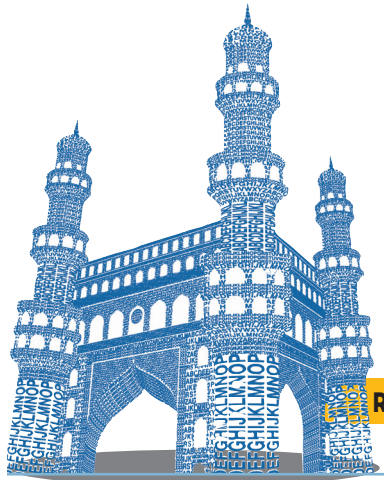




# HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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## Digital Growth, Cyber Threats

SPECIAL 02

## Traditional Take on Goa Style

BOX-OFFICE 12



## SLBC Tunnel to Be Ready by June 2028

### Uttam Reaffirms Commitment

Minister says Safety protocols paramount

- Project to draw 40 TMC from Srisaillam, irrigate 4.01 lakh acres and provide drinking water to 618 fluoride-affected villages.

Hyderabad, July 6: Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has made it clear that the Government is firmly committed to completing the SLBC tunnel by June 2028, while ensuring the highest safety standards for the workforce engaged in the tunnel works.



Chairing a high-level review meeting on the Alimineti Madhava Reddy Srisaillam Left Bank Canal (AMR-SLBC) Project today, the Minister said the project was not merely an engineering exercise but the fulfilment of a long-pending promise to the drought-hit and fluoride-affected people of south Telangana. He said the Government would clear bottlenecks, resolve land acquisition issues, strengthen technical supervision and ensure that the SLBC Tunnel and canal network are completed together.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

## "Serve Humanity" Is the Path to the Divine

### Ego distances man from God: Governor

Hyderabad, July 6: Service to humanity is the highest form of worship and the noblest path to attaining the divine, said Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, emphasising that true spirituality is not confined to rituals and religious observances but is realised through selfless service and the complete renunciation of ego.

The Governor made these remarks when a 108-member group of devotees, led by Ajay Bhai, founder of Rashtra Mandir Vishva Ramayan Ashram under

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



## CM Pushes Tourism in CURE, Future City

Famous Veerabhadra Swamy temple in Vikarabad to get a facelift as a spiritual tourism centre

Forest lands in the Future City will be developed at international standards

Durgam Cheruvu and Taramati Baramati will be big tourist hubs in Hyderabad

CM Revanth Reddy holds a review of the Tourism department

Hyderabad, July 6: Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy proposed to promote tourism in and around Hyderabad city and the Bharat Future City. The Chief minister instructed the officials of

the Tourism department to finalise an action plan for the promotion of eco tourism in the CURE (Core Urban Region) area. At a high-level meeting with the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



## Telangana to Emerge as a Global Life Sciences Innovation Hub



Zaheerabad NIMZ to be developed as a Model Manufacturing Zone

Opposition spreading misinformation out of frustration over Telangana's industrial progress

Minister Sridhar Babu inaugurates India's first Integrated Oncology Manufacturing Facility

Hyderabad, July 6: State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said the Telangana government is transforming the state into a world-class life sciences innovation hub by leveraging the rapid advancements taking place in the healthcare sector. He stated that the government is building a comprehensive ecosystem by integrating research, technology, artificial intelligence (AI), advanced manufacturing, and skill development to address future healthcare challenges. On Monday, the Minister formally inaugurated India's first Integrated Oncology Manufacturing Facility, established by Ciro Pharma Private Limited with an investment of ₹800 crore at Biotech Park Phase-III in Karakapatta, Markook Mandal, Siddipet district.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

## BJP Calls Kaleshwaram Row 'Scripted Drama'

Hyderabad, July 6: Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao on Monday accused the Congress and the BRS of staging a "scripted drama" over the alleged corruption in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, claiming both parties were protecting each other instead of holding those responsible accountable.

Speaking after paying tributes to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his 125th birth anniversary at the BJP state headquarters, Rao alleged that the Congress government had failed to initiate repairs to the Kaleshwaram project despite findings by the National Dam Safety Authority.

He alleged that the previous BRS government had turned the irrigation project into an "ATM" and accused the Congress government of going soft on the alleged irregularities. Rao further claimed that the proposed Pranahita-Yellampally-Chevella project could become "another

ATM" if transparency was not ensured, warning that farmers' interests should not be compromised. Targeting Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the BJP leader alleged that the government had taken only token action against a few officials instead of pursuing those responsible for the alleged corruption.

Rao also criticised HYDRAA, alleging selective demolitions and demanding action against alleged illegal structures linked to the AIMIM, including Fatima Educational Institutions. Claiming the institution lacked required permissions, he alleged the government was shielding it due to political considerations. He urged HYDRAA to act impartially, asserting that the law should apply equally to all, and warned of a statewide agitation if action was not taken.



