikha Goel, brought together senior officials from the DoT, Intelligence Bureau, telecom service providers and the cyber security bureau. K Raja Sekhar, Deputy Director General (Technology), and Hemant Rathwe, Deputy Director General (Security), represented the DoT.

Discussions centred on tackling the misuse of SIM Boxes, tightening SIM card verification, curbing fraudulent multiple SIM issuance, and improving mechanisms to identify suspicious mobile numbers linked to cybercrime complaints. Participants also explored measures to combat international spoofed calls, VoIP-based frauds, telecom identity masking, and phishing links through enhanced technical collaboration.

The meeting stressed the need for stronger coordination among the Department of Telecommunications, Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), telecom and Internet service providers (TSPs & ISPs), and law enforcement agencies to improve cybercrime investigations and safeguard citizens. TGCSB reiterated its commitment to leveraging technology, strengthening inter-agency cooperation, and adopting proactive strategies to curb emerging cyber threats and telecom-enabled fraud.

Three held for attempt to murder a woman in family property dispute

HYDERABAD

Tappachabutra Police arrested three persons for allegedly attempting to murder a woman over a family property dispute near Samosa Galli here in Daibagh. Case was registered under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Arms Act, 1959. Police said the accused - Mohammed Dastagir Shareef, Gulam Nabi Qureshi and Mohd Osman attacked the victim with a butcher knife after trespassing into her house and also assaulted her husband when he intervened. The injured woman managed to escape and seek help before the assailants fled. Police recovered the weapon and the scooter used in the crime, and all three accused have been remanded to judicial custody. The case was detected under the supervision of V. Tirupathi, ACP, Kulsumpura Division, led by G. Balakrishna, Inspector of Police, D. Venkateshwarlu, Detective Inspector, SI L. Raju (IO), along with police constables U. Ganesh, S. Mohan Rao, P. Satheesh, G. Venkatesh, and P. Shiva Kumar.

Komatireddy orders officials on high alert amid heavy rains



HYDERABAD

In view of the widespread rainfall across Telangana over the past two days, Roads & Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy held a review meeting at the Secretariat on Thursday with senior officials to assess the situation and preparedness.

The Minister reviewed the condition of roads, bridges, low-level causeways, and culverts across the erstwhile districts and R&B divisions, seeking detailed reports on vulnerable infrastructure. He directed officials to make alternative traffic arrangements in flood-affected areas to ensure that road connectivity is not disrupted.

The Minister also instructed officials to install warning signboards near damaged roads, submerged causeways, and culverts to prevent accidents and safeguard commuters.

Emphasising the need for constant vigilance, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy directed all officials to remain in the field and ensure that adequate safety measures are taken at roads and bridges currently under construction. He asked the department to coordinate closely with the Revenue, Police, Electricity, and Irrigation departments at the field level for effective disaster response. The Minister instructed officials to prepare daily field reports and said he would conduct regular mobile conference calls with field engineers to monitor the situation.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy also directed all R&B officials, from the Engineer-in-Chief (ENC) to Assistant Engineers (AEs), to remain on full alert until the situation returns to normal.

Komatireddy Manjula Rani Memorial Foundation Inaugurated



Hyderabad, July 30: The Komatireddy Manjula Rani Memorial Foundation, established in the loving memory of Late Lion Smt. Komatireddy Manjula Rani, was formally inaugurated with a commitment to promoting education, social service, and environmental protection. Inspired by her lifelong dedication to empowering children through education, the Foundation began its journey by distributing free notebooks to more than 200 Intermediate First and Second Year students from the BiPC, MPC, and CEC streams studying in government schools and junior colleges.

The inaugural programme was held at Chaitanya Junior College, B.N. Reddy, in the presence of eminent educationists, principals, government junior college lecturers, social workers, teachers, students, parents, and distinguished guests from various educational institutions.

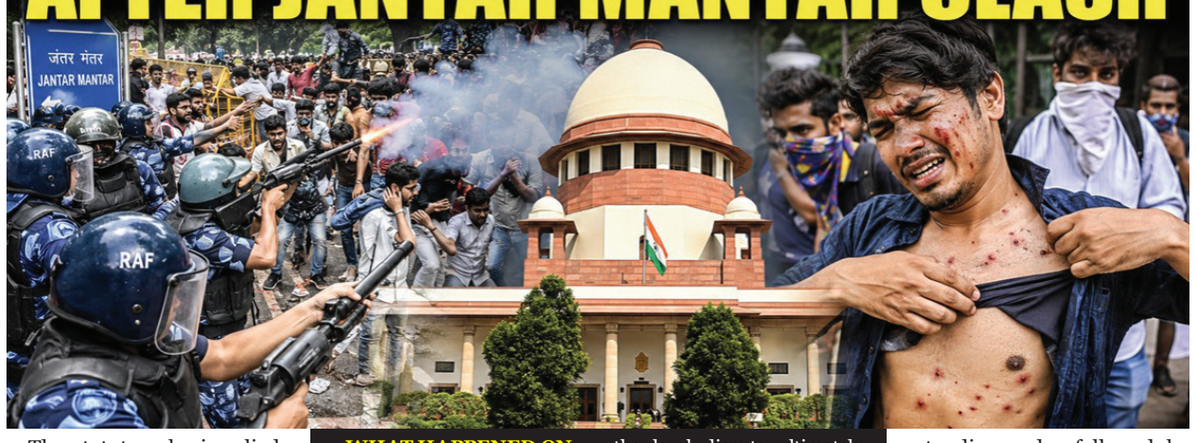
A Living Tribute to Late Smt. Komatireddy Manjula Rani

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, Chairperson of the Komatireddy Manjula Rani Memorial Foundation, Founder Chairman of the World Federation for Children Rights, eminent educationist, environmentalist, and Chairman of the Lotus Lap Group of Schools, said that the Foundation is not merely a charitable organisation but a people's movement dedicated to carrying forward the ideals, vision, and humanitarian values of Late Smt. Komatireddy Manjula Rani.

He recalled that Smt. Manjula Rani was born in Marripeda, Warangal district, to Late Dr. Kota Narasimha Reddy and Smt. Padma. She began her professional career as a Zoology Lecturer and later worked as a Manager at the internationally renowned World Book Encyclopedia in the United States. After marrying Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy in 1992, she devoted herself to transforming education and became the Co-Founder of the Lotus Lap Group of Schools, touching the lives of thousands of students.

Despite facing severe health challenges during her lifetime, she remained steadfast in her belief that "No child should discontinue education because of poverty." Dr. Gopal Reddy stated that this noble vision became the inspiration behind establishing the Foundation.

SUPREME COURT PUTS PELLET GUNS UNDER THE LENS AFTER JANTAR MANTAR CLASH



BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The Supreme Court has thrown open the constitutional examination of the police response to the July 20 Jantar Mantar student protest, demanding the Delhi Police produce its standing operating procedure on the graded use of force and directing the Centre to preserve the Rapid Action Force ammunition log. While refusing to immediately outlaw pellet guns, the Court has made it clear that every round fired, every order issued and every injury suffered will now be measured against constitutional standards of legality, necessity and proportionality. The case has become far bigger than one protest. It is now about defining the constitutional limits of State power when citizens take to the streets.

India's highest constitutional court has shifted the debate over the Jantar Mantar clash from slogans to evidence. A Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, along with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, has directed the Delhi Police to place before it the precise standing order governing the graded use of force during crowd control operations. Simultaneously, the Union Government has been instructed to preserve the complete ammunition records of the Rapid Action Force relating to the events of July 20. These are not routine procedural directions. They signal that the Court intends to examine whether every step taken by the authorities remained within the boundaries drawn by the Constitution and the law. When constitutional courts ask for operational manuals and ammunition registers, they are not merely collecting paperwork. They are tracing accountability.

ARTICLE 32 BRINGS THE CONSTITUTION TO THE STREETS

The proceedings began with a petition under Article 32 of the Constitution filed by former Central Information Commissioner and retired IPS officer Yashovardhan Azad along with two injured protesters. The petition contends that the alleged use of wholly or partly metallic kinetic projectiles against civilians violated three fundamental guarantees.

- ***Article 14 promises equality before law.***
- ***Article 19 protects peaceful speech and assembly.***
- ***Article 21 safeguards life and personal liberty.***

The petitioners sought a nationwide prohibition on pellet guns against civilian assemblies together with compensation and comprehensive medical care for those injured. The Supreme Court, however, declined to immediately declare such weapons unlawful. Justice Joymalya Bagchi observed that existing police rules and the advisory issued by the Bureau of Police Research and Development recognise pellet guns as one of the measures available in exceptional situations within a graded response framework. Unless those rules themselves are challenged, the Court indicated, merely questioning their use in a particular incident may not be sufficient to secure a blanket prohibition. Accordingly, the petitioners have been granted liberty to amend their pleadings if they wish to directly challenge the validity of those governing rules.

THE LAW GIVES POWER BUT NOT AN UNLIMITED LICENCE

The statutory basis relied upon by law enforcement is contained in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

- Section 148 authorises the police to direct an unlawful assembly to disperse and permits the use of necessary force when such directions are ignored.
- Section 149 enables the assistance of the armed forces when ordinary civil policing proves inadequate.
- Section 151 protects officers acting in good faith under these provisions.

Yet statutory authority alone does not settle the constitutional question. For decades, the Supreme Court has consistently held that every exercise of police power must satisfy the twin constitutional tests of necessity and proportionality. Those principles do not disappear merely because a statute authorises force. They become even more important. That explains why the Court now wants to examine the actual

WHAT HAPPENED ON JULY TWENTY

The confrontation arose during a large student march at Jantar Mantar. Thousands of demonstrators sought to march towards Parliament demanding accountability over the NEET paper leak and broader reforms in the examination system. The police intervention quickly escalated. Official records subsequently acknowledged the deployment of tear smoke, various shells and plastic pellet rounds by the Rapid Action Force. Some protesters have alleged that metallic projectiles caused their injuries. Medical records, photographs and individual testimonies subsequently entered the public debate. The Supreme Court has now directed the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi to ensure the best possible medical treatment for all injured persons, reinforcing the State's constitutional obligation under Article 21 to protect life and health irrespective of how the legal dispute ultimately concludes.

THE AMMUNITION REGISTER MAY BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT WITNESS

Perhaps the most consequential direction issued by the Court concerns the preservation of the Rapid Action Force ammunition log. Official records often reveal details that competing public narratives cannot.

- ***The quantity of ammunition issued.***
- ***The category of projectiles deployed.***
- ***The sequence of deployment.***
- ***The officers responsible.***
- ***The timing of each operational decision.***

When examined alongside medical evidence and eyewitness testimony, such records may either reinforce or weaken competing versions of events. The Court has ensured that this documentary evidence remains intact while judicial scrutiny continues.

standing order followed by the Delhi Police and determine whether operational decisions remained within the legal framework from authorisation to execution.

EARLIER JUDGMENTS STILL SHADOW THIS CASE

The legal principles governing crowd control have already been shaped through earlier constitutional decisions.

In Anita Thakur v. Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the Supreme Court recognised that excessive force against protesters may warrant compensation where State action crosses constitutional limits. Likewise, the judgment arising from the Ramlila Maidan incident emphasised that policing public assemblies must ordinarily follow a graduated approach involving warnings, preventive measures, minimum force and escalation only where genuinely unavoidable. Those principles continue to provide the constitutional benchmark against which the present case is likely to be examined. The question before the Court is therefore not whether police possess legal powers. The real issue is whether those powers were exercised proportionately.

THIS CASE IS ABOUT THE LIMITS OF STATE POWER

Every democracy must reconcile two constitutional responsibilities. The State must preserve public order. It must also protect fundamental freedoms. Neither responsibility automatically overrides the other. Students maintain that they marched to demand accountability for failures in a national examination system affecting millions of young people. The authorities maintain that the protest escalated beyond peaceful limits and required graded intervention. The Supreme Court has deliberately refused to accept either account without verification. Instead, it has demanded documentary proof. That approach reflects the constitutional role of the judiciary. Facts must precede conclusions.

WHAT THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORDERED

- Delhi Police must produce the standing order governing graded use of force.
- The Union Government must preserve the complete Rapid Action Force ammunition log relating to July 20.
- Injured protesters are to receive the best possible medical treatment.
- Petitioners may amend their plea if they seek to directly challenge the legality of the governing rules permitting pellet guns.

"The constitutional question is no longer confined to what happened on the streets. It now extends to what the official records reveal inside government files."

WHY THE STANDING ORDER MATTERS

Standing operating procedures translate broad statutory powers into field instructions. They define who authorises force, when escalation becomes permissible, what weapons may be used at each stage and how every action must be documented. If actual field action departs from those written instructions, questions of legality, accountability and administrative responsibility may arise. Conversely, if the operation fully complied with the prescribed protocol, the Court will then examine whether the protocol itself satisfies constitutional standards. The standing order therefore lies at the centre of the case.

MY SHOT

The Supreme Court has not yet pronounced who was right or wrong. It has done something more significant. It has insisted that constitutional adjudication must rest on records rather than rhetoric. Every order issued, every projectile fired and every injury documented will now be tested against the guarantees contained in Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution. Whether the Court ultimately upholds the actions of the authorities, identifies procedural lapses or reshapes India's crowd-control framework, this case has already established one important principle. In a constitutional democracy, even the use of force by the State must remain open to judicial examination, and official power must always be capable of withstanding constitutional scrutiny.

Train Services Altered Due to Chennai Egmore Works

Changes in the pattern of Train Services due to ongoing redevelopment works

CHENNAI, JULY 30

In continuation of the ongoing redevelopment works at Chennai Egmore Railway Station, the following Express trains will temporarily originate from and terminate at Tambaram/Mambalam instead of Chennai Egmore from 05th August to 20th August 2026, as detailed below:

I. Short Terminations of Train Services.

1. Train No. 16866 Thanjavur – Chennai Egmore Uzhavan Express leaving Thanjavur from 05th August to 19th August, 2026 will terminate at Tambaram. The scheduled arrival time at Tambaram is 03.45 hrs

2. Train No. 16160 Mangaluru Central – Chennai Egmore Express leaving Mangaluru Central from 05th August to 19th August, 2026 will terminate at Tambaram. The scheduled arrival time at Tambaram is 03.15 hrs

3. Train No. 20636 Kollam – Chennai Egmore Ananthapuri Superfast Express leaving Kollam from 05th August to 19th August, 2026 will terminate at Tambaram. The scheduled arrival time at Tambaram is 05.20 hrs

4. Train No. 22154 Salem – Chennai Egmore Express leaving Salem from 05th August to 19th August, 2026 will terminate at Tambaram. The scheduled arrival time at Tambaram is 03.30 hrs

5. Train No. 12654 Tiruchchirappalli – Chennai Egmore Rockfort Express leaving Tiruchchirappalli from 05th August to 19th August, 2026 will terminate at Mambalam. The scheduled arrival time at Mambalam is 03.55 hrs

II. Change in Origination of Train Services.

1. Train No. 16865 Chennai Egmore – Thanjavur Uzhavan Express will originate from Tambaram from 06th August to 20th August, 2026. The train will depart from Tambaram at 23.00 hrs

2. Train No. 16159 Chennai Egmore – Mangaluru Central Express will originate from Tambaram from 06th August to 20th August, 2026. The train will depart from Tambaram at 23.40 hrs

3. Train No. 20635 Chennai Egmore – Kollam Ananthapuri Superfast will originate from Tambaram from 06th August to 20th August, 2026. Train will depart from Tambaram at 20.20 hrs

4. Train No. 12653 Chennai Egmore – Tiruchchirappalli Rockfort Express (journeys commencing from Chennai Egmore on 06th August to 20th August, 2026) will originate from Tambaram. The train will depart from Tambaram at 00.05 hrs on 07th August to 21st August, 2026.

III. Diversion of Train Services:

1. Train No. 09419 Ahmedabad – Tiruchchirappalli Weekly Express Special scheduled to leave Ahmedabad at 09.30hrs on 06th & 13th August, 2026 (Thursday) will be diverted to run via Renigunta, Tirutanni, Melpakkam, Kanchipuram and Chengalpattu skipping stoppages Arakkonam, Perambur, Chennai Egmore and Tambaram. Additional stoppage will be provided at Tiruttani with timings 13.00 (Arr)/13.05 (Dep).

2. Train No. 09420 Tiruchchirappalli – Ahmedabad Weekly Express Special scheduled to leave Tiruchchirappalli at 05.45 hrs on 09th & 16th August, 2026 (Sunday) will be diverted to run via Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram, Melpakkam and Tiruttani skipping stoppages Tambaram, Chennai Egmore, Perambur and Arakkonam. Additional stoppage will be provided at Tiruttani with timings 15.15 (Arr)/15.20 (Dep) Passengers are requested to kindly note these changes and plan their journeys. For real-time updates and live train status, please visit the NTES App or official Indian Railways portal.

Centre exposed TDP's anti-poor Amaravati model, says YSR Congress

AMARAVATI, JULY 30

YSR Congress Party on Thursday claimed that the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government's anti-poor agenda in Amaravati had been exposed in Parliament as it became clear that it did not seek even one house under PMAY for the poor in the state capital. Replies given by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to questions raised by YSRCP MPs Maddila Gurumoorthy in the Lok Sabha and Meda Raghunath Reddy in the Rajya Sabha revealed that the Andhra Pradesh Government did not seek even a single house under PMAY-U 2.0 for poor families in the Amaravati Capital Region, the YSRCP said in a statement. The Union Government stated that Andhra Pradesh had secured approval for 61,084 houses under PMAY-U 2.0 with Central assistance of Rs 882.32 crore. In the latest Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee meeting held on June 17, 2026, another 12,370 houses were sanctioned for 107 urban local bodies across the state with Central assistance of Rs 185.55 crore. Yet, Amaravati was deliberately kept out of the proposals sent by the State Government. The Centre categorically stated that PMAY-U 2.0 sanctions are based entirely on proposals submitted by the State Government. "The truth is now on record. Chandrababu Naidu's government never sought a single house for the poor in Amaravati," said YSR Congress. This raises disturbing questions about the real intentions behind Amaravati. If proposals could be sent for 107 towns and cities, why was the capital city alone denied housing for the poor? Does Chandrababu Naidu believe Amaravati is meant only for the wealthy, influential and real estate speculators? Is there no place for workers, daily wage earners, weaker sections and middle-class families in the capital? it asked. The coalition government has repeatedly claimed that Amaravati belongs to all. Its own actions prove exactly the opposite. By denying PMAY houses to the poor, it has made it clear that its vision of Amaravati is not a people's capital but a capital reserved for elite interests and large-scale real estate profits, the YSR Congress alleged.



₹220-Crore Boost for Wadi–Raichur Rail Line

102 Route Kilometre Wadi-Raichur Section to be Upgraded with 2×25 kV Electric Traction System on High Density Network

In a significant step towards strengthening railway infrastructure and enhancing capacity on high-density routes, Indian Railways has approved a ₹220 crore project for upgradation of the Electric Traction System from 1×25 kV to 2×25 kV on the Wadi-Raichur section of South Central Railway. The project covers a 102 Route Kilometre (204 Track Kilometre) double-line section and forms part of Indian Railways' ongoing efforts to modernise traction infrastructure on key rail corridors. The upgraded traction system will strengthen traction infrastructure and support higher traffic requirements on one of the important sections of the railway network. The Wadi-Raichur section is part of High Density Network (HDN) Route-7 connecting Mumbai-Pune-Wadi-Raichur-Guntakal-Kadapa-Renigunta-Chennai. The adoption of the 2×25 kV Electric Traction System will strengthen the existing electric traction infrastructure and improve the capability of the section to handle increasing passenger and freight traffic. The upgraded system will enhance operational efficiency while supporting reliable train operations on this strategically important corridor. The project is aligned with Indian Railways' ongoing efforts to modernise core infrastructure and strengthen capacity on high-density routes across the network. The approval reflects Indian Railways' continued commitment to upgrading critical railway infrastructure, improving operational efficiency and developing a modern, reliable and future-ready railway network for passengers and freight customers alike.

Wildlife Protectors and Forest Guardians

July 31st is a very important international day celebrated around the world: World Ranger Day.This day honors forest rangers who risk their lives to protect forests, greenery, and wild animals, which are vital for human survival. The main goal of this day is to remember rangers who lost their lives protecting nature and to show the world the dangerous challenges they face every day.

Park rangers and wildlife guards play an amazing role in keeping nature balanced. They stop illegal tree cutting, catch poachers who hunt helpless animals, and prevent people from taking over forest lands. This special day was first started on July 31, 2007, by the International Ranger Federation (IRF). Since then, governments and environmental groups everywhere have celebrated it every year to thank forest workers. In our country, from the Himalayas down to the Seshachalam and Nilgiri forests, and in various national parks and tiger reserves, the work done by forest guards is truly great.

This job is not just regular work; it is a true service to nature. While walking through thick forests, rangers face venomous snakes, wild animal attacks, and dangerous fevers like Malaria and Dengue . Sometimes, they even face direct danger from smugglers and poachers. Even with all these big risks, they never step back because they want to protect a green future for our planet. To help the families of rangers who die while doing their duty, groups like Australia's "The Thin Green Line Foundation" give international support. Aside from protecting trees, rangers also count wildlife, help injured animals with vets, and teach local people about climate change. On this day, environmental experts ask young people and everyone else to respect nature, follow environmental laws, and help protect the earth. We can all become true protectors of nature by stopping tree cutting, using less plastic, and helping save wildlife. Celebrating World Ranger Day by supporting our forest staff is a duty for all of us. The sacrifices of wildlife protectors and forest staff, who risk their lives to keep the Earth green, can never be praised enough. They are not just workers; they are the true guardians of our planet and the voice for animals that cannot speak. A forest is much more than just trees and plants—it is a wonderful home for all living things. The hard work rangers put in to protect it is hard to describe in words. To save nature from hidden enemies like timber smugglers, they walk through dark, thick forests day and night.

When we think about their families living in constant fear for their safety, our hearts feel heavy. Even though every step in the forest can be dangerous, rangers move forward without fear to follow the laws of nature. In India, from the green valleys of the Western Ghats to the thick forests of the East, our forest protectors show incredible bravery. They spend many sleepless nights keeping rare animals like tigers, lions, and elephants safe from poachers. Even though they use modern technology to spot illegal acts, life on the ground is always hard. Walking through muddy paths in the monsoon, burning heat in summer, and freezing cold in winter is like a tough adventure. Forest staff need strong bodies and strong minds. Living far away from cities and families, right in the middle of the deep forest, is very hard. Still, they bear this quiet sacrifice for the country and for future generations. On this day, we should not just praise them; we must also do our part to protect nature. Just like planting new trees is important to bring back lost forests, keeping current trees safe from being cut down is just as crucial. Scientists warn us that cutting down forests is the main reason behind strange weather, heavy heat, and floods around the world today. Since forests are the only things that can stop this destruction, respecting the rangers who guard them like their own eyes is our social duty. Governments should help raise their confidence by providing better facilities, modern tools, safe gear, and good pay. Also, taking care of the families of heroes who lose their lives on duty is a basic duty for society. As we celebrate this day, let us all take a promise to protect greenery, never hurt wildlife, and stay away from actions that harm nature. Only then will the hard work of forest protectors truly matter. Let us protect our Earth ourselves, give green forests to future generations, and offer our heartfelt salutations to those selfless heroes carrying Mother Nature on their shoulders!



Dr Chityala Ravinder
7798891795

Admissions Open for Hotel Management Courses at SIHM Tirupati

TIRUPATI, JULY 30:

The State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM), Tirupati has commenced the admission process for the 2026–27 academic year, according to a statement issued by Principal Dr. R. Ramana Prasad. The institute, which is jointly supported by the Central and State Tourism Departments, is offering the following programmes: 3-year B.Sc. in Hospitality & Hotel Administration for students who have passed Intermediate (10+2). 1.5-year Craft Course in Food Production for students who have completed Class 10. As part of the curriculum, students will undergo 17 weeks of industrial training in the hospitality industry. The Principal stated that SIHM graduates have secured rewarding careers with leading hotel groups in India and abroad. Interested candidates may apply online through the institute's website or submit applications directly at the college campus.

For more information:
Website: www.sihmtpt.org
Phone: +91 97013 73846, +91 97004 40604
Email: sihmtpt@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Making Every Monsoon Count

The southwest monsoon is more than a seasonal weather event; it is the foundation of India's water security, agriculture and rural economy. Every year, the rains replenish reservoirs, recharge groundwater and sustain millions of livelihoods. Yet, the country continues to witness a familiar paradox. While some regions receive abundant rainfall and even face floods, others struggle with water scarcity within months. This recurring cycle reflects a deeper challenge—not the lack of rain, but the inability to capture, store and manage it effectively.

India's water stress is being intensified by rapid urbanisation, population growth, groundwater depletion and climate change. Rainfall has become increasingly erratic, with prolonged dry spells interrupted by intense cloudbursts. Such extremes make traditional approaches to water management inadequate. Water security must therefore become a long-term national priority, supported by scientific planning and sustainable resource management.

The monsoon provides an opportunity to strengthen water resilience. Rainwater harvesting remains one of the simplest and most effective solutions. Rooftop collection systems, recharge pits, check dams and watershed development projects can significantly improve groundwater recharge and reduce dependence on external water sources. Equally important is the restoration of traditional water bodies such as lakes, ponds and village tanks, many of which have been neglected or encroached upon despite their vital role in storing rainwater and preventing floods.

Groundwater, which supports drinking water supplies and irrigation across much of the country, requires urgent attention. Excessive extraction has lowered water tables in many regions, threatening both agriculture and domestic needs. Sustainable groundwater management demands continuous monitoring, better regulation and active community participation to ensure that extraction does not exceed natural recharge.

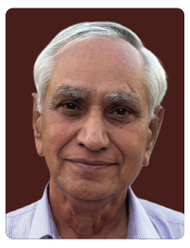
Agriculture, the largest consumer of freshwater, must also become more efficient in its water use. Expanding micro-irrigation, encouraging crop diversification based on local climatic conditions and promoting soil moisture conservation can help reduce water consumption while maintaining farm productivity. Scientific advisory services and weather-based planning can further improve water-use efficiency.

Cities face a different challenge. Urban flooding during the monsoon and water shortages in summer often occur in the same places, highlighting weaknesses in planning and infrastructure. Protecting natural drainage systems, making rainwater harvesting mandatory, reducing leakages in water supply networks and recycling treated wastewater should become integral to urban development strategies.

Technology can support these efforts through satellite monitoring, digital mapping and real-time assessment of reservoirs and groundwater levels. However, lasting success depends equally on public participation. Households, institutions, industries and local communities must adopt responsible water-use practices and contribute to protecting local water resources.

Every monsoon should be viewed not merely as a season of rain but as an opportunity to secure the future. By investing in water conservation, restoring natural ecosystems and promoting efficient use of every drop, India can transform seasonal abundance into lasting water security. Managing the monsoon wisely is not only an environmental necessity but also an essential step towards sustainable development and resilience in the face of a changing climate.

ETHANOL-BLENDED PETROL: USAGE NEEDS A REVIEW?



JAG MOHAN THAKEN

Despite Central government's assertions and forceful claims that the scientific studies, field validation and extensive real-world operating experience have shown that E20 is a safe, cleaner and technologically superior fuel when used in accordance with the prescribed specifications and manufacturer recommendations, why the usage of ETHANOL-BLENDED PETROL is creating suspicious inferences in the minds of vehicle users?

Though the Government claims that its assessment is based not only on laboratory research but also on large-scale experience after nationwide implementation.

About the usage of ETHANOL-BLENDED PETROL, General perception of the public is --- Ethanol fuel damages older or non-compatible engines primarily through the chemical corrosion, moisture absorption, and solvent action. Ethanol is corrosive and attacks traditional metal alloys, rubber seals, gaskets, and fuel lines, causing cracks and leaks. Questioning the government's ethanol policy, the AAP Chief asks, "Why E20-Blended petrol was being forced on consumers despite offering lower mileage, costing more than petrol, providing no foreign exchange savings and delivering no benefit to farmers?"

But the central government reacts that the Government of India has noted certain misleading and unsubstantiated claims being circulated on social media regarding Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP), which appear to be aimed at confusing and misleading the public. It has also been observed that old images and videos are being recirculated in an apparent attempt to garner viewership through sensationalism and create unwarranted concerns regarding ethanol-blended fuel.

Through a PIB release dated June 23, 2026, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas reiterates that the Ethanol Blending Programme is scientifically validated and continuously monitored by the Government.

The government version claims that the Ethanol Blending Programme was launched in 2003 with the objectives of reducing crude oil imports, enhancing energy security and promoting environmental sustainability. The programme has been implemented in a phased manner based on technical preparedness and stakeholder consultations, culminating in the rollout of 20 per cent ethanol blending (E20) from 2023 onwards.

The release also adds that the Government continuously monitors the implementation of the Ethanol Blending Programme in consultation with oil marketing companies, automobile manufacturers, fuel testing agencies and other stakeholders. Since the introduction of E20 petrol, no widespread issues of engine failure or vehicle breakdown attributable to ethanol blending have been reported.

Refuting the engine damage due to moisture absorption by ethanol fuel, the GOI states that a claim currently being circulated relates to the hygroscopic nature of ethanol. It is common knowledge that the entry of water into the fuel tank is undesirable for any fuel, whether ethanol blended or otherwise. Modern vehicles are equipped with design features and safeguards to prevent water entry into fuel tanks.

Government release also claims that the Automobile manufacturers, component suppliers, SIAM, ARAI, testing agencies and Oil Marketing Companies were associated with every stage of the scientific evaluation and phased rollout of E20. The fuel E20 was rolled out only after successful validation of fuel systems, engine durability, drivability, reasonable material compatibility and emissions performance. These studies also established that legacy vehicles do not exhibit any significant variation in performance or abnormal wear and tear due to E20.

Challenging Government's claims, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener Arvind Kejriwal on July29, 2026, revealed that the Modi Government is coercing automobile manufacturers into remaining silent on the impact of E20 petrol on vehicles manufactured before 2023. Citing discussions with officials from nine automobile companies, he revealed they had acknowledged that E20 could damage nearly 30 crore older vehicles and reduce fuel efficiency, but were unwilling to state this publicly due to pressure from the Centre.