## BRICS Women's Working Group Meeting begins in Kochi



KOCHI, JULY 6

India commenced the BRICS Women's Working Group (WWG) Meeting in Kochi, Kerala, under its BRICS Chairship 2026. Senior government officials from the BRICS Member Countries are participating in the two-day meeting to deliberate on key issues relating to women's empowerment and women-led development while strengthening coop-

eration across areas of shared interest.

Welcoming the delegates, Shri Anil Malik, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, said, "While geography kept us physically apart, our shared commitment to advancing women's empowerment has kept us closely connected." He expressed confidence that the meeting would facilitate meaningful discussions, mutual learning

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

## Gadkari Reviews Progress of NHLML Projects



New Delhi: Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari chaired a review meeting of the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) and assessed the project-level progress of Multi Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs), Roeways, Intermodal Stations, and Way Side Amenities being developed across the country, in New Delhi today. During the meeting, the Minister emphasized the strategic importance of these transformative initiatives in building a future-ready, integrated transport ecosystem. He noted that these projects will strengthen multimodal connectivity, unlock new economic opportunities, promote balanced regional development, and enhance India's overall logistics competitiveness.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

## Bypoll Nominations Begin in MP, Gujarat and Bihar

New Delhi, July 6: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday issued notifications for by-elections to three vacant Assembly constituencies, formally setting the electoral process in motion with the commencement

of nomination filing. The bypolls will be held in 22-Datia in Madhya Pradesh, 145-Manjalpur in Gujarat and 182-Bankipur in Bihar. As per the election schedule, the last

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

## ALLU ARJUN APPEARS VIRTUALLY IN THE STAMPEDE CASE

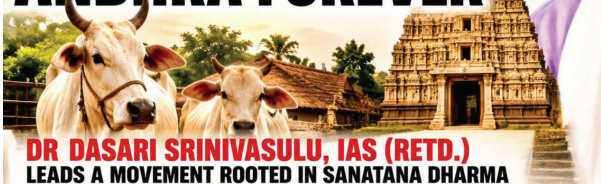


HYDERABAD, JULY 6

Actor Allu Arjun appeared virtually before the Nampally Criminal Court on Monday in connection with the Sandhya theatre stampede case. The court allowed the virtual appearance after his counsel informed that the actor was in Mumbai for a film shoot. Some co-accused failed to appear, prompting the court to adjourn the case to July 29. The prosecution has filed a 500-page charge sheet against 23 accused in the case.

## REVIVE DHARMA EVERY TEMPLE, TWO COWS

A CALL THAT CAN CHANGE ANDHRA FOREVER



REVIVE DHARMA BY REVIVING THE GOSHALA  
ANDHRA'S TEMPLES ARE BEING ASKED TO ADOPT TWO COWS EACH.  
CAN A SPIRITUAL VISION BECOME A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT?

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

A quiet but potentially transformative movement is taking shape in Andhra Pradesh. The Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust has appealed to every temple in the State to maintain at least two cows within its premises. The proposal reaches far beyond cattle management. It seeks to restore an ancient civilisational relationship between temples,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

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# REVIVE DHARMA: EVERY TEMPLE..

➤FROM PAGE 1

villages, agriculture and Sanatana Dharma. The vision is inspiring. The challenge is enormous. The coming months will determine whether this becomes another well-meaning announcement or a landmark cultural revival.

Sometimes the most powerful ideas are also the simplest. The Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust (HDPT) has placed before Andhra Pradesh's temple ecosystem an appeal that appears modest on paper but carries enormous cultural significance. Every temple, irrespective of size, should strive to maintain at least two cows.

At first glance, it looks like an administrative proposal. Look closer, and it becomes a declaration about the future direction of Hindu temples. The initiative seeks to restore a tradition that once existed naturally across the Indian landscape, where temples were not merely centres of worship but also centres of compassion, agriculture, ecology, charity and community life. The cow stood at the heart of that ecosystem. The Trust now wants to bring that relationship back.

**THE MAN BEHIND THE MISSION**

The movement is being spearheaded by Dr. Dasari Srinivasulu, Chairman of the Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust and a retired IAS officer whose administrative career spans several important departments, including Revenue, Agriculture, Cooperation and Industry & Commerce. Since assuming charge of the Trust, Dr. Srinivasulu has consistently argued that protecting Sanatana Dharma cannot remain confined to speeches, seminars and ceremonial events. According to his vision, temples must once again become living institutions that actively preserve Hindu traditions, protect sacred values and reconnect devotees with practices that shaped Indian civilisation for centuries. His proposal regarding temple goshalas is an extension of that larger philosophy.

**MORE THAN AN ANIMAL, A CIVILISATIONAL SYMBOL**

Within Hindu thought, the cow has never been viewed merely as livestock. It represents nourishment, gratitude, sustainability and non-violence. From the Vedas to the Puranas and from Lord Krishna's childhood to village traditions that continue even today, the cow occupies a unique spiritual and cultural position. Generations regarded the cow as Go Mata because it sustained families, enriched agriculture, provided natural manure, supported rural economies and symbolised harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. For supporters of the initiative, restoring cows to temple premises is, there-

fore, not nostalgia. It is an attempt to reconnect modern society with a civilisational ethic that integrated faith, environment and social responsibility.