Quoting MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS SHRI SURESH GOPI submitting a written reply in Lok Sabha, PIB release on July 23, 2026, pleads, "One of the country's largest passenger vehicle manufacturers serviced 2.84 crore vehicles during FY 2025–26, including approximately 1.5 crore older, non-E20-certified vehicles, without reporting any E20-related engine damage or abnormal component wear. Similarly, one of the leading two-wheeler manufacturers has reported, based on extensive service records, no higher incidence of damage in vehicles operating on E20 compared with earlier fuel blends."

Addressing a press conference on July 29,2026, AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal said, "The Modi Government has resorted to outright 'gundagardi' (goondaism) to force E20 petrol on the public. A few days ago, I wrote to 29 companies that manufacture petrol powered two wheelers and four wheelers in our country. In my letter, I asked them to clearly state whether E20 petrol can be used in vehicles manufactured before 2023."

He continued, "I also asked that if these companies say it can be used, whether they would compensate consumers if their vehicles are damaged or if fuel efficiency declines. None of the 29 companies responded in writing, but I had detailed phone conversations with officials from nine of them."

Sharing what company officials told him, Arvind Kejriwal stated, "Officials from these nine companies personally told me that the Modi Government is openly threatening them. The technical and engineering reality is that if E20 is used in vehicles manufactured before 2023, it will damage the vehicle, its engine and the fuel train system, and fuel efficiency will also decline."

Kejriwal added, "The Modi Government has warned these companies that if they say this publicly, they will face consequences. Their plants will be shut down, and they will face raids by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Income Tax Department and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and their companies could be shut down. That is why they cannot put this in writing."

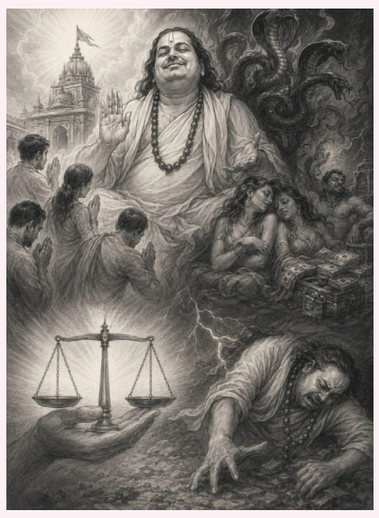
"Instead, the Modi Government is pressuring them to certify in writing that E20 is safe. Maruti did so once and had to face the consequences, as the Consumer Court ordered that the vehicle be replaced. The companies say that if they certify E20 as safe, consumers will approach the courts seeking replacement of their vehicles and compensation for damaged components and reduced mileage. That is why they cannot give anything in writing," he revealed.

Questioning the Centre's policy, the AAP Chief said, "Why is the Modi Government using goondaism to pressure these companies? It is the public that has to use both the vehicles and the petrol, so why is the Modi Government forcing ethanol on people? There are 30 crore vehicles manufactured before 2023 in our country, including 22 crore two wheelers and 8 crore four wheelers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is determined to turn these 30 crore vehicles into scrap. What is his interest in doing this?"

He concluded by stating, "Ethanol is more expensive than petrol, it has a lower calorific value which reduces mileage, it does not save foreign exchange, and it does not benefit farmers either. Several detailed articles have already been published on this. Areas where ethanol is produced also suffer groundwater contamination for several kilometres, and it causes pollution. In such a situation, why is PM Narendra Modi so interested in ethanol? That is a question everyone should think about."

If Kejriwal's allegations are true -- that Ethanol is more expensive than petrol, it has a lower calorific value which reduces mileage, it does not save foreign exchange, and it does not benefit farmers either, and the Modi Government is pressuring the companies to certify in writing that E20 is safe, otherwise they will face raids by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Income Tax Department and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and their companies could be shut down, isn't it a serious matter? Shouldn't the government clarify the allegations and constitute an independent judicial enquiry? Doesn't the policy need a rethink?

VERDICT



How many fables, spun with flair,
In robes of saffron — deceit laid bare.
Whom to trust in this sacred guise?
Swamiji's charm veils hollow lies.

Black serpents dance in a saintly mask,
Feeding on faith — a devil's task.
Mornings glow with chants and light,
Ash and grace cloak silent blight.

With cupped hands and lowered eyes,
Seekers walk where illusion lies.
But night unveils the darker creed,
Desire disguised as holy need.

Devotion fades like buds unborn,
Jasmine dreams, betrayed and torn.
A Swamy crowned with borrowed rays—
Fame forced upon deceptive plays.

"Nityanandamukai," a daily hymn,
But truth dissolves in shadows grim.
The Abbot trapped in lust's deceit,
A racket vile, a fall complete.

No more secrets draped in gold,
Karma watches, just and bold.
Sin will swell, then burst and die—
The law shall speak, and none defy.

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

WILDLIFE PROTECTORS AND FOREST GUARDIANS

Every thriving forest has silent guardians who risk everything to protect it. World Ranger Day, observed every year on July 31, is a tribute to the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of forest rangers who safeguard wildlife, preserve natural ecosystems, and defend the planet's green heritage. It is a day to honour those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, recognise the challenges faced by those still serving, and renew our collective commitment to conserving forests for future generations.

July 31st is a very important international day celebrated around the world: World Ranger Day.This day honors forest rangers who risk their lives to protect forests, greenery, and wild animals, which are vital for human survival. The main goal of this day is to remember rangers who lost their lives protecting nature and to show the world the dangerous challenges they face every day.



Park rangers and wildlife guards play an amazing role in keeping nature balanced. They stop illegal tree cutting, catch poachers who hunt helpless animals, and prevent people from taking over forest lands. This special day was first started on July 31, 2007, by the International Ranger Federation (IRF). Since then, governments and environmental groups everywhere have celebrated it every year to thank forest workers. In our country, from the Himalayas down to the Seshachalam and Nilgiri forests, and in various national parks and tiger reserves, the work done by forest guards is truly great.

This job is not just regular work; it is a true service to nature. While walking through thick forests, rangers face venomous snakes, wild animal attacks, and dangerous fevers like Malaria and Dengue . Sometimes, they even face direct danger from smugglers and poachers. Even with all these big risks, they never step back because they want to protect a green future for our planet. To help the families of rangers who die while doing their duty, groups like Australia's "The Thin Green Line Foundation" give international support.

Aside from protecting trees, rangers also count wildlife, help injured animals with vets, and teach local people about climate change. On this day, environmental experts ask young people and everyone else to respect nature, follow environmental laws, and help protect the earth. We can all become true protectors of nature by stopping tree cutting, using less plastic, and helping save wildlife. Celebrating World Ranger Day by supporting our forest staff is a duty for all of us.

The sacrifices of wildlife protectors and forest staff, who risk their lives to keep the Earth green, can never be praised enough. They are not just workers; they are the true guardians of our planet and the voice for animals that cannot speak. A forest is much more than just trees and plants—it is a wonderful home for all living things. The hard work rangers put in to protect it is hard to describe in words. To save nature from hidden enemies like timber smugglers, they walk through dark, thick forests day and night.

When we think about their families living in constant fear for their safety, our hearts feel heavy. Even though every step in the forest can be dangerous, rangers move forward without fear to follow the laws of nature. In India, from the green valleys of the Western Ghats to the thick forests of the East, our forest protectors show incredible bravery. They spend many sleepless nights keeping rare animals like tigers, lions, and elephants safe from poachers. Even though they use modern technology to spot illegal acts, life on the ground is always hard. Walking through muddy paths in the monsoon, burning heat in summer, and freezing cold in winter is like a tough adventure.

Forest staff need strong bodies and strong minds. Living far away from cities and families, right in the middle of the deep forest, is very hard. Still, they bear this quiet sacrifice for the country and for future generations. On this day, we should not just praise them; we must also do our part to protect nature. Just like planting new trees is important to bring back lost forests, keeping current trees safe from being cut down is just as crucial.

Scientists warn us that cutting down forests is the main reason behind strange weather, heavy heat, and floods around the world today. Since forests are the only things that can stop this destruction, respecting the rangers who guard them like their own eyes is our social duty. Governments should help raise their confidence by providing better facilities, modern tools, safe gear, and good pay. Also, taking care of the families of heroes who lose their lives on duty is a basic duty for society.

As we celebrate this day, let us all take a promise to protect greenery, never hurt wildlife, and stay away from actions that harm nature. Only then will the hard work of forest protectors truly matter. Let us protect our Earth ourselves, give green forests to future generations, and offer our heartfelt salutations to those selfless heroes carrying Mother Nature on their shoulders!



DR. CHITYALA RAVINDER
7798891795

CCTV Limits Likely in More Sensitive Zones

NEW DELHI: (JUL 30)

The government may expand the approach of restrictions applied in the CCTV segment to other sensitive areas and assist Indian chip designers develop technology for building end-to-end trusted supply chain of components for making products that can have security implications, a senior government officer said on Thursday. Speaking at a CII event on semiconductors, Electronics and IT Secretary S Krishnan said that while producing chips in the country, it is also important to ensure that there is a market that exists for them. "It was primarily a security issue, that many of the CCTV cameras had chips and other active components which came from some non-security vetted countries. In the process, what happens is, you have backdoors on which data flows, including from very sensitive locations to hands that you don't want. When we started putting those restrictions (on CCTV), I know that industry was a little opposed to begin with, but I think they adapted to it," he said.

Munshi Premchand Jayanti Celebrated at Gorakhpur Factory

Winners of poetry and essay writing competitions felicitated

GORAKHPUR, JULY 30, 2026



A 'Munshi Premchand Jayanti' celebration was organized at the Mechanical Factory, Gorakhpur, on July 29, 2026, under the chairmanship of Chief Works Manager/ Mechanical Factory, Dr. Sunil Kumar Sharma, with Prof. Nalin Ranjan Singh as the Chief Guest. The programme began with the garlanding of Munshi Premchand's portrait and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. On this occasion, speakers expressed their views on Premchand's personality, literary contributions, and the relevance of his works in the present era. Senior officials of the factory, employees, their family members, participating children, and literature enthusiasts were present.

Chief Guest Prof. Nalin Ranjan Singh said that Premchand's literature is deeply connected with the realities of life. His works provide a realistic and sensitive portrayal of various sections of Indian society. He said that Premchand's writings help children and youth develop social awareness, human sensitivity, and interest in literature. Prof. Singh stated that Premchand was always concerned about the condition of farmers. His novels Premashram, Karmabhoomi, and Godaan, as well as the story Poos Ki Raat, present a vivid depiction of farmers' lives and social struggles. His writings not only acquaint readers with the realities of society but also inspire them to become more sensitive and responsible individuals.

Prof. Singh appreciated the efforts being made by the Mechanical Factory administration to engage employees' children in literary and creative activities. He said that such programmes play an important role in identifying children's talents, boosting their confidence, and providing them with a suitable platform for self-expression. Prof. Singh emphasized that literature is not merely a source of entertainment but also a medium to create social awareness and strengthen human values. He said that the true purpose of celebrating Premchand Jayanti is to understand his thoughts and adopt them in our lives.

Earlier, while presiding over the ceremony, Chief Works Manager Dr. Sunil Kumar Sharma said that Premchand was a great writer who brought a transformation in the consciousness of modern Hindi literature. He expanded the thinking and vision of later writers and gave a new direction to Hindi fiction. This is why Premchand's rich literary tradition continues to remain alive in Hindi literature even today. Dr. Sharma urged children and youth to read Premchand's works, stating that his literature inspires people to understand society, become sensitive towards the sufferings of others, and protect human values.

Deputy Chief Rajbhasha Officer of the Mechanical Factory, Mr. Anuj Mishra, said that the purpose of programmes like Premchand Jayanti is not only to remember great litterateurs but also to connect the new generation with the Hindi language, literature, and human values. Poetry, storytelling, essay writing, book reading, and literary workshops help children improve their language skills, creativity, and confidence.

During the ceremony, winners of the previously organized poetry writing and essay writing competitions for the children of railway employees were felicitated by the Chief Guest and senior officials with prizes and certificates. It is noteworthy that the Mechanical Factory administration had earlier organized a skill development and literary workshop for the children of railway employees. The objective of the workshop was to develop children's interest in the Hindi language, creative writing abilities, stage expression, confidence, communication skills, and literary sensitivity.

During the programme, Senior Translator Mrs. Anamika Singh delivered a detailed presentation on the use, promotion, and implementation of official Hindi (Rajbhasha Hindi) at the Mechanical Factory, Gorakhpur. She also provided information about the increasing use of Hindi in the factory's administrative, technical, and daily office-related activities. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks.

A Most Popular Super Fruit : Avocado Fruit

(On the occasion of "National Avocado Day" on 31 July)

The Avocado is not a vegitable but a Super Fruir full of nutrients. The Avocado is a food without rival among the fruits, the veritable fruit of paradise. A fruit so versatile it can be used in salads, on toast, in smoothies, as a spread, as a delicious fruit, and even in deserts. To promote the nutritional benefits of this fruit, "National Avocado Day" is observed every year on 31 July since 2018. It is a day dedicated to the appreciation, incorporate in their diet, and celebration of Avocados. Avocado fruit gained popularity in recent times around the globe.

Nutritional Benefits of Avocado Fruits:

Avocado is a healthy, tasty fruit but not a vegitable. It contains more potassium than that of banana. This doesn't ripen on the tree but only after it's been plucked. It has versatile use from appetiser to main dish fruit. The avocado consumption is 4.25 billion per year only in America in 2015. Avocados target insulin resistance with heart-healthy fats. They also fight Alzheimer's with its Omega 3 fatty acids. Avocado has superpower in preventing and repairing damage due to its source of Vitamins C, E and K. It has high oleic acid content, which moisturises skin by hydrating it, and also supports the regeneration of damaged skin cells, and reduces redness and irritation of skin.

National Avocado Day Events:

Eat more Avocados as a super fruit or cook with Avocado oil for various skin related issues. Enjoy Avocado and try for a new recipe. Share Avocado recipes among close families. Raise awareness about the nutritional and health benefits of this super fruit. Plan for an Avocado base recipe contest on this day to bring its popularity. Try to incorporate Avocado recipe in your daily diet, either in breakfast or in lunch of dinner.

On this day, promote its culinary versatility, health benefits, and cultural significance, uniting Avocado enthusiasts worldwide through creative recipes, social media engagement, and events.

Now Andhra Pradesh Is the Preferred Destination for Global Investors

Pattikonda: Andhra Pradesh has now become the first choice for global investors, according to Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh. He said that leading global private equity firms such as Brookfield, Blackstone, BlackRock, EQT, and TPG are investing in the state, while major Indian companies including Tata Power, Suzlon, ReNew, Premier Energies, ACME, and Waaree are expanding their presence in Andhra Pradesh.

On Thursday, Lokesh laid the foundation stone for 800 MW clean energy projects worth ₹5,350 crore, being developed by Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) across Anantapur and Kurnool districts. Addressing the gathering, he said Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy capacity has grown by 400% in just one year compared to the previous year, attributing the achievement to the restoration of the state's credibility among investors.