**THE SCALE OF THE CHALLENGE**

The vision is inspiring. The execution will be demanding. The Andhra Pradesh Endowments Department administers more than 27,000 temples and religious institutions across the State. Only a limited number possess adequate financial resources. Thousands of village temples function with modest annual incomes and struggle even to meet routine maintenance expenses.

For such temples, maintaining even two healthy cows involves recurring expenditure on fodder, veterinary care, shelter, sanitation, trained caretakers and regular supervision. Unlike major institutions such as Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, which already possess well-established goshalas, smaller temples operate with limited budgets and minimal infrastructure. The proposal, therefore, immediately raises practical questions that cannot be ignored.

**DEVOTION MUST GO HAND IN HAND WITH RESPONSIBILITY**

No goshala should become merely symbolic. Housing cows without ensuring proper nutrition, medical attention and hygienic living conditions would defeat the very purpose of the initiative. Animal welfare experts have repeatedly pointed to overcrowding, inadequate veterinary care and financial distress affecting many goshalas across India. If this movement is to succeed, every adopted cow must receive dignified and scientific care throughout its life, including during old age when commercial utility declines. Dharma cannot be measured by the number of cows inside a temple. It must also be measured by how those cows are treated every single day.

**AN OPPORTUNITY BEYOND RELIGION**

Supporters believe the proposal offers opportunities extending well beyond religious practice. Temple goshalas can encourage organic farming through natural manure. They can support biogas generation. They can promote indigenous cattle breeds. They can produce Panchagavya-based products. They can create local employment while encouraging volunteer participation by devotees. Many also believe that properly maintained temple goshalas could become centres of environmental education, traditional agricultural knowledge and community engagement. If implemented intelligently, the initiative may strengthen both spiritual and rural ecosys-

tems simultaneously.

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION WILL DECIDE SUCCESS**

Government orders alone cannot build a successful goshala movement. Nor can temple administrations carry the entire responsibility. The success of this initiative will ultimately depend upon public participation. Devotees, philanthropists, voluntary organisations, veterinary professionals, agricultural universities and local communities must become stakeholders. Financial transparency, regular audits, technical guidance and sustainable funding models will determine whether the initiative survives beyond its initial enthusiasm. Without community ownership, even the noblest ideas eventually lose momentum.

**FROM APPEAL TO ACTION**

The Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust has already expanded its outreach through district-level coordination, environmental campaigns and programmes promoting Sanatana Dharma. The proposed temple goshala initiative fits naturally within that broader effort to strengthen cultural institutions while reconnecting society with traditional values.

Pilot projects, consultations with temple managements and carefully designed implementation models may provide the practical roadmap required before wider expansion. The emphasis must remain on voluntary participation supported by adequate financial and technical assistance rather than mechanical compliance.

**THE TEMPLE'S FUTURE WILL BE SHAPED NOT BY ITS WALLS, BUT BY THE VALUES IT CHOOSES TO PROTECT**

Every civilisation preserves its identity through institutions that carry memory across generations. For Hindu society, the temple has always been one such institution. The appeal to maintain at least two cows in every temple is, therefore, not merely about livestock.

It is about redefining the temple as a living centre of dharma, compassion, sustainability and community participation. Whether this vision succeeds will depend less on emotional slogans and far more on thoughtful planning, transparent administration and collective public support.

If those foundations are built with care, Andhra Pradesh may not simply create more goshalas. It may offer the country a model of how ancient values can find meaningful expression in contemporary society without losing either their spiritual depth or their practical relevance.

# Geetha Murthy received an outpouring of condolences following the sudden demise of her elder brother

**Nizamabad, July 6, 2026:** Senior BJP leader and National Council Member Geetha Murthy received an outpouring of condolences following the sudden demise of her elder brother, Vengili Kishan Rao. On Monday, BJP leader and State President of the BC Gazetted Officers' Association Ashok Goud, RSS leader Vivekananda, social activist Narendra Reddy, and several others met Geetha Murthy in Nizamabad to express their heartfelt condolences over her brother's passing. Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Goud said that the late Kishan Rao had served in the State Bank before dedicating himself to various welfare activities through the Lions Club. He noted that Kishan Rao's contributions to society were invaluable and said that his absence would be deeply felt by the community.



# DSP Bheem Reddy Arrested in ₹300 Crore Disproportionate Assets Case

**HYDERABAD, JULY 6**

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Bheem Reddy has been arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in connection with a disproportionate assets case registered against him over allegations of possessing wealth far ex-

ceeding his known sources of income. As part of the investigation, ACB officials conducted extensive searches four days ago at Bheem Reddy's residences, offices, and other premises linked to him. During the raids, the agency reportedly unearthed disproportionate assets worth nearly ₹300 crore. Following an examination of the documents, records, and other evidence seized during the searches, ACB officials arrested Bheem Reddy as part of the ongoing investigation. The Anti-Corruption Bureau is expected to release further official details regarding the case shortly.

# CM Pushes Tourism in CURE...

➤FROM PAGE 1

officials of the State Tourism department here today , the CM ordered them to come out with a plan to promote Taramati Baramati and Durgam Cheruvu as one of the best tourism destinations with state of the art facilities . The proposal to the modernization of the Manjira and Dilkusha Guest Houses were discussed in the meeting.

CM emphasized that Vikarabad should be developed under the Tourism Hub Development scheme. The Veerabhadraswamy Temple in Vikarabad should be developed and constituted a committee similar to Yadagirigutta Devasthanam Trust Board.

Reviewing the status of the famous Puranapul heritage bridge, the chief minister stressed that the entire bridge area should be developed and transformed into a tourist center by providing special facilities for tourists. If required, traffic should be diverted to facilitate tourist visits to the bridge.

The Chief minister enquired the Forest Department officials about the forest lands falling under the CURE (City Urban Region) limits and the development of eco-tourism in collaboration with the Tourism Department. The officials were ordered to develop Eco-parks within the city similar to the Gurramguda Eco Park and also

the forest lands in the 'Future City' at the international standards. The CM stressed that the arrangements should be made on the lines of urban forest models and appoint a special officer to accelerate works related to urban forest projects. The arrangements which are being made for the Global Investment Summit scheduled for December were also reviewed. The CM instructed the officials to constitute Committees to ensure coordination between departments for the summit.

CM's Advisor Ramakrishna Rao, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Rangan, CMO Principal Secretary Seshadri, CM's Principal Secretary Sridhar,

## CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

## Gadkari Reviews Progress of..

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Shri Gadkari also evaluated the keychallenges affecting project implementation and directed all concerned stakeholders to resolve bottlenecks on priority and expedite project execution. He stated that the timely completion of these projects will improve logistics efficiency, reduce transportation costs, and provide world-class infrastructure and amenities for commuters, further advancing the vision of a Viksit Bharat and an Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

## Bypoll Nominations Begin in MP, Gujarat and Bihar

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date for filing nominations is July 13, followed by scrutiny of nomination papers on July 14. Candidates may withdraw their nominations until July 16.

Polling, if necessary, will be conducted on July 30 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., while the counting of votes will take place on August 3 from 8 a.m. onwards. The entire election process is scheduled to be completed by August 4.

Along with the notification, the Commission directed the governments of the three states to ensure strict compliance with statutory provisions relating to paid holidays and dry days in the poll-bound constituencies.

Invoking Section 135B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the ECI said every eligible voter employed in any business, industrial undertaking or other establishment must be granted a paid holiday on

polling day. The provision also extends to daily-wage and casual workers, and employers are prohibited from deducting wages for such leave. Violations of the law are punishable with a fine.

The Commission further clarified that electors working outside their Assembly constituency but registered as voters in the poll-bound constituency are also entitled to paid leave to enable them to exercise their franchise. The ECI also reiterated the enforcement of Section 135C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, under which the sale, distribution or serving of liquor is prohibited during the 48-hour period preceding the close of polling. Accordingly, the respective state governments will notify 'dry days' in the affected constituencies.

In addition, August 3, the day of counting of votes, will also be observed as a dry day in the poll-bound Assembly segments.

| ELECTION SCHEDULE                                                                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bye-elections to Legislative Assemblies                                                               |                                 |
| 22-DATTA (MADHYA PRADESH)   145-MANJALPUR (GUJARAT)   182-BANKIPUR (BIHAR)                            |                                 |
| ELECTION ACTIVITY                                                                                     | DATE                            |
| Last date for filing nominations                                                                      | July 13, 2026                   |
| Scrutiny of nominations                                                                               | July 14, 2026                   |
| Last date for withdrawal of candidature                                                               | July 16, 2026                   |
| Polling (if required)                                                                                 | July 30, 2026 (7 a.m. – 6 p.m.) |
| Counting of votes                                                                                     | August 3, 2026 (8 a.m. onwards) |
| Completion of election process                                                                        | August 4, 2026                  |
| All voters are entitled to a paid holiday on the day of poll.                                         |                                 |
| Dry days' will be observed during the 48 hours ending with the close of poll and on the counting day. |                                 |

## “Serve Humanity” Is the Path..

➤FROM PAGE 1

Triveni Seva Mission, called on him at Lok Bhavan on Monday evening after offering prayers at the sacred Sri Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga Temple at Srisailem.

Interacting with the devotees, the Governor observed that every individual becomes a leader by discharging one's responsibilities with sincerity, an able administrator by performing one's duties with dedication, and a true saint by leading a life rooted in spirituality and selfless service. He lauded Ajay Bhai for dedicating his life to the service of society with humility and for inspiring people through his spiritual mission.

The Governor underlined that merely reading or discussing sacred scriptures is not sufficient; their essence must be reflected in one's conduct and daily life. Ego, he said, is the greatest obstacle that distances a person from God, and no amount of worship can lead to spiritual

fulfilment unless one overcomes pride and cultivates humility.