Rebuilding Investor Confidence

Lokesh said that when the people's government assumed office in June 2024, the renewable energy sector was in complete disarray. During the previous five years, not a single major renewable energy project of even one megawatt had been launched. Power purchase agreements were cancelled unilaterally, damaging investor confidence and leading several of the world's largest infrastructure and climate funds to blacklist Andhra Pradesh. He noted that rebuilding lost confidence could not happen overnight, but the government has consistently worked to regain the trust of investors.

Integrated Clean Energy Policy

The government introduced the Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024, setting a target of achieving 160 GW of clean energy capacity. The vision includes establishing the entire clean energy supply chain in Andhra Pradesh—from solar modules and cells to batteries, green hydrogen, green ammonia, transmission infrastructure, ports, storage systems, and world-class manufacturing facilities. Lokesh said the goal is not only to consume clean energy but also to make



Andhra Pradesh a global producer of clean energy technologies.

Tata Renewable Project Reflects the State's Vision

The ₹5,750 crore Tata Renewable Energy project will combine 400 MW of solar power in Pattikonda with 400 MW of wind power in Kanekal, Anantapur district, creating an 800 MW hybrid renewable energy project. The project is expected to generate around 4,000 jobs during construction. Spread across more than 3,400 acres, it will provide stable lease income to over 1,100 farming families for nearly three decades. Lokesh described the project as a symbol of investors' confidence in Andhra Pradesh and its governance.

Longstanding Relationship with the Tata Group

Highlighting the state's association with the Tata Group, Lokesh recalled that TCS was among the first companies to believe in N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision when HITEC City was being developed in Hyderabad in the 1990s. After the new government took office in 2024, Lokesh met Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran to discuss attracting world-class investments. According to Lokesh, Chandrasekaran advised the government to prioritize speed, noting that delays cost investors more than incentives benefit them.

Lokesh said the government's approach is based on "Simple, Speed, Stability," assuring investors of continuous government support from project approval to completion.

Andhra Pradesh to Export Clean Energy

With India's longest coastline, abundant renewable resources, and world-class ports, Andhra Pradesh is well-positioned to become India's gateway for exports of green hydrogen and green ammonia, Lokesh said.

He expressed confidence that ships carrying clean energy produced in Andhra Pradesh would soon sail to Europe, Japan, South Korea, and other global markets, making the state an exporter of clean energy molecules, green fuels, and advanced technologies.

Centre of Excellence

Lokesh invited Tata Power to collaborate with the Andhra Pradesh government, IIT Tirupati, and the University of New South Wales (Australia) in establishing a Centre of Excellence for solar manufacturing and renewable energy technologies.

He said such collaboration would help produce engineers, researchers, technologists, and entrepreneurs capable of shaping India's clean energy future.

Appreciation for Suzlon

Lokesh also praised Suzlon, which has been a leader in India's wind energy sector for decades. He said Suzlon's participation strengthens Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy ambitions.

He noted that the wind turbines required for the project will be manufactured at Suzlon's facility in Anantapur, further strengthening the state's industrial ecosystem. He also appreciated the company's plans to establish skill development centres for training youth in wind turbine manufacturing and maintenance. "A Land of Diamonds and Golden People"

Describing Pattikonda as a historic region once ruled by Emperor Ashoka, Lokesh said it is a land blessed with rich natural resources and talented people. He referred to Jonnagiri Gold becoming a recognized brand for Andhra Pradesh and praised the region's youth as "diamonds." He also highlighted landmarks such as the Peravali Ranganatha Swamy Temple and Pattikonda Sai Baba Temple. Kurnool Holds a Special Place

GM Assesses Dimapur–Kohima Rail Progress

MALIGAON, 30 JULY, 2026:

Shri Ashish Bansal, General Manager, N.F. Railway (Construction) recently conducted a comprehensive inspection of the strategically important Dimapur (Dhansiri)–Kohima (Zubza) New Railway Line Project. Accompanied by senior officers of N.F. Railway (Construction), Shri Bansal inspected important infrastructure works, including tunnels, major bridges, station yards and other critical construction sites along the project alignment. During the inspection, the General Manager reviewed the progress of ongoing works, interacted with field officials and engineers and emphasized timely completion of the project while maintaining the highest standards of quality, safety and engineering excellence.

The Dimapur (Dhansiri)–Kohima (Zubza) New Railway Line Project is one of the most significant infrastructure initiatives being executed by the Northeast Frontier Railway. Once completed, it will connect Kohima, the capital of Nagaland, to the national railway network for the first time, marking a historic milestone in strengthening rail connectivity across the Northeastern region. The 78.42-kilometre project traverses Karbi Anglong district of Assam and Chumoukedima and Kohima districts of Nagaland. It comprises eight stations—Dhansiri, Dhansiripar, Shokhuvi, Molvom, Pherima, Piphema, Menguzuma and Zubza. Of these, Dhansiri, Shokhuvi and Molvom stations have already been completed. The project involves challenging engineering works, including 20 tunnels with a cumulative length of 31,169 metres, 27 major bridges and 149 minor bridges, reflecting the complexity of railway construction in the hilly terrain of Nagaland.

The project has been commissioned in phases with the 16.5-km Dhansiri–Shokhuvi section commissioned in October 2021 and the 14.64-km Shokhuvi–Molvom section in March 2025. Regular passenger train services are currently operating from Shokhuvi to Guwahati and Naharlagun, while the commissioning of Molvom, now Nagaland's third major railway station, has further strengthened rail connectivity in the state.

Despite the challenging terrain and complex geological conditions, construction activities on the remaining sections are progressing steadily with focused efforts and modern engineering solutions. Multiple tunnel faces are being worked on simultaneously, supported by advanced construction techniques and continuous monitoring to ensure safe and efficient execution of the project. During the inspection, Shri Ashish Bansal appreciated the dedication of the engineers and construction teams and emphasized maintaining the pace of work, ensuring close coordination among all stakeholders and completing the project within the targeted timeframe while upholding the highest standards of safety and quality. The Northeast Frontier Railway has targeted completion of the entire Dimapur (Dhansiri)–Kohima (Zubza) New Railway Line Project by 2029. Once completed, the project will significantly enhance connectivity, improve access to education, healthcare, tourism and markets and serve as a catalyst for the socio-economic development of Nagaland and the Northeastern region.

Necessary to bring reforms in education; no mercy for paper leak mafia: PM

NEW DELHI:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said it has become necessary to bring comprehensive reforms in the education system at both the Centre and the states to tackle the menace of paper leaks, asserting that there will be no mercy for gangs playing with the future of children. In a late evening video message on Instagram shortly after Parliament passed a bill to amend the anti-paper leak law, the prime minister said leaks in various examinations have become a major challenge not only for students but also for the Centre and many states. "The Centre and many states have been facing the paper leak problem for several years," he said, adding that the menace has threatened the future of children appearing in various examinations.

Haryana Has Emerged as the Sports Powerhouse of the Country

CHANDIGARH, JULY 30



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini addressing the gathering during the Sports Fitness and Infrastructure Expo organised at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on July 30, 2026.

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that Haryana has emerged as the sports powerhouse of the country. Although Haryana accounts for only 2 per cent of the country's population, the largest number of medal-winning athletes in the Olympics, Paralympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games are from the State, bringing laurels to both Haryana and the nation. The Chief Minister was addressing the gathering at the Sports, Fitness and Infrastructure Expo organised at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on Thursday. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya attended the event as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the event was not merely an exhibition but a confluence of dreams and aspirations, where the immense potential of the country's youth could be witnessed. He said that Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi has given a new direction and a distinct identity to sports in the country. Initiatives such as Fit India and Khelo India have transformed sports from being merely a competition into a movement for nation-building. Fitness, he said, is no longer just a personal habit but has become a necessity for a Viksit Bharat.

He added that he is proud that the event would not only showcase Haryana's medal-winning journey but also present the Haryana Sports Model before the country.

Haryana Leads the Medal Tally

The Chief Minister said that Haryana reflects not only a vibrant sporting culture but also a clear vision that has transformed this small State into India's greatest sporting power. While Haryana accounts for only 2 per cent of the country's population, it stands at the forefront whenever medals are counted. He said that the spirit of excellence among the State's athletes is deeply rooted in its soil. Here, a child does not merely learn to play in someone's lap but learns to compete on the playing field. Struggle becomes a part of life from an early age, carrying young sportspersons from the lanes of villages to the global sporting arena.

Cash Awards of up to Rs. 6 Crore for Medal Winners*

The Chief Minister said that the Haryana Government is providing cash awards of up to Rs. 6 crore to sportspersons winning gold medals in the Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. He said that during the last 12 years, Rs. 730 crore has been transferred directly into the bank accounts of 17,182 sportspersons.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the State Government has made a provision to provide a monthly scholarship of Rs. 1,500 to players in the 8 to 14 years age group, while players in the 15 to 19 years age group are being provided a monthly scholarship of Rs. 2,000. He further said that the Haryana Government has provided direct government employment to 260 outstanding sportspersons in Group A, Group B and Group C categories.

Taking immediate action on users' complaints: Meta tells Uttarakhand HC

NAINITAL: (JUL 30)

Meta informed the Uttarakhand High Court on Thursday that it has modified its grievance redressal policy and is now taking immediate action on users' complaints.

Meta's clarification came during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) concerning issues such as the creation of fake social media accounts, the circulation of objectionable videos, attempts at online extortion, and the failure of social media platforms to take timely action on complaints.

During the hearing, the counsel representing Meta informed the court that the company had amended its grievance redressal policy and immediate action is now being taken regarding users' complaints.

11 killed, six injured after building collapses in Lahore

ISLAMABAD

At least 11 people were killed and six others injured after a three-storey building collapsed in Harbanspura town of Pakistan's Lahore Wednesday night, local media reported on Thursday.

Lahore Deputy Commissioner's spokesperson Harris Ali said that the death toll in the incident has climbed to 11 after rescue officials pulled out the body of a woman. He said that the rescue operation was still being conducted at the site on Thursday, as a minor girl was believed to be trapped under the debris, Pakistan's daily Dawn reported.

According to the spokesperson, three brothers lived in the building with their families while their sister and her children were there for birthday celebrations on Wednesday night, just before the building collapsed.

According to Dawn, the cause of the collapse of the building is not known yet. Lahore DC retired Captain Muhammad Ali Ijaz has ordered an investigation to determine the cause of the incident. He ordered officials at the spot to ensure the safe recovery of those trapped under the rubble.

On July 1, the Human Rights Council (HRC) of Pakistan had expressed its serious concerns over the tragic roof collapse at a private tuition centre in Lahore's Kahna area, which claimed the lives of 14 children and left several others injured.



The incident occurred on June 30, when the roof of a private tuition academy collapsed, killing at least 14 children and injuring several others, according to officials.

Confirming the death toll, Punjab province Health Minister Khawaja Imran Nazeer said "around 20 people" were trapped under the debris, including the 14 children who were brought dead to the Kahna Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital. Following the completion of the search and rescue operation, a Rescue 1122 spokesperson, Farooq Ahmed, said that a female teacher and eight children were taken to Lahore General Hospital (LGH) with multiple injuries.

"The children were very young, and there were two rooms in use. The ceilings collapsed and trapped the children," Dawn quoted Ahmed as saying.

The HRC alleged that the failure to inspect the construction quality of such academies and buildings in residential areas amounts to gross negligence, which has resulted in the loss of innocent lives.

The rights body called on the Pakistani government and relevant authorities to conduct an immediate and transparent inquiry into this incident to identify those responsible for the negligence. It also urged the administration to provide the best medical facilities to the injured children and ensure all possible financial and psychological support to the affected families.

"The protection of innocent children and the establishment of a safe educational environment for them is the state's primary responsibility, and immediate and stringent measures are essential to prevent such incidents in the future," the HRC noted.



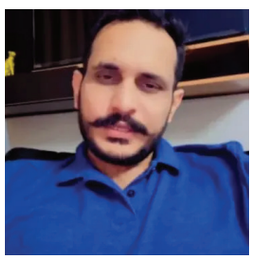
Death toll in Japan's earthquake rises to 28

TOKYO

The death toll from the powerful earthquake that struck Japan's Kumamoto Prefecture on Tuesday has climbed to 28, including those suspected to be disaster-related, local media reported on Thursday, citing a government spokesperson.

Search operations are underway at Nippon Paper Industries Co.'s plant in Yatsushiro, where one person was missing. According to data released by the Kumamoto prefectural government, the confirmed deaths stood at 17, including eight at the paper plant and five at an Aeon shopping mall in Kashima, which was struck by an explosion after a magnitude 7.1 earthquake hit the prefecture on Tuesday, Japan's Kyodo News reported.

According to the government tally, six other people showed no important signs. The number of casualties is feared to increase as several houses have collapsed in the impacted region. While addressing a press conference, Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said that casualty figures released by the central government and Kumamoto Prefecture are different, as the state depends on data shared by fire and police departments while the prefecture mentions the statistics reported by municipalities, Kyodo News reported.



NIA closes in on ISI recruiter Shahzad Bhatti as hunt reaches Brazil

NEW DELHI

The hunt for social media influencer-turned Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)-paid terror recruiter Shahzad Bhatti is set to widen. Bhatti, who was operating from Dubai, was briefly shifted to Pakistan to coordinate with ISI handlers in setting up a large recruitment network aimed at luring Indian youth and using them for terror-related activities.

With multiple security agencies dismantling modules allegedly controlled by Bhatti, pressure on him has increased significantly. This is understood to have prompted the ISI to move him out of Pakistan, as it no longer wanted him operating from the country.

An Intelligence Bureau official said the latest inputs suggest that Bhatti may have been moved to Brazil and instructed to remain there until the pressure surrounding him subsides.

"Verification of his exact whereabouts is underway. Once his location is confirmed, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) will coordinate with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to secure an Interpol Red Corner Notice (RCN) against Shahzad Bhatti," the official said. The NIA's efforts received a major boost after a Special Court in Mohali issued a non-bailable warrant against Bhatti. The open-ended warrant gives the agency additional time to pursue the legal process against him and will remain in force until his arrest.

Things will move forward constructively once Bangladesh PM visits India, says Indian envoy

DHAKA

India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi, has expressed confidence that bilateral ties would move forward constructively once Prime Minister Tarique Rahman visits India, saying all issues between the two countries can be resolved, local media reported on Thursday.

Addressing reporters following separate meetings with Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka, Trivedi described the discussions as positive.

"I am looking forward to everything positively. We had a great meeting filled with immense positivity," Bangladeshi media outlet UNB quoted



Trivedi as saying. When asked about the invitations extended to Rahman to visit India, Trivedi said the decision rests with the Bangladeshi Prime Minister.

"From our end, I can assure you that we are looking forward to welcoming the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India. We are very hopeful that this visit will take place in the near future," he said.

Last week, India extended an invitation to Prime Minister Rahman for the 18th BRICS Summit set to be held in New Delhi in September. He had also received an invitation to visit India during his swearing-in ceremony in February.

Responding to a question on Teesta and Ganges Water Treaties, the Indian envoy said, "Today's meeting was primarily a courtesy call, and it carried the warmth expected of one. However, there is no issue that cannot be sorted out through mutual understanding. Ultimately, at the end of the day, it is about people. Whatever is beneficial for both democracies and their citizens will be prioritised."

He noted that both India and Bangladesh have active working groups to take forward discussion on treaty renewals.