Referring to the spiritual significance of Srisailem, the Governor described it as one of India's rare and revered pilgrimage centres where both a Jyotirlinga and a Shakti Peetha are enshrined. He noted that millions of devotees seek the blessings of Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy and Goddess Bhramaramba, and said that a pilgrimage to Srisailem bestows inner peace, spiritual solace and divine grace. He also expressed his desire to undertake a pilgrimage to the holy shrine in the near future.

Later, the winners of the Telangana Junior Basketball League called on the Governor at Lok Bhavan. Congratulating the young sports-persons on their achievement, Shiv Pratap Shukla encouraged them to strive for greater excellence and bring laurels to Telangana and the nation through dedication, discipline and perseverance.

## BRICS Women's Working Group Meeting..

➤FROM PAGE 1

and constructive collaboration, further strengthening the collective commitment of BRICS countries towards the empowerment of women.

Referring to India's BRICS Chairship, Shri Malik said that the Women Track has been guided by four priority areas that reflect the shared aspirations of BRICS nations and contemporary global challenges. These include building a more resilient BRICS through women's governance and leadership; advancing fi-

nancial and digital inclusion as catalysts for change; promoting women's entrepreneurship and skill development; and strengthening women's role in climate action, food security and nutrition. He noted that these priorities have provided a strong framework for engagement over the past several months and would continue to guide the deliberations during the Kochi meeting. He also expressed confidence that the constructive spirit demonstrated by Member Countries during the preparatory consultations would

continue to shape the discussions over the next two days, enabling participants to exchange perspectives, refine their shared understanding and build consensus on the outcomes of the meeting. The discussions are being held under India's BRICS Chairship theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," reflecting a people-centric and humanity-first approach. The Working Group meeting will be followed by the 2-day Ministerial Meeting which will be held in Kochi on 8th and 9th July, 2026.

## SLBC Tunnel to Be Ready by June 2028

➤FROM PAGE 1

Since resumption of SLBC tunnel work with advanced technologies using observation techniques half a km of progress has already been achieved. Progress from Devarkonda side is steady. All precautions are being taken to ensure safety of the teams at work on Srisailem side too.

Three arm boomers have already reached Mumbai port and will be reaching site by the month end which will further accelerate the progress .

"The Government is committed to completing the SLBC Tunnel as by June 2028. Whatever has to be done will be done," he told officials.

He said the project was closely linked with the aspirations of the people of the erstwhile Nalgonda district.

The Minister underlined that the project would serve some of the poorest, most backward and remote areas, including drought-prone and fluoride-affected habitations. He said completing the project was not only a development priority but also a primary responsibility of the Government.

Minister said that the SLBC Tunnel has been designed to draw 40 TMC of water from

the Srisailem Reservoir to irrigate nearly 4 lakh acres. The revised administrative approval for the project is about Rs 12.718 crore. Overall, the project will create irrigation potential for 4.01 lakh acres, provide drinking water to 618 fluoride-affected villages, and meet industrial and other water requirements.

Uttam Kumar Reddy instructed officials to work with clearly defined deadlines. He said the Main Tunnel-I, Main Tunnel-II, Dindi component, balancing reservoirs and canal network should be treated as one integrated project. He directed all departments connected with irrigation, finance, land acquisition, forest clearances, contracts and technical approvals to work in close coordination.

**Adequate tunnel lighting and Ventilation**

At the same time, the Minister cautioned that speed should never come at the cost of safety. Referring to the tunnel works, he directed officials and contractors to adopt the highest safety standards. He called for adequate lighting throughout the tunnel, deployment of senior geologists, authority engineers and technical experts, and continu-

ous quality monitoring. He said protecting the workforce while meeting the project deadline was non-negotiable.

Minister noted that manpower at the tunnel site had been increased three-fold. Machinery is being mobilised, tunnel lining works are progressing and additional specialised equipment is being brought in to accelerate construction. The Minister directed officials to treat every day as critical and resolve delays relating to machinery, customs clearances, transportation and technical manpower without loss of time.

Giving equal importance to the Dindi Project, Uttam Kumar Reddy said it is an integral part of the overall AMR-SLBC system. He said completion of the Dindi Project, Nakkalagandi Reservoir, Pendlipakala Balancing Reservoir and the canal network is essential to ensure that the full benefits of the project reach farmers and rural communities.

On funding, the Minister said the Government would extend all necessary support. He referred to substantial allocations proposed for land acquisition and pending work bills. He also directed officials

## Telangana to Emerge as a Global Life...

➤FROM PAGE 1

Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar Babu said the government is committed to making Telangana a role model for industrial development in the country. He announced that a special action plan has been prepared to develop the Zaheerabad National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) into a model manufacturing zone.

The Minister reiterated the government's commitment to promoting Green Pharma in the state. Keeping future generations in mind, the government is encouraging industries to adopt environmentally sustainable pharmaceutical manufacturing practices. He expressed hope that the next breakthrough pharmaceutical molecule with global impact would be discovered in Telangana and assured full government support toward achieving that goal.

He said the Telangana Rising–2047 vision and the Next Generation Life Sciences Policy aim to create an integrated ecosystem connecting every stage of the value chain—from research to manufacturing. As part of this strategy, the government is prioritizing cutting-edge sectors such as biologics, biosimilars, cell and gene therapies, AI, and

digital health.

Sridhar Babu alleged that the opposition is deliberately spreading misinformation about the government's flagship initiatives, including Bharat Future City and the HILT Policy. He claimed that unable to accept Telangana's industrial achievements over the past two and a half years, opposition parties are attempting to mislead the public through false propaganda.

The newly inaugurated facility will manufacture oral oncology medicines, sterile injectables, lyophilized powder injections, and soft gel capsules using advanced containment





# Journalists urge Collector to resolve accreditation delays, seek action against DPRO

MEDCHAL

Several journalists from Medchal-Malkajgiri district on Monday submitted a representation to District Collector Mikkilineni Manu Chowdary during the weekly Praja Vani (public grievance redressal) programme, alleging prolonged delays in the distribution of media accreditation cards and raising concerns over the functioning of the District Public Relations Office. The journalists complained that despite the government sanctioning accreditation cards for eligible media personnel, the cards had not been handed over to the respective journalists. They alleged that the delay was causing significant inconvenience, preventing accredited journalists from availing themselves of various facilities and benefits extended by the State Government. The delegation specifically raised concerns regarding the conduct of Swarnalatha, the District Public Relations



Officer (DPRO), alleging that she was unnecessarily delaying the distribution of already sanctioned accreditation cards by citing minor procedural issues and trivial reasons. The journalists further pointed out that several accredited media personnel

were also unable to obtain or renew their bus passes as the necessary approvals had not been processed despite their accreditation having already been sanctioned. They said the delay was adversely affecting their professional responsibilities, as many journalists rely on public transport to cover official events and assignments across the district.

Referring to Government Order (GO) No. 252 governing the accreditation process, the delegation stated that all eligible journalists had fulfilled the prescribed criteria and that their accreditations had been approved in accordance with the guidelines. However, they alleged that the DPRO was obstructing the final distribution

process without valid justification. Another major concern raised before the Collector was the alleged practice of deputing private individuals to inspect the offices of empanelled newspapers in the district. The journalists questioned the legality and transparency of such inspections and demanded a comprehensive inquiry into the matter. They urged the district administration to ensure that inspections, if required, are conducted only by authorised government officials in accordance with established procedures.

Responding to the representation, Collector Mikkilineni Manu Chowdary assured the Journalists that the grievances would be examined carefully.

He reportedly gave a positive assurance that appropriate steps would be taken to ensure that all eligible journalists receive their accreditation cards without unnecessary delay and that their concerns regarding the functioning of the District Public Relations Office would be looked into.

The journalists expressed hope that the district administration would intervene promptly to streamline the accreditation process and uphold transparency and fairness in matters concerning media recognition. Journalist union leaders Merugu Chandramohan, Belide Ashok Gupta and Mutyam Mukesh Goud were present during the submission of the representation.

## "A Greener Tomorrow Starts Today"



Hyderabad, July 6: Government Degree College for Women, Hussaini Alam, marked Vana Mahotsavam with a campus-wide tree plantation drive led by NSS Units I-III, the Eco Club, and the Department of Botany. Under Principal Prof. Appiya Chinna and Vice Principal Dr. M.D. Ghouse, students, faculty, and staff—coordinated by NSS officers Dr. P. Latha, Dr. Anita Monga, Dr. B. Geetha Rani, Eco Club convener V. Sunitha, and Academic Co-ordinator Dr. M. Pranitha—planted saplings across campus and pledged to care for them. The event highlights the college's commitment to sustainability and supports SDGs on climate action, biodiversity, quality education, and greener communities.

**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. : 222-S/1/W-I, dated 03.07.2026. Following e-tender is invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following works: **Tender No. : TN-118-26-27. Name of the work :** At Belvedere Park Officers Enclave - Renovation of more than 100 years old Duplex Bungalows with its garages, outhouses etc. under Assistant Engineer (Works)/I/Sealdah. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,04,69,391.44. **EMD :** ₹ 2,09,400.00. **Date and time of closing of tender :** 31.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Completion period for the work :** 12 (Twelve) months. **Date & time of opening of tender :** 31.07.2026 at 15.30 hrs. Tender Document and details at : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022 cost of e-Tender Form is Nil. SDAH-116/2026-27. Tender Notice is also available at websites : [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

# GDC Women, Hussaini Alam to Host National Conference on India's Foreign Policy Trends and Challenges

SAMUDRALA KIRAN, CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad, July 6: The Department of Political Science, Government Degree College for Women, Hussaini Alam, Hyderabad, is set to organize a One-Day National Conference on "India's Foreign Policy: Recent Trends and Challenges" on 29th July 2026, Wednesday, at the Khurshed Jah Seminar Hall of the college.

The conference is being organized in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, and the Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE), Hyderabad. It aims to bring together scholars, researchers, policymakers, diplomats, faculty members, civil society representatives, and students to discuss the changing dimensions of India's foreign policy in the present global scenario. With the world witnessing rapid geopolitical changes and the rise of a multipolar international

order, the conference is expected to provide an important academic platform for meaningful discussions on India's strategic interests, regional partnerships, and global responsibilities. The event will focus on key issues shaping India's foreign policy and its role in international affairs.