"These working groups will certainly meet and deliberate. As I mentioned, there is no problem that cannot be resolved. The working groups will actively do their part, and once the Prime Minister visits India, things will move forward constructively," said the Indian High Commissioner.

Trivedi further said that the bilateral talks with the Bangladeshi leaders were remarkably productive and marked a very positive step forward.

"The meetings were held in an exceptionally warm environment. I can tell you that historically, culturally, and even in sports -- such as cricket -- our connections run deep. We discussed all these aspects. This relationship is truly historical. We share not only our borders, but also our history, culture, and aspirations," said the Indian diplomat.

UN expert urges Pakistan to allow Imran Khan to access medical treatment of his choice

ISLAMABAD

UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Alice Jill Edwards, has expressed concerns over reports of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's detention conditions and him not getting access to proper medical care. She also urged Pakistan to restore humane conditions and allow the former PM to access medical examination and treatment of his own choice.

In a post shared on LinkedIn, Edwards mentioned that Khan has been kept in near-total solitary confinement for 33 months in a small, windowless cell and is often not allowed to have human contact for over two weeks continuously.

"Fmr PM Imran Khan has now been held in near-total solitary for 33 months in a small, windowless cell under 24-7



CCTV. Often more than 2 weeks continuously, without exercise or meaningful human contact. This far exceeds the MANDELA rules," Edwards wrote in a post on LinkedIn. "I am also concerned about reports that he is being denied proper medical and is suffering from serious medical issues that have not been treated appropriately, compounding a spinal injury from a 2013 accident and bullet wounds sustained in a November 2022 assassination attempt. I call on Pakistan to restore humane conditions and allow him his choice of medical examination and appropriate treatment," she added.

In another post, Edwards expressed concerns over the detention conditions of Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, and urged Pakistan to provide her access to appropriate medical treatment in line with international law.

"Further to my post yesterday on Imran Khan, I remain deeply concerned by reports of the continued detention conditions of Bushra Bibi Khan in Pakistan, including prolonged solitary confinement, denial of independent medical care, serious deterioration of her health, and vision loss requiring retinal surgery. I call on Pakistan to conduct a prompt, independent investigation into these allegations and to provide her access to all appropriate medical treatment consistent with international law," Edwards wrote on X.

Imran Khan has remained in prison since August 2023 after convictions that his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has termed politically motivated. Since his ouster from office in 2022 through a no-confidence vote, Imran Khan has faced several cases, including allegations involving state gifts and an unlawful marriage case.



South Korea: Extreme heat wave to persist through next week

SEOUL

The ongoing heat wave is expected to continue for the time being, as the pressure system remains largely unchanged and hot and humid air continues to flow in from the south, the state weather service said Thursday.

The only change is that the hottest region will shift from the east to the west of the Baekdudaegan mountain range, which extends from the north to the south of the Korean Peninsula, the Korean Meteorological Administration (KMA) said, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The KMA said the current weather pattern, in which the North Pacific High and the Tibetan High sit over the peninsula simultaneously, will remain unchanged for the time being. Far from weakening over time, these high-pressure systems will instead strengthen further as the air heats up and expands, it noted. The stagnant pressure systems, combined with the continued inflow of hot and humid air from the south, will maintain clear skies and intensify solar heating, resulting in extremely hot weather.

Indeed, the KMA forecast that morning temperatures would be similar to or slightly higher than average, and daytime temperatures would exceed the average from August 2 to August 9.

Nepal: Indefinite curfew imposed in two southern border districts after communal violence

KATHMANDU

As clashes between Hindu and Muslim communities in the Kaptanganj area of Sunsari district threatened to spread to other parts of southern Madhesh province, the District Administration Office (DAO) of Siraha on Thursday imposed an indefinite curfew in parts of the district.

The curfew imposed in parts of Sunsari also remained in force on Thursday. Both Sunsari and Siraha border the Indian state of Bihar.

Siraha Chief District Officer Surendra Paudel issued the curfew order effective from 2 pm local time on Thursday until further notice.

"Based on an assessment of the recent security situation, which indicates the possibility of protests or riots disrupting public peace, and in accordance with the decision of the District Security Committee, a curfew order has been issued," the notice stated.

According to the notice, the curfew covers the area stretching from Kasaha Khola in Golbazar Municipality-3 on the eastern side of the East-West Highway to Choharwa Chowk in the west. It also extends from Sainik Chowk in the north to the vicinity of Rampratap Ramprasad Tamang Janata Multiple Campus in the south. The administration warned that anyone violating the curfew order would face legal action in accordance with the law.

On July 26, localised clashes broke out between Hindu and Muslim groups in the Kaptanganj area of Dewanganj Rural Municipality-3 in Sunsari district as Hindu devotees were heading towards Kaptanganj Chowk from the Koshi Barrage carrying holy water for the Bolbam festival during the month of Sawan, while playing loud DJ music.

According to police, some members of the Muslim community objected to the loud music, triggering an argument between the two sides. The dispute escalated into pushing and shoving before turning into a violent clash. Large crowds from both communities gathered at the scene armed with improvised weapons, including sticks, stones, bamboo poles and iron rods, prompting police intervention. During the operation, a youth identified as Om Prakash Mehta was killed after being struck by police gunfire.

Although police believe the security situation has improved, they have not ruled out the possibility of renewed clashes without heightened security. "The situation remains vulnerable. That's why the curfew remains in place," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Prabhu Prasad Dhakal, spokesperson for the Madhesh Province Police Office, told IANS.



Trump faults Fed after decision to hold interest rates

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has criticised the Federal Reserve for leaving interest rates unchanged, saying lower borrowing costs would further strengthen an economy that he claimed was already attracting record levels of investment. Speaking at the White House on Wednesday (local time), Trump praised Federal Reserve Governor Kevin Warsh but suggested the central bank's board had prevented interest rate cuts despite strong economic performance.

Asked whether he was surprised by the Fed's decision to keep rates unchanged, Trump replied: "No, Kevin's fantastic." "Kevin's got a board. He's fantastic. He's a brilliant guy, smart."

Trump added that Warsh supported lower interest rates but was constrained by other policymakers.

"I know he'd love to see lower interest rates, but he's got a board, and it's a political board, and they want to keep rates up." The President argued that the US economy was performing at an unprecedented level despite higher borrowing costs. "We have the greatest -- we have the strongest investment ever made in a country, of any country."

Trump claimed the United States had attracted $19.2 trillion in investment commitments over the past year, comparing it with previous records. "It was China about 13, 14 years ago. We have far greater." "$19.2 trillion. It's the biggest number ever spent in any country, by far, and that's over a period of one year." He contrasted those figures with investment during the previous administration. "As an example, as you know, the Biden administration for four years did much less than $1 trillion."

"We're doing $19.2 trillion in one year, so we have things that are happening in our country, the likes of which nobody's ever seen." Trump said manufacturers were continuing to expand production in the United States, pointing to recent investment announcements from the automotive sector.

US Senate warns AI scams threaten senior citizens

WASHINGTON

Alarmed by the rapid rise of artificial intelligence-enabled fraud, a bipartisan US Senate panel has warned that deepfakes, cloned voices and AI chatbots are exposing older Americans to increasingly sophisticated scams, in a development with growing relevance for India and the Indian diaspora as similar technology-driven fraud spreads worldwide.

Opening a hearing titled 'The AI Deception Machine: Deepfakes, Chatbots, and the New Frontier of Senior Fraud' on Wednesday (local time), Senate Special Committee on Ageing Chairman Rick Scott said Americans over the age of 60 lost $7.7 billion to scams in 2025, describing AI as a force that has made fraud more convincing and accessible to criminals.

"AI can be used to make fraudulent videos known as deepfakes, impersonating experts and celebrities to try to fraud our seniors," Scott said. "AI can also be used to clone someone's voice, a terrifying development that has been used in heartbreaking



and evil ways to impersonate a loved one and deceive their family." Ranking Member Kirsten Gillibrand said the technology offered significant benefits but warned that criminals were exploiting it at an unprecedented scale.

"Americans deserve to trust their own eyes and ears," she said, adding that AI-generated scams were "making old cons more convincing and far easier to pull off." She also disclosed that she had written to leading AI companies, including OpenAI and Meta, seeking details on safeguards for older adults and people with disabilities.

The hearing featured emotional testimony from Deborah Del Mastro of California, who described how scammers cloned her daughter's voice during a five-and-a-half-hour ordeal in which she believed her daughter had been kidnapped.

"It was her voice. It was absolutely her voice," Del Mastro told senators. The caller demanded ransom, claiming a Mexican drug cartel had abducted her daughter. She ultimately transferred $5,400 before discovering her daughter had been safe all along.

"It was the worst day of my life," she said, urging greater public awareness. "There needs to be awareness about this, and there needs to be guardrails. We need to find out how to protect those of us who don't know about this."

Another witness, Los Angeles surgeon Dr David Amron, described how fraudsters used AI to create a convincing deepfake video falsely showing him endorsing a fake medical product.

"They used my name and my reputation to deceive the very people I have dedicated my career to helping and protecting," he said, warning that such scams could cause patients to delay legitimate treatment while undermining trust in physicians.

Paul Benda, Executive Vice President for Risk, Fraud and Cybersecurity at the American Bankers Association, told lawmakers that generative AI was not replacing traditional scams but "industrialising them".

"Generative AI is making impersonation dramatically easier and more convincing with very little technical skill," he said, adding that banks were increasingly relying on AI and behavioural analytics to detect suspicious transactions before money left customers' accounts. He argued that technology companies and telecommunications providers must share responsibility because "the best fraud prevention is to stop the criminal from reaching and deceiving the victim in the first place."

Mahindra Last Mile Mobility raises Rs 322 cr at Rs 10,822 cr valuation

MUMBAI: (Jul 30) Mahindra & Mahindra on Thursday said it has executed a binding agreement for raising approximately Rs 322 crore for its last-mile mobility business arm Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Limited (MLMML) at a valuation of Rs 10,822 crore. Lightrock, a global fund pioneering in sustainable investments, led the funding round, with participation from existing investors International Finance Corporation (IFC) and India-Japan Fund (IJF), a fund managed by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIF), the company said. The last-mile mobility business saw a 6X growth in sales of electric three-wheelers over the last four years, it said, adding that the company continues to be the market leader in the electric three-wheeler category.

RECPDCL Transfers Two Power Transmission Projects

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY 2026



REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, handed over two project-specific Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) for inter-state transmission projects to the respective successful bidders on 29 July 2026. The SPVs handed over were Bhadla Ramgarh Power Transmission Limited to M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and Shongtong Power Transmission Limited to M/s Terralight Solar Energy Tinwari Private Limited. Both successful bidders were selected through the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process conducted by RECPDCL as the Bid Process Coordinator, and the projects will be developed on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis.

Bhadla Ramgarh Power Transmission Limited pertains to the inter-state transmission project "Augmentation at Bhadla-III, Ramgarh PS and Kanpur (PG)". The SPV was handed over by Shri Ratnesh Kumar, GM (Engg.), RECPDCL, to Mr. Arup Samanta, Company Secretary, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, in the presence of Shri Rajkumar Sonkar, HoD (CS), RECPDCL, and other senior officials from RECPDCL, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and Central Transmission Utility of India Limited. The Bhadla Ramgarh project broadly envisages augmentation of the 400/220 kV Bhadla-III Pooling Station, 765/400 kV Ramgarh Pooling Station and 765/400 kV Kanpur Pooling Station, along with associated works. The project is scheduled for implementation by 20 January 2029 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,035 crore.

Shongtong Power Transmission Limited pertains to the inter-state transmission project "Transmission system for evacuation of power from Shongtong Karcham HEP (450 MW) and Tidong HEP (150 MW)". The SPV was handed over by Shri Rajkumar Sonkar, HoD (CS), RECPDCL, to Mr. Puneet Singh Chauhan, Sr. VP, Head Commercial & BD, Terralight Solar Energy Tinwari Private Limited, in the presence of Shri Ratnesh Kumar, GM (Engg.), RECPDCL, and other senior officials from RECPDCL, Terralight Solar Energy Tinwari Private Limited and Central Transmission Utility of India Limited.

The Shongtong project broadly envisages establishment of a 400/220 kV GIS Jhangi Pooling Station in Himachal Pradesh, 400 kV Jhangi PS to Wangtoo double-circuit line of 50 kms, 400 kV Panchkula to Wangtoo line of 175 kms, along with other associated works. The project is scheduled for implementation within 30 months at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,286 crore.

REC and PFC Sign ₹26,850 Crore Common Loan Agreement

New Delhi, July 30, 2026: REC Limited and PFC Limited, Maharatna CPSEs under the Ministry of Power and leading Infrastructure Financing NBFCs, have signed Common Loan Agreement with Meja Urja Nigam Private Limited (MUNPL), a 50:50 Joint Venture between NTPC Limited & Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL) for total loan amount of Rs. 26,850 Crore for the establishment of 2400 MW Meja TPP Stage-II Ultra-Super Critical units of 800 MW under Stage-Il (3x800 MW) with Air Cooled Condenser (ACC) system at Meja Tehsil, Prayagraj District, Uttar Pradesh with an estimated project completion cost of Rs. 38,357.81 crore. REC is the lead financer of the project and the loan has been funded in 50:50 by REC and PFC. The Loan Documents were signed at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh by Mr. Srinivasa Rao Gaddamanugu, Chief Executive Officer, MUNPL , Mr. Shambhu Shankar Gupta, Chief General Manager, REC Regional Office Lucknow and Ms Shelly Gupta, GM, PFC, in the presence of Mr Angshu Barua, Chief Financial Officer, MUNPL; Mr. H. K. Das, Executive Director, PFC and Mr. D. B. Londhe, Executive Director, REC. The proposed 3x800 MW Meja Super Thermal Power Project (Stage-II) brings wide-ranging benefits in a single sweep. It will strengthen Uttar Pradesh's energy security, ensures reliable supply for homes, farms, and industries and supports the state's ambitious growth targets. The advanced technology reduces coal consumption and emissions compared to older plants, making it more efficient and environmentally responsible.

Skyroot's Historic Vikram-1

TakeMe2Space's PowerBank-50 Becomes the First Made in India the Shelf Satellite Battery to Earn Flight Heritage on a Private Indian Orbital Launch

The indigenously built, commercially available 50 Wh battery pack powered Cosmoserve Space's experimental payload at a 450 km orbit aboard Skyroot's Vikram-1 'Aagaman', the first privately developed Indian rocket to reach orbit. With this flight, PowerBank-50 graduates from a tested product to a flight proven one, a distinction that defines the global satellite components market. Hyderabad, 30 July 2026: TakeMe2Space today announced that its PowerBank-50 satellite battery pack is officially space proven, having successfully completed its first mission aboard Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 on its maiden flight, Mission 'Aagaman', launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on 18 July 2026.

The mission itself was a landmark for the nation. Vikram-1 became the first privately developed Indian rocket to reach orbit, making India only the third country in the world, after the United States and China, where a private company has achieved orbital launch capability. Riding on that historic flight, a single PowerBank-50 unit powered Cosmoserve Space's experimental payload on the launch vehicle's Orbital Adjustment Module (OAM) at an altitude of 450 km, performing exactly as designed through the violence of launch and the vacuum, radiation and temperature swings of space.