The conference will include thematic sessions on India's relations with major global powers, developments in the Indo-Pacific region, India's neighbourhood policy, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Israel-Hamas conflict, and India's engagement with international groupings such as BRICS, SCO, G20, and the Global South. Other important topics such as climate diplomacy, energy security, connectivity initiatives, and emerging geopolitical challenges will also be discussed.

The programme will begin with an inaugural session, followed by technical sessions, panel discussions, and academic deliberations. Eminent diplo-

mats, foreign policy experts, academicians, and researchers from different parts of the country are expected to participate and share their insights on India's evolving foreign policy framework. The conference is inspired by the vision of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – The World is One Family," highlighting India's commitment to peace, dialogue, sustainable development, international cooperation, and inclusive global governance. Through this academic initiative, the college seeks to promote deeper understanding of India's foreign policy priorities among students and researchers.

Prof. Ch. Appiya Chinamma, Principal of the College, is the Chairperson of the conference. Dr. Mohammad Ghouse, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, is the Convener, while Dr. Farhana Sultana, Lecturer in Political Science, is the Organizing Secretary. The event is also supported by an Advisory Committee consisting of senior faculty members from various

departments of the college.

Selected research papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication in a peer-reviewed journal after the prescribed review process. The organizers have invited academicians, research scholars, and students from universities and colleges across the country to participate actively in the event.

The last date for registration is 25th July 2026, and confirmation of registration will be communicated on 26th July 2026. Interested participants may register through the online registration link provided by the organizers and complete the required formalities.

The organizers expressed confidence that the national conference will contribute significantly to academic discussions on India's foreign policy, encourage interdisciplinary research, and generate useful policy-oriented recommendations relevant to India's growing role in regional and global affairs.

## A New Era Begins in the Telangana Legislative Assembly



HYDERABAD

A new chapter has begun in the Telangana Legislative Assembly. Neither during the undivided Andhra Pradesh era nor since the formation of Telangana has a dedicated office ever been established for the Media Advisory Committee within the Assembly. However, in line with the vision of Chief Minister Revanth Red-

dy, a dedicated office has now been set up for the Media Advisory Committee.

Acting on the directions of Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukender Reddy and Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, the Assembly and Council Secretaries personally supervised the arrangements for establishing the office. Notably, no other State Legislative Assem-

bly in the country has a separate office for its Media Advisory Committee. Even the Parliament of India does not have such a facility. For the first time, the Telangana Legislative Assembly has established a dedicated office for the Media Advisory Committee. The Media Advisory Committee office was inaugurated today by Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukender Reddy,

Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Ministers Sridhar Babu, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, and Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, along with Member of Parliament Vem Narendar Reddy. On the occasion, Committee Chairman Airedy Srinivas Reddy, Co-Chairman Paripoorna Chary, and the committee members performed traditional prayers before the inauguration.

## Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy Congratulates Vemula Veeresham on Assuming Charge as Government Whip

HYDERABAD

Eminent educationist and environmentalist Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, National Advisor of the Telangana Recognised School Managements Association (TRSMA) and Chairman of the Lotus Lap Group of Schools, has congratulated Mr. Vemula Veeresham, MLA from Nakrekal, on assuming office as the Government Whip of Telangana.

The Government Whip Chamber was inaugurated at the Telangana Legislative Assembly premises in Hyderabad in the presence of Mr. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Minister for Roads, Buildings and Cinematography; Mr. Gutta Sukender Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana Legislative Council; Mr. Punna Kailash Netha, President of the Nalgonda District Congress Committee (DCC); and Mr. Gutta Amit Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation. The dignitaries extended their greetings and wished Mr. Veeresham success in his new role. In his congratulatory message,



Dr. Gopal Reddy expressed confidence that Mr. Veeresham would discharge his responsibilities with commitment, impartiality and efficiency while ensuring the smooth conduct of legislative business. He said the Govern-

ment Whip's office plays a vital role in strengthening democratic governance by coordinating legislative affairs and maintaining effective communication between the Government and legislators.

Dr. Gopal Reddy further expressed hope that Mr. Veeresham would continue to work for the welfare of the people of Nakrekal Assembly Constituency and contribute significantly to the overall development and progress of Telangana. The programme was attended by Congress leaders from Chitaly Mandal, Mr. Komatireddy Narsi Reddy, elected representatives, party functionaries, supporters and several other dignitaries, who conveyed their best wishes to Mr. Veeresham on the occasion.

## Government Primary School was relocated to the Vijay Dairy premises

HYDERABAD

Today, July 6, 2026, in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Telangana High Court in W.P. No. 13315 of 2026, the Government Primary School, Sitaphalmandi No. 2, which had been functioning in Vijay Dairy Quarters-D, was relocated to the A-2 Type Quarters within the Vijay Dairy premises. The relocation was necessitated as the existing Quarters-D building had become structurally unsafe and was at risk of collapse, in accordance with the orders of Hon'ble Justice Mrs. Juvvadi Sridevi.