"Every satellite mission lives or dies by its power system, which is why nobody wants to be the first to fly a new battery. We are grateful that Cosmoserve trusted PowerBank-50 on a mission of this significance. Flying on the first private Indian rocket to reach orbit, and performing flawlessly at 450 km, is the strongest validation a product can earn. PowerBank-50 is now space proven, made in India, and ready for every satellite builder in the world," said Ronak Kumar Samantray, Founder and CEO, TakeMe2Space.

Why "space proven" is the credential that matters

In the satellite industry, flight heritage is the hardest credential to earn and the first question every buyer asks. Satellite builders, launch providers and insurers are deeply reluctant to fly components that have never flown, because a single subsystem failure can end a multi crore mission. This creates a well known barrier for new suppliers: you cannot get heritage without flying, and you cannot fly without heritage. PowerBank-50 has now broken through that barrier.

The bar is highest of all for batteries. Batteries are among the most safety scrutinised components on any rocket, since they must survive intense launch vibration and shock, then operate reliably in vacuum through extreme hot and cold cycles every orbit. On this mission, PowerBank-50 validated its entire chain in the real environment: its high energy density lithium ion cells, its intelligent battery management system, its cell heaters and its aluminium flight enclosure. The product has moved from qualified on the ground to proven in orbit, the highest level of technology readiness.

For India's fast growing small satellite ecosystem, this milestone means builders no longer need to depend on imported, long lead time battery packs to de-risk their missions. A flight proven power system is now designed, built and available off the shelf in India.

What this means for everyday life

Satellites quietly run much of daily life. The weather forecast before a farmer sows a crop, the maps that guide a delivery rider, cyclone warnings on the coast, television broadcasts and crop and water surveys all depend on satellites working around the clock. And every satellite has the same weakness: for a large part of every orbit it passes through Earth's shadow, where its solar panels go dark. In those minutes, the battery alone keeps the satellite alive. If the battery fails, the satellite dies.

Until now, Indian satellite builders mostly had to import this critical component at high cost and long waiting times. A proven, affordable battery made in India lowers the cost of building satellites, which means more Indian startups, universities and students can put satellites in orbit. More satellites mean better forecasts, sharper disaster warnings, smarter farming and wider connectivity, built in India, for India and the world.

What is new about PowerBank-50

PowerBank-50 packs more than 50 Wh of energy storage into a unit the size of a paperback and the weight of a smartphone, at 380 grams. It uses cells with among the highest energy density available for small satellites, carries its own onboard intelligence that manages, balances and reports the health of the battery to operators on the ground, and keeps itself warm through the extreme cold of orbit. Packs can be stacked to power anything from a CubeSat to a microsatellite, with a mission life of up to 5 years in low Earth orbit.

Most importantly, it is available off the shelf today at ₹1,04,900, a fraction of the cost of comparable imported packs, so any satellite builder can now buy a flight proven, made in India power system without long import lead times. Full technical specifications are available on the product page.

About TakeMe2Space

TakeMe2Space is building next-generation orbital infrastructure focused on in-space computing, data processing, and orbital data centers. Through its MOI constellation and space-based computing platforms, the company is developing technologies that enable data to be processed, analyzed, and distributed directly in orbit.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Launches the All-New Hilux in India

JAIPUR, JULY 30, 2026:



Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced the launch of the iconic all-new Hilux, marking another significant milestone in strengthening its SUV portfolio in India. As an embodiment of Toyota's inherited spirit of reliability, endurance, and quality, the Ninth-Generation Hilux combines rugged durability and ever-ready capability engineered to deliver a versatile performance. Based on the IMV platform, the all-new Hilux has been developed to deliver exceptional all-round usability that is highly durable for heavy-duty tasks, yet comfortable for urban driving, and capable for light adventure. This flexibility reinforces Toyota's commitment to offer "Mobility for All", while deepening lifelong relationships with customers through its dependability. Commenting on the new launch, Mr. Masakazu Yoshimura, Chairman, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "At Toyota Kirloskar Motor, customer centricity means understanding what customers need today and preparing for what they will aspire for tomorrow. With nearly three decades in India, we continue to grow by listening to our customers, investing for the future, and delivering mobility solutions built on trust, quality, and reliability. Guided by our vision of 'Mobility for All', we remain committed to creating long-term value and building products that earn customer trust for generations. The all-new Hilux further strengthens this direction, bringing Toyota's proven durability, capability, and dependability to customers who seek a vehicle that is both powerful and trusted."

Proudly presenting the new Hilux, Mr. Tadashi Asazuma, Deputy Managing Director, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "The all-new Hilux is tougher, smarter and more expressive, a reflection of our commitment to continuously evolve to meet the raising aspirations of our customers. Backed by Toyota's authentic engineering and legendary durability, the new Hilux combines bold design and powerful performance representing the growing convergence of utility and lifestyle. India is witnessing a significant shift in mobility preferences. Customers are looking for vehicles that go beyond transportation to support diverse lifestyles, professional needs and the pursuit of new experiences. At Toyota, we view this as an opportunity to deliver products like the all-new Hilux that empower customers with greater freedom, confidence and peace of mind." Commenting on the product strengths Mr. Sabari Manohar, Executive Vice President – Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "The exterior and interior of the all-new Hilux is designed under the "Tough & Agile" concept, combining "strength with agility", emphasizing simplicity that is also powerful. With a 2.8-litre engine, the hallmark 4WD capability, advanced connected technologies like the 12.3-inch infotainment system with i-Connect, and comprehensive safety features including seven airbags and driver assist features, we are confident that all-new Hilux will continue to uphold its unchanged promise of serving generations."

Crafted for the Wild

Deigned under the "Tough & Agile" concept, the all-new Hilux brings together rugged strength and dynamic agility in a striking new form. Its bold front-end draws inspiration from the "Cyber Sumo" concept, the iconic pre-combat posture in sumo, a design that demonstrates the Hilux's core qualities of being stable, strong, and steady. A newly designed front bumper with piano black accents, LED headlamps with welcome function, LED fog lamps, and distinctive daytime running lights enhance its contemporary, premium appeal. Alloy wheels, aerodynamic stabilizing fins, electrically adjustable and retractable ORVMs, LED rear combination lamps, and a sharkfin antenna further elevates the visual appeal, while adding stability and modern functionality.

Powerful Yet Effortless

The proven 2.8-litre BS6 Phase 2 diesel engine with 150 kW and 500 Nm, paired with a 6-speed Automatic Transmission, delivers robust performance and exceptional reliability. With an 80-litre fuel tank, it is built for long-distance endurance, offering enhanced drivability and refined acceleration across highways, urban roads, and challenging terrains. Designed for diverse needs, the all-new Hilux continues to embody the strength and endurance that make it a global benchmark.

For Those Who Go Beyond the Map

The legendary 4X4 capability is engineered to take on the toughest adventure with confidence. Equipped with Toyota's advanced four-wheel-drive system featuring High (H4) and Low (L4) range, it tackles varied terrains with confidence while the Electronic Differential Lock, and Downhill Assist Control (DAC) further strengthen its off-road capability. Comfort tuned suspension with double wishbone front, leaf spring rear, and optimized braking offering excellent road grip and a smooth, controlled ride. Combined with impressive approach, departure angles and Toyota's renowned chassis engineering, the Hilux ensures stability, control, and confidence across challenging landscapes.

Refined for the Journey

Every function is practical and complete with modern amenities offering a premium, spacious, and refined cabin experience - developed for comfort and functionality. Soft-touch upholstery with metallic accents, thoughtfully integrated storage, and an ergonomically designed cockpit create a sophisticated, premium environment. Features such as tilt and telescopic steering, 60:40 split rear seats, and power windows with jam protection enhance everyday usability. Convenience is elevated with Smart Entry and Push Start/Stop, park assist, power steering, wireless charging, cruise control, rear armrest, PM2.5 air filtration, and multiple drive modes - Eco, Normal, and Sport, offer greater comfort and personalization.

Ahead of Spider-Man: Brand New Day

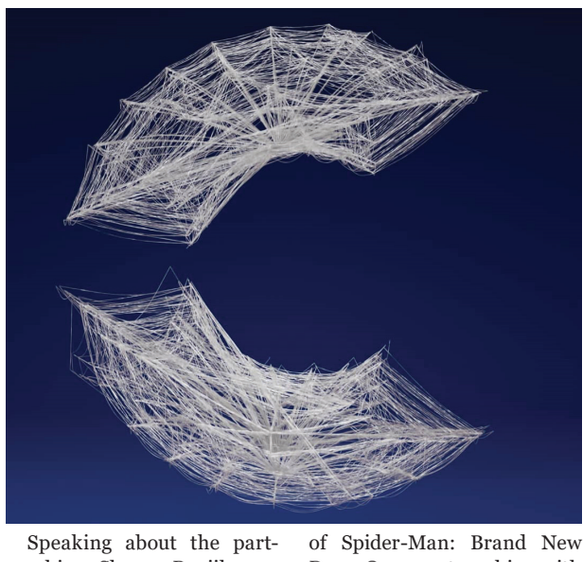
India partners with Sony Pictures Entertainment India to launch exclusive Spider-Man collectibles

Celebrate the biggest film of the year with limited-edition merchandise that will be available across all Cinépolis cinemas pan India from 24th July 2026.

HYDERABAD: JULY 2026:

Cinépolis India, the country's first international cinema exhibitor, has partnered with Sony Pictures Entertainment India to launch an exclusive range of limited-edition Spider-Man collectibles ahead of Spider-Man: Brand New Day, offering fans a unique opportunity to celebrate one of the world's most iconic superheroes beyond the big screen.

Commenting on the collaboration, Devang Sampat, Managing Director, Cinépolis India, said: "At Cinépolis, we are constantly looking for ways to elevate the moviegoing experience beyond the screen. Our collaboration with Sony Pictures Entertainment India reflects our commitment to bringing fans closer to the stories and characters they love. We are excited to introduce this exclusive range of Spider-Man collectibles and create memorable experiences for audiences across India."



Speaking about the partnership, Shony Panjikaran, General Manager and Head, Sony Pictures Releasing International, India said, " Spider-Man has inspired and entertained generations of fans around the world, and we're thrilled to give audiences in India another exciting way to celebrate the arrival of Spider-Man: Brand New Day. Our partnership with Cinépolis India will brings fans exclusive collectibles that let them take home a piece of the Spider-Man experience. We can't wait for audiences to come together, enjoy the film on the big screen, and celebrate their love for the world's most iconic superhero."

Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, Spider-Man: Brand New Day stars Tom Holland as Peter Parker/Spider-Man, alongside Zendaya, Jacob Batalon, Jon Bernthal, and Sadie Sink. Sony Pictures Entertainment India will release Spider-Man: Brand New Day in theatres on 30th July 2026 in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam.

About Spider-Man: Brand New Day : It's a BRAND NEW DAY for Peter Parker. Fighting crime full-time as Spider-Man in a world that doesn't remember him - and the pressure of seeing his old friends move on without him sparks a change in Peter he may not have the power to control. But that transformation might also be the only thing that can stop a shocking new threat to the city and those he loves - a powerful villain no one can even see. The world may have forgotten Peter Parker, but he hasn't forgotten them.

About Sony Pictures Entertainment:

Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) is a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sony Group Corporation. SPE's global operations encompass motion picture production, acquisition, and distribution; television production, acquisition, and distribution; television networks; digital content creation and distribution; operation of studio facilities; and development of new entertainment products, services and technologies. Sony Pictures Television operates dozens of wholly-owned or joint-venture production companies around the world. SPE's Motion Picture Group production organizations include Columbia Pictures, Screen Gems, TriStar Pictures, 3000 Pictures, Sony Pictures Animation, Stage 6 Films, AFFIRM Films, Sony Pictures International Productions, and Sony Pictures Classics. For additional information, visit http://www.sonypictures.com/corp/divisions.html .

Olectra Introduces 4,000 Electric Buses Across the Country

Hyderabad, July 30: Olectra Greentech Limited has achieved another historic milestone in the electric bus sector in India. Olectra has become the first company in the country to successfully deploy 4,000 electric buses on Indian roads. With this achievement, the company has further strengthened its leading position in the development of sustainable public transportation systems in the country. On this occasion, Olectra Managing Director Mahesh Babu handed over the company's 4,000th electric bus to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri on Thursday. In the same ceremony, the Chief Minister flagged off 297 Olectra electric buses purchased for the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC). Senior officials of the state government, HRTC representatives, and Olectra officials participated in the programme. Currently, Olectra's 4,000 electric buses are providing services in several states and cities across



the country. Along with safely transporting millions of passengers to their destinations every day, these buses have earned the trust of public transport organizations due to their low operating costs and high efficiency. So far, the combined travel distance of Olectra's electric buses has crossed 73 crore (730 million) green kilometres. The company stated that this has resulted in a reduction of more than 6.5 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions, making a significant contribution towards environmental protection. The company described this achievement as an important milestone not only for Olectra but also for India's journey towards eco-friendly transportation. Speaking on the occasion, Olectra Greentech Managing Director Mahesh Babu said that becoming the first company to introduce 4,000 electric buses on Indian roads is a matter of pride not only for Olectra but also for the country's electric vehicle sector. He said that this achievement reflects the confidence placed by public transport organizations in electric buses. He stated that it was a great honour for Olectra to deliver its 4,000th bus to the Himachal Pradesh government and, on the same occasion, provide 297 buses to HRTC.

Sip, Snack, Repeat

The Ultimate Guide to Monsoon Food and Beer Cocktails

Rainy Days, Comfort Food and the Joy of Perfect Pairings



The arrival of the monsoon transforms everyday life into something slower, calmer and more comforting. As raindrops tap against windows and cool breezes replace the summer heat, kitchens across India come alive with the aroma of freshly fried snacks, roasted corn, spicy chaats and steaming delicacies that have become synonymous with the rainy season. For many, monsoon is not just another season—it is an experience filled with nostalgia, family gatherings, conversations over hot food and moments spent enjoying nature's refreshing beauty.

Food has always played a central role in celebrating the monsoon. Crispy pakoras served straight from the frying pan, smoky roasted bhutta from roadside vendors, spicy peanuts shared among friends, buttery chilli cheese toast and tangy aloo tikki chaat have long been favourites that perfectly complement the cool weather. These comforting dishes offer warmth and flavour while making rainy evenings even more memorable. While hot tea continues to be the traditional beverage of choice, beer-based cocktails are increasingly finding a place on monsoon menus. Their crisp, refreshing character, when combined with fruits, herbs and Indian spices, creates exciting flavour combinations that complement seasonal snacks surprisingly well. Unlike heavy cocktails, beer cocktails are generally lighter, allowing the flavours of both the drink and the food to shine without overwhelming the palate. The secret to a memorable monsoon pairing lies in balancing flavours. Salty snacks pair well with refreshing drinks, spicy foods benefit from cooling ingredients, smoky dishes become richer with subtle sweetness, while cheesy treats are balanced by light bitterness. With the right combination, every bite becomes more enjoyable and every sip enhances the experience. Whether you are planning a weekend get-together, enjoying a quiet evening with family, or simply relaxing while watching the rain from your balcony, these thoughtfully crafted beer cocktail pairings offer a refreshing way to celebrate the season.

Crispy Onion Pakoras Meet the Bold Flavours of Masala Beer

Nothing defines the Indian monsoon quite like a plate of freshly fried onion pakoras. The irresistible aroma of gram flour batter mixed with sliced onions, green chillies, coriander and spices instantly evokes memories of rainy afternoons spent with family. Golden, crunchy and packed with flavour, onion pakoras remain one of India's most loved seasonal snacks. Their crispy texture and savoury spices make them an ideal companion for a Masala Beer—a refreshing cocktail inspired by India's love for bold flavours. Prepared using a crisp lager as the base, the drink combines black salt, roasted cumin powder, freshly grated ginger, green chilli and a squeeze of lime. Each ingredient adds a layer of complexity. The roasted cumin brings earthy warmth, black salt introduces a distinctive tanginess, ginger contributes gentle heat and lime brightens the overall flavour profile. The clean, refreshing finish of the lager balances the richness of the fried pakoras, preventing the palate from becoming overwhelmed. Meanwhile, the spice-infused cocktail mirrors the flavours already present in the snack, creating a seamless pairing that feels both familiar and refreshing. This combination works particularly well during evening rain showers when families gather around the dining table or friends meet indoors to enjoy the weather. The crunchy pakoras and chilled masala beer together create a satisfying contrast between hot and cold, crisp and refreshing.

Smoky Roasted Bhutta Finds a Sweet Companion in Ginger-Honey Beer

Roasted bhutta, or charred corn on the cob, is another monsoon favourite deeply rooted in Indian food culture. The sight of roadside vendors roasting fresh corn over glowing charcoal has become one of the defining images of the rainy season. Finished with lemon juice, salt and chilli powder, bhutta delivers a wonderful balance of smoky, sweet and spicy flavours. Pairing this rustic snack with a Ginger-Honey Beer creates a refreshing combination that highlights its natural sweetness while complementing its smoky notes. The cocktail begins with a light lager, blended with fresh ginger juice, honey and a dash of black pepper. The honey softens the drink with gentle sweetness while allowing the malt characteristics of the beer to remain noticeable. Fresh ginger introduces warmth and spice without overpowering the palate, while black pepper provides a subtle finishing kick. Together, these flavours enhance the roasted sweetness of the corn rather than competing with it. Every bite of smoky bhutta followed by a sip of the ginger-infused beer creates a balanced combination that captures the comforting spirit of the monsoon. It is an excellent pairing for relaxed outdoor gatherings, balcony evenings or small family celebrations where simple food and refreshing drinks take centre stage.



Tropical Freshness Meets the Spice of Masala Peanuts

Masala peanuts may appear simple, but they are among the most addictive snacks enjoyed during rainy evenings. Roasted or fried peanuts tossed with chilli powder, black pepper, curry leaves and spices offer a satisfying crunch along with bold flavours that keep everyone reaching for another handful. Since the snack is rich in spice and salt, it benefits from a lighter, fruit-forward beverage that refreshes the palate between bites. A Pineapple Coconut Beer Punch offers exactly that balance.

Prepared using a smooth wheat beer, the cocktail combines pineapple juice, fresh coconut water and mint leaves to create a tropical profile that contrasts beautifully with spicy peanuts. Wheat beer naturally possesses mild fruity notes, making it an ideal base for tropical ingredients.

Pineapple introduces pleasant acidity and sweetness, coconut water adds natural freshness and mint contributes a cooling finish that softens the intensity of the spices. Rather than masking the flavours of the peanuts, the cocktail allows each bite to remain enjoyable while cleansing the palate for the next one. This makes it particularly suitable for long conversations with friends where snacks are shared over several hours. Its refreshing character also makes it one of the easiest beer cocktails to enjoy during humid monsoon evenings.



Aloo Tikki Chaat Finds Freshness in a Cucumber-Mint Beer Cooler

Aloo tikki chaat represents everything people love about Indian street food. Crispy potato patties layered with yoghurt, tamarind chutney, green chutney, onions, spices, sev and fresh coriander create an explosion of flavours and textures in every serving. Sweet, spicy, tangy and savoury elements come together in a single plate, making it one of the most flavour-packed monsoon snacks. Such complexity requires a beverage that refreshes rather than competes. A Cucumber-Mint Beer Cooler offers the perfect solution. Prepared using a light lager, freshly muddled cucumber, mint leaves and sparkling water, this cocktail delivers exceptional freshness. The cucumber cools the palate, mint provides herbal brightness and sparkling water adds a lively finish that keeps the drink light. The result is a cocktail that contrasts beautifully with the richness and spice of aloo tikki chaat while allowing every ingredient in the dish to remain distinct. It is particularly well suited for afternoon gatherings, terrace parties or family get-togethers where colourful street-food-inspired menus are served.

Chilli Cheese Toast and Apple Beer Fizz Create a Perfect Balance

Few comfort foods rival the popularity of chilli cheese toast during the rainy season. Thick slices of bread topped with generous amounts of melted cheese, chopped green chillies, herbs and butter deliver indulgence in every bite. Rich, creamy and mildly spicy, the dish naturally pairs well with beverages capable of cutting through its richness without overwhelming the flavours.

An Apple Beer Fizz provides precisely that balance.

Using an India Pale Ale (IPA) as its base, the cocktail incorporates fresh apple juice, a hint of cinnamon and plenty of ice. The fruity sweetness of the apple complements the creamy cheese, while the natural bitterness of the IPA refreshes the palate after every bite. Cinnamon introduces subtle warmth that blends beautifully with the rainy weather, adding an aromatic dimension without dominating the drink. The combination feels sophisticated yet approachable, making it ideal for house parties, movie nights or casual weekend gatherings.

As the cheese melts and the toast remains crisp around the edges, each sip of the chilled apple beer fizz refreshes the palate while highlighting the comforting richness of the snack.

Understanding Why Beer Cocktails Work So Well During Monsoon

Beer cocktails may seem like a modern trend, but their popularity continues to grow because they combine the familiar character of beer with fresh ingredients that enhance seasonal flavours. Unlike stronger spirits, beer generally offers a lighter base that allows herbs, fruits and spices to shine naturally. This makes it especially suitable for pairing with Indian snacks, many of which feature complex spice blends and bold flavours. Fresh ginger adds warmth that complements rainy weather. Mint and cucumber provide cooling freshness after spicy foods. Fruits such as apple and pineapple introduce sweetness and acidity that balance salty or fried snacks, while spices like roasted cumin and black salt create flavour bridges between the drink and the food. The carbonation also helps cleanse the palate, making every bite taste fresh rather than heavy.

Creating the Perfect Monsoon Gathering at Home

Hosting a monsoon get-together does not require elaborate planning. The beauty of the season lies in its simplicity. Serve freshly prepared snacks while they are still hot and crispy. Keep cocktails well chilled and garnish them with fresh herbs, citrus slices or seasonal fruits. Soft lighting, comfortable seating and the soothing sound of rainfall naturally create the perfect atmosphere for relaxed conversations. Offering a variety of snacks allows guests to experiment with different pairings and discover combinations they enjoy most. From crunchy pakoras and roasted corn to cheesy toast and tangy chaat, every dish brings its own unique flavour experience when matched with the right beer cocktail. The focus should remain on balance, freshness and moderation, allowing both food and drink to complement one another.

Celebrating the Spirit of the Monsoon

The monsoon is more than just a change in weather—it is a celebration of comfort, togetherness and seasonal flavours. Rain encourages people to slow down, spend time with loved ones and rediscover simple pleasures that often go unnoticed during the rest of the year. Classic Indian snacks have always been at the heart of these moments, and thoughtfully crafted beer cocktails add a contemporary twist that enhances the experience without overshadowing tradition. Whether it is the savoury spice of onion pakoras, the smoky sweetness of roasted bhutta, the crunch of masala peanuts, the richness of chilli cheese toast or the vibrant flavours of aloo tikki chaat, each snack finds a refreshing companion in a carefully balanced beer cocktail. Ultimately, the best monsoon memories are created not through elaborate celebrations but through shared conversations, comforting food and the gentle rhythm of falling rain. Enjoy these seasonal pairings responsibly, savour every flavour and let each refreshing sip and comforting bite remind you why the monsoon remains one of India's most cherished seasons.

SHORT NEWS

CRICKET

Zampa to play domestic cricket for Queensland after leaving NSW



BRISBANE: Australia's premier white-ball leg-spinner Adam Zampa has signed up with Queensland for the upcoming 2026/27 domestic season after Cricket Australia formally approved his switch in state from New South Wales (NSW). Zampa, 34, lives near Byron Bay on the northern coast of NSW, made the move to allow himself greater flexibility and proximity for training, especially with Queensland's facilities in Brisbane just two hours away. Queensland will mark the third state team of his domestic career, following a seven-year stint with South Australia early in his career and his subsequent time with NSW. Zampa, currently ranked fourth in the ICC T20I bowling rankings, joins fellow nationally contracted players Marnus Labuschagne, Michael Neser, and Xavier Bartlett in the Queensland squad.

'Tough conditions, but happy that all 3 Indians are in final,' says Neeraj Chopra

GLASGOW



After booking his place in the Men's Javelin Throw final at the Commonwealth Games 2026 with a best effort of 79 metres, India's Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra admitted the cold and swirling winds made the competition challenging but expressed satisfaction with the outcome, while also looking ahead to what he expects will be a high-quality final featuring many of the world's leading throwers.

Having done enough to secure qualification, Chopra said his primary objective had always been to progress to the medal round rather than chase a massive throw.

"It was really cold and windy, but the throw was okay, the 79m throw. The goal was to go in the final and give my best in the final, so I'm happy with the throw," he said after the qualifying round where he finished fifth. The Indian star explained that the unpredictable wind made it extremely difficult for athletes to judge their approach and release during qualification, with no competitor managing to achieve the automatic qualifying standard.

"Conditions are not best for javelin throwers. Not only cold, but it's really windy. The wind was also not in the front; sometimes it's from the side. It's really hard to process where we have to throw. Sometimes we think, 'Okay, we'll throw there', but then the wind comes from the other side. And lots of throwers are struggling today. Nobody touched the automatic qualification mark. It was tough conditions, but we are happy that all three Indians are in the final," Chopra added.

All three Indian javelin throwers advanced to the final, giving the country multiple medal hopes heading into the title-deciding contest.

Looking ahead to the final, Chopra acknowledged the strength of the field, which includes several of the world's best athletes and fellow medallists from the Paris Olympics, saying, "Yeah, it's a crazy field. For an event like Javelin Throw, that will be a really good final. Hope conditions will be okay tomorrow. Everyone looks in good shape. Let's see tomorrow."

Chopra also praised Sri Lanka's rising talent Rumesh, saying the youngster's emergence reflects the growing standard of javelin throwing across South Asia.

"He's the new kid on the block, the rising star. He throws really well. He's a good friend of mine. This year he has thrown really well. It's good that Javelin is growing in our neighbourhood. It feels good that he did something great for Sri Lanka," he said. The Olympic champion believes the sport has undergone a dramatic transformation in the region, with greater awareness, improved coaching resources and wider access to information encouraging more youngsters to take up javelin.

"Javelin is really popular in South Asia now. There are lots of Javelin throwers. There are lots of athletes, and they are training for Javelin. So there is a better chance that so many good athletes will come. Earlier, Javelin as a sport was not that famous. But in the last few years, people support javelin and people know about the sport. So they know there is a future, and they really push themselves.

"We have good facilities now, and we know about javelin. Because when I started, I didn't know how we had to plan for Javelin training and how we had to train. But right now, because of the internet, you can know about Javelin training. So it's really good that people know about Javelin now. That's why people recognise Javelin throw, and they try to give their best," he added.

Reflecting on the impact of his own success, Chopra said his historic gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics sparked a surge of interest in the discipline, resulting in a new generation of elite Indian throwers. "Earlier, there were lots of other really good athletes that provided a boost to other sports. But after my Tokyo Olympics gold, there was an immense boost in Javelin. I'm happy we have really good throwers now. I think we have around 20 80m throwers, so it's really good for India," Chopra concluded.

Players, coaches suggest change over visibility issues: Dilip Tirkey

NEW DELHI



Hockey India President Dilip Kumar Tirkey on Thursday explained the decision to change the Indian men's and women's hockey teams' jersey colour from blue to orange for the FIH World Cup, saying the change was suggested by players, coaches and support staff due to visibility issues on the blue hockey turf.

Hockey India on Monday unveiled the new saffron jersey instead of their traditional blue kits for next month's FIH World Cup in the Netherlands and Belgium, which triggered widespread debate, with ex-captain Viren Rasquinha publicly questioning the logic behind moving away from the team's iconic blue colours.

Speaking to IANS, Tirkey said the team had suggested two colour options, yellow and orange, with orange players selected as it is also represented in the Indian national flag.

"The change from blue to orange was made on the recommendation of the players, coaching staff, and support staff... Technically, when the team plays on blue turf, the blue jersey creates visibility-related issues. That is why two colours, saffron and yellow, were shortlisted. The players and coaches chose saffron, as it is one of the colours of the national flag."

He insisted that the decision was taken based on the technical reasons and urged not create unnecessary issues out of it. "There is a technical reason behind the move to the saffron jersey, so it is better not to make an unnecessary issue out of it.

The team's jersey colour has been changed in several tournaments in the past as well. In 2014, the team played in yellow jerseys, while in 2018, the team played in sky blue jerseys.

Tirkey further said Hockey India would consider the players' preference, and the jersey colour can be changed in the future on players' preference.

"If after or during the World Cup, the team or players do not feel comfortable with the orange colour, which was introduced based on their own request, we can definitely change it in the future to a colour that the team prefers," he said.

FIH Men's and Women's Hockey World Cups, which are scheduled to begin on August 14 and 15, respectively, in the Netherlands and Belgium.



11th All India Police Judo Cluster Championship–2026 Concludes in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

: The 11th All India Police Judo Cluster Championship–2026, organized by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) under the aegis of the All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB), concluded today. The closing ceremony was held at the GMC Balayogi Indoor Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. Telangana Police Director General (HoPF) IPS Shri C.V. Anand attended the event as the chief guest. CISF Headquarters ADG IPS Shri Vijay Prakash, IPS Shri S. Sambandhan (DIB representative), NISA-Hyderabad Director Smt. Harpreet Kaur, AIPSCB officials, and other dignitaries participated in the programme.

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, IPS Shri C.V. Anand said it was commendable that 36 teams from state police forces across the country and Central Armed Police Forces were brought together and that the championship was conducted in a highly efficient manner. He stated that such sporting events go beyond medals by strengthening national integration and fostering brotherhood among police forces.

Shri C.V. Anand presented trophies to the winning teams. He congratulated the overall championship winners Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), the runners-up CISF, and the third-place winners Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He also congratulated the athletes who displayed outstanding performances and won individual medals.

He announced that Telangana Police would host the All India Police Sports Competitions in Hyderabad during the next two years. He remarked that India is emerging as a global sporting power under the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. He urged police personnel to make sports and physical fitness an integral part of their daily lives, stating that officers who are physically and mentally strong can serve the nation more effectively.