Speaking on the occasion, the Headmaster expressed heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Tripura, who filed the case seeking a suitable school building; Mr. Chikkudu Prabhakar, who argued the case; Mr. Venkata Reddy, Founder of the MV Foundation and Advisor to the Education Council; and the members of the committee who fought collectively for securing a permanent school building, including Mr. Kampalli Srinivas, Mr. Upender Yadav, Mr. Praveen Lal, Mr. Krishna, Mr. Ghouse, Mr. Lakshminarayana, CRPF Praveen, Ms. Suvarna, Ms. Bhagya from the Mothers' Association, Mr. Rahul Rohan, Mr. Brahmaji, and Mr. Karunakar.

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**SURYAPET:** The Haritha Haram plantation programme was conducted on Monday under the auspices of the Modinpuram Gram Panchayat. Led by Village Sarpanch Sagarapu Sunitha Prasad, saplings were planted at various locations across the village. The programme aims to protect the environment, increase green cover, and ensure a clean and healthy environment for future generations. Speaking on the occasion, Sarpanch Sagarapu Sunitha Prasad said that trees are essential for human life and play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. He urged every resident to plant at least one sapling in their surroundings and take responsibility for its care. He further stated that the success of the government's Haritha Haram initiative depends on the active participation and cooperation of the public. Villagers, youth, members of women's self-help groups, and Gram Panchayat staff enthusiastically participated in the programme. Various shade-giving and fruit-bearing trees were planted in schools.

# 'Drug Traffickers to Face Tougher Action Than Terrorists'



■ **Bhadradi Kothagudem and Khammam Districts Hold the Key to Drug Control in Telangana**

■ **Target to Make Telangana Drug-Free by December 2029**

■ **DGP C.V. Anand Appreciates Kothagudem Police Performance; Directs Officers to Improve Conviction Rate Through Quality Investigation**

**KOTHAGUDEM**

: Director General of Police (DGP), Telangana, Shri C.V. Anand, IPS, stated that effective control of drug trafficking and ganja smuggling in Bhadradi Kothagudem and Khammam districts would play a decisive role in strengthening anti-drug enforcement across the State. He made these remarks while chairing the District Crime Review Meeting held at the Bhadradi Kothagudem District Police Office on Monday.

During the meeting, Superintendent of Police Shri Rohith Raj presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the district's crime statistics, ganja cases, cybercrime, women safety, road safety, Left Wing Extremism-related developments, and progress in criminal investigations.

The SP informed that against the sanctioned strength of 2,296 posts, the district currently has 1,926 personnel in position, with 365 vacancies. From 2023 to May 2026, a total of 5,632 criminal cases were registered. Of these, 2,686 cases are under trial, while 654 cases are under investigation. The district has achieved an 84.6% detection rate in property theft cases. Regarding anti-ganja operations, the SP stated that 27 ganja cases were registered up to May 2026, leading to the seizure of 1,275 kilograms of ganja.

Addressing the officers, the DGP observed that Bhadradi Kothagudem shares borders with Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh, making it a critical entry point for ganja trafficking. He directed the district police to intensify action against ganja cultivation, transpor-



tation, and illegal trade. Expressing concern over the growing impact of narcotic drugs on society, the DGP said increasing drug abuse among youth poses a serious threat to the future generation. Referring to the situation witnessed in Punjab due to drug addiction, he urged officers to prevent Telangana from facing similar challenges.

The DGP declared that drug traffickers would be treated as more dangerous than extremists and terrorists and would face even stricter legal action. He emphasized that the Telangana Police would wage an uncompromising war against drug networks and ensure that offenders are brought to justice, irrespective of where they are located, within the country or abroad. Noting that Bhadradi Kothagudem is an important industrial district, he said crime prevention strategies should be strengthened through focused policing and intelligence-based operations.

The DGP reiterated that the Telangana Police, under the vision of the State Government, is committed to making Telangana a drug-free State by December 2029, with active par-

ticipation from the public. He directed officers to strengthen surveillance at bus stations, railway stations, check posts, and other vulnerable locations by deploying Dog Squads and intensifying enforcement against drug trafficking networks.

The DGP also instructed officers to improve the quality and speed of investigations, file charge sheets without delay, and enhance the conviction rate. He stressed the importance of uploading complete case records and digital evidence onto the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) platform to facilitate faster investigation and trial.

Commending the overall performance of the district police, Shri C.V. Anand urged officers to continue delivering professional, effective policing and strive to make Bhadradi Kothagudem a model district in law enforcement. The review meeting was attended by IG, Multi Zone-I, Shri Chandrasekhar Reddy, Superintendent of Police Shri Rohith Raj, EAGLE SP Shri Giridhar, senior district police officers, SHOs, Sub-Inspectors, and other police personnel.



## Two-day Faculty Upgradation Programme commences at NITW

**Dr Srinivas Vooradi**

**WARANGAL**

'True strength of an institution lies not only in academic excellence and research accomplishments but also in the care and support it provides to its students,' said Director of National Institute