IPS Shri Sambandhan (DIB representative) congratulated the police forces from various states for their achievements in the championship and praised the excellent organization of the event. He appreciated the growing sporting talent among the armed forces. He specifically mentioned that 11 police personnel represented India at the Paris Olympics. He recalled that police athletes won 109 medals in the 2025–26 National Championships and 613 medals at the 2025 World Police and Fire Games. He also announced that Ahmedabad, Gujarat, will host the 2029 World Police and Fire Games. He stated that this would be an important milestone in the sporting journey of the country's security forces.

Speaking on the occasion, CISF Headquarters ADG IPS Shri Vijay Prakash congratulated the winning teams and medal winners. He advised athletes who did not win medals to consider this experience as a stepping stone towards future success. He said that the same hands that are prepared to protect the nation's borders and critical infrastructure can also win gold medals for the country. He expressed confidence that many athletes would represent India in the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, and Olympics.

The championship, held from July 23 to July 30, 2026, brought together nearly 1,600 athletes and officials from 36 Central and State Police organizations. Notably, 28 teams won at least one medal. A total of 470 medals were awarded across five disciplines, including 119 gold, 119 silver, and 232 bronze medals.

Discipline-wise Results:

Judo: Winner – SSB; Second Place – BSF; Third Place – Uttar Pradesh Police.

Wushu: Winner – SSB; Second Place – CRPF; Third Place – ITBP.

Taekwondo (Men): Winner – CISF; Second Place – BSF; Third Place – Uttar Pradesh Police.

Taekwondo (Women): Winner – Uttar Pradesh Police; Second Place – CISF; Third Place – Assam Rifles.

Pencak Silat: Winner – CISF; Second Place – SSB; Third Place – Maharashtra.

Karate: Winner – Assam Rifles; Second Place – ITBP; Third Place – CISF.

'Cap 278 signing off': Rahane announces retirement

NEW DELHI



Senior India batter Ajinkya Rahane has announced his retirement from international cricket, drawing a curtain to his 15-year career. Rahane, who famously led the side to a spectacular Border Gavaskar Trophy series win in Australia in 2020-21, announced his decision by sharing a video on social media with a caption, "Cap 278 signing off. Thank you for all the love and support over the years. Forever grateful." Rahane featured in 85 Tests, 90 ODIs and 20 T20Is for India while also turning out in 212 IPL games for six teams.

"The reality of life is that everything has a beginning and everything has an end. When the time comes, you simply have to respect it and move forward. I have always relied on timing in my batting and have always understood its importance. Today, I feel the timing is right for me to move on and announce my retirement from international cricket and all formats. From those early days, travelling from Dombivli as a young boy just to practise, I gave this game everything I had," Rahane said in a video.

Rahane made his India debut in 2011 during the tour of England and has 2962 ODI runs as well. He made his Test debut in 2013 and went on to score 5077 runs in 144 innings, including 12 centuries and 26 fifties.

"Every single day, every innings, every opportunity I got to bat, the dream was always to wear the India cap. I lived by one simple rule – always put my country and my team ahead of myself. I played this game with complete honesty, and I have always believed that if your intent is right, the game will always take care of you. "Since the time I made my debut as a first-class cricketer, Indian cricket has grown tremendously, and I feel so proud to have been a part of it over the last 20 years," he added.

He continued, "While my chapter as an Indian cricketer comes to an end, my journey with the game doesn't. I look forward to helping the next generation, sharing the values this sport has taught me and giving back to the game that has given me everything. From starting out as a young player in Mumbai to playing for India, it has been an absolute honour. There have been many wins and losses along the way, but the sheer joy of playing cricket, being part of different teams and creating lifelong memories – that has been the greatest satisfaction of my career."

Rahane has been part of the IPL since the first season in 2008. From 2011 to 2015, Rahane was with Rajasthan Royals. In 2016 and 2017, Rahane represented the Rising Pune Supergiants while RR were banned. He was traded to Delhi Capitals ahead of IPL 2020before joining Kolkata Knight Riders in 2022. Rahane got a boost to his IPL career in IPL 2023 when Chennai Super Kings (his sixth IPL franchise) lifted the trophy. It was also Rahane's first IPL title.

Sports Min Mandaviya felicitates ISSF World Cup gold medallists Esha Singh, Neeru Dhanda

NEW DELHI



Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Labour and Employment, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, on Thursday felicitated India's ISSF World Cup 2026 gold medallists Esha Singh and Naib Subedar Neeru Dhanda for their landmark achievements in their respective events. Neeru scripted history at the ISSF World Cup in Lonato, Italy, by becoming the first Indian woman trap shooter to win a gold medal at an ISSF World Cup.

Esha, meanwhile, continued her remarkable ascent in international shooting by clinching the women's 25m pistol gold medal at the ISSF World Cup in Hangzhou, China. It was her second World Cup gold of the year in the event.

During the interaction, Mandaviya assured the duo of continued government support as they strive for sustained excellence in the sport. "The Government is pushing hard and leaving no stones unturned to ensure you don't stay behind by any means in giving your best from every tournament. Shooting is one of our highest priority disciplines and is a prominent medal-winning sport for us looking ahead to the 2028 LA Olympics, the 2030 Commonwealth Games and so on. All we want is medals from you also at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics," Mandaviya said.

Mandaviya also said the shooters' achievements reflect the success of India's long-term investment in athlete development through initiatives such as the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), National Centres of Excellence, Khelo India and scientific coaching support.

Arjuna Awardee Esha is part of the TOPS Core group, while Neeru is part of the TOPS Development group. Both shooters have also been Khelo India Athletes (KIAs). The duo is currently preparing for the upcoming 2026 Asian Games.

Neeru, 26, from Haryana's Jind district, also created a new national record in qualification at the Lonato World Cup, scoring 121 out of 125. She then defeated former World Champion Carole Cormenier of France in a thrilling final to claim the gold medal.

A Naib Subedar in the Corps of Military Police, Neeru trains at the Indian Army's prestigious Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) in Mhow.

Her World Cup triumph followed her gold-medal-winning performance at the 2025 Asian Shooting Championships. Meanwhile, reigning Asian Games double silver medallist Esha, 21, edged past a strong Chinese challenge in the Hangzhou final to clinch the women's 25m pistol gold.

Last year, Esha became the first Indian woman to win a World Championship medal in the women's 25m pistol when she claimed bronze in Doha. She had earlier won her maiden ISSF World Cup title in the 10m air pistol. She also won the 25m pistol gold at the Munich World Cup with a world-record score of 43.

Stephen Fleming named England Test coach, Joe Root returns as captain

LONDON



Former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming has been appointed England Men's Test head coach, with Joe Root returning as captain as the team prepares to enter a new era under the experienced coach.

Fleming will take over the reins from his former teammate Brendon McCullum, who resigned from his role after the 2-1 loss against New Zealand in the home Test series.

Root, meanwhile, has been reinstated as England's Test captain. The right-handed batter previously led England between 2017 and 2022 and remains the country's most experienced Test captain, having led the side in 65 matches and secured 27 victories.

Fleming, 53, will begin his tenure after the upcoming Test Series against Pakistan, with Marcus Trescothick serving as interim head coach during the series. The former New Zealand skipper is expected to take charge in time for England's Test tour of South Africa later this year.

Fleming arrives with an impressive coaching record, having spent 18 years with Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and guiding the franchise to a record five Indian Premier League titles. He reached the IPL final 10 times during his tenure and also coached CSK's affiliate teams in South Africa and the USA. He has also coached Melbourne Stars and led Southern Brave to the final of The Hundred in 2023.

As a player, Fleming was New Zealand's longest-serving Test captain, leading the side in 80 Tests and recording a national record 28 victories. He played 111 Tests for New Zealand and also represented English county sides Middlesex, Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. He captained Nottinghamshire to their first County Championship title in 2005.

Root briefly returned to the captaincy on an interim basis during England's Test series against New Zealand at the Oval earlier this summer, but could not make a sudden impact as England lost the match. Fleming said he was honoured to take charge of one of the most prestigious coaching positions in world cricket.



Sapthami's Elegant Saree Charm

Sapthami Gowda Stuns in Elegant Purple Saree, Fans Love Her Traditional Look In this radiant photograph, Kannada actress Sapthami Gowda greets fans with a warm smile and a cheerful Hi . Draped in a stunning purple saree paired with a red blouse, she exudes traditional grace and modern charm, perfectly capturing her down-to-earth persona. Born on June 8, 1996, in Bengaluru, Sapthami Gowda made her acting debut in 2020 with the Kannada film Popcorn Monkey Tiger, directed by Duniya Suri, where she played Girija opposite Dhananjaya. Her breakthrough came with the 2022 blockbuster Kantara, directed by Rishab Shetty, in which she portrayed Leela, earning widespread acclaim for her authentic performance as a strong village woman.Her career has since expanded across languages. She appeared in The Vaccine War (2023) and Yuva (2024). Recent and upcoming projects include Thammudu (Telugu debut, 2025) opposite Nithiin, Shodha web series, The Rise of Ashoka (2026), and other exciting films like Halagali. Sapthami continues to impress with her versatility and screen presence, making her one of Kannada cinema's promising talents.

'Lenin' Powers Akhil to 100 Cr



Akkineni young star Akhil has achieved the biggest milestone of his career with the blockbuster success of Lenin. The film has been performing exceptionally well at the box office and crossed the 100 crore gross mark worldwide by its second weekend, becoming Akhil's first-ever 100 crore film. After waiting for a major commercial breakthrough for years, the actor is finally celebrating the biggest success of his career. Expressing his gratitude, Akhil took to social media and shared the film's 100 crore celebration poster. In his post, he thanked audiences for their unwavering love and support, writing, "This success belongs to every one of you who believed in, supported, and encouraged me. I am truly grateful and already gearing up for my next film. See you in theatres soon." Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, Lenin stars Bhagyashri Borse as the female lead. The film received positive word-of-mouth from its opening day, which helped it maintain a strong run at the box office. Apart from winning audience appreciation, Lenin has also emerged as a massive commercial success. Produced by Nagarjuna Akkineni and Naga Vamsi on an estimated budget of 55 crore, the film had a theatrical business of around 22 crore, setting its break-even target at 44 crore. Surpassing all expectations, the film reportedly achieved break-even across all major territories within just three to four days of release and has since been generating healthy profits.Trade analysts believe the phenomenal success of Lenin has given Akhil's career the much-needed boost, firmly establishing him among the bankable young stars of Telugu cinema.

Vijay Calls Tharun a Precious Soul



Actor Vijay Deverakonda, who played the lead along with Ritu Varma in the superhit Telugu film 'Pellichoopulu', has now penned a heartfelt note of gratitude on the occasion of the film completing 10 years in which he has complimented the film's director, Tharun Bhascker Dhaassyam, calling him a "precious soul". Taking to his X timeline, Vijay Deverakonda said, "Ten years. Something feels very strange about reading that 10 years ago, we all met in the theatres :) that we laughed and fell in love and formed a bond that keeps us together till today. Something feels very heavy. That day meant to a young me more than anything that has occured since. It gave a young free rebellious boy an acknowledgment and strength... That he wasn't a fool to dream or believe." The actor then went on to express his love and gratitude to the team that made the film. He wrote, "I love you all, my Telugu audience dearly. But more than anything, Tharun. I miss you so much man...and love you so dearly. I am so proud of you and blessed to have made this film with you and you are one precious soul." "My darling team - @riturv, @Preyadarshe, Abhay, Nagesh, Vivek Sagar. I send you all my biggest hugs and love. And to our heros and producers - who took a bet on us. When everyone rejected us - @YashBigBen @IamRajKandukuri. It meant a lot," he added. Stating that today he was no longer the free young boy he was then, Vijay Deverakonda said, "Life is full but I feel the weight on my shoulders.. I feel different." He concluded the note saying, "From here on everything I do is all heart because no other metric matters. From my heart to all my directors, from my heart to all my RWDY boys and girls, to my family and friends, to my audience." It may be recalled that Ritu Varma, who played the female lead in the film, too had penned a heartfelt post on the film completing 10 years.

Sumanth Recalls School Days With Jagan

Actor Sumanth, who is currently promoting his upcoming film Newton's Third Law, opened up about his long-standing friendship with former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Reflecting on their school days, Sumanth shared several nostalgic memories from their time together at Hyderabad Public School (HPS).Sumanth revealed that Jagan was two years his senior at school, but despite the age difference, the two shared a close bond. They frequently watched movies together, dined at restaurants, and participated in various school events. Speaking about Jagan's personality, Sumanth said that his leadership qualities were evident even during their school days. "Jagan was our school house captain. He was always calm, confident, and displayed remarkable leadership. Even back then, our friends believed he would enter politics, while I would pursue a career in films. Eventually, that's exactly how our lives turned out," he recalled. The actor, however, made it clear that he has no interest in entering politics. "Politics is a highly responsible field that demands genuine passion and commitment. I have many friends in politics and respect them, but I don't see myself fitting into that world," Sumanth stated. Sumanth also mentioned that he never got the opportunity to meet Jagan after he became Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, although they did meet once when Jagan was serving as the Leader of the Opposition. As their careers took different paths after school, they gradually lost regular contact. Recalling the legacy of Hyderabad Public School, Sumanth pointed out that the institution has produced several prominent names in the Telugu film industry, including his uncle Akkineni Nagarjuna, himself, his junior Rana Daggubati, filmmaker Nag Ashwin, and many others.



Kajal Praises South's Time Discipline

As competition between Indian film industries intensifies, discussions around work culture and storytelling have become just as significant as box office success. South Indian cinema, in particular, has earned praise for its disciplined approach to filmmaking, professional work environment, and the growing importance of well-written female characters. Actress Kajal Aggarwal has now highlighted these strengths with her latest remarks. Speaking about the industry's work culture, Kajal praised the South film industry for its strong sense of punctuality and commitment to schedules. She noted that time management plays a crucial role in filmmaking, as even minor delays can impact actors' dates, production schedules, and the technical crew's workflow. Her comments have once again sparked conversations about the contrast between the South industry's structured production culture and the delays that are often associated with Bollywood. Kajal also emphasized that, throughout her career, she has always prioritized quality over quantity. Rather than chasing a higher number of films, she preferred choosing meaningful roles that offered creative satisfaction. According to her, the South film industry consistently provided her with characters that allowed her to grow as an actress, making it easier to select strong, content-driven projects over routine commercial roles. She further pointed out the remarkable evolution of female characters in South Indian cinema. Unlike the past, where heroines were often confined to supporting the hero's journey, today's stories feature women with independent arcs, emotional depth, and significant influence on the narrative. Whether in family dramas, thrillers, period films, or action entertainers, female protagonists are increasingly becoming integral to the story rather than mere glamorous additions. Industry observers believe this transformation reflects changing audience preferences. Viewers are now embracing content-rich films with layered female characters, encouraging filmmakers to create stronger and more meaningful roles for women.With its professional work culture, commitment to punctuality, content-driven storytelling, and increasing focus on powerful female characters, South Indian cinema continues to set new benchmarks. Film analysts believe these factors could play a defining role in shaping the future of Indian cinema.



Printed, Published, Edited and Owned by Pisati Janga Reddy, Printed at : Jayadurga Printers, Plot No.48, H.No.24114/ 3/1, Survey.No.551, Laxmi Narayana Nagar, Uppal, Medchal District, Telangana State.
Published at : Flat No.303A, Prajay Alakapuri Apartments, Road No.2, Green Hills Colony, Kothapet, Hyderabad 500035,Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State.
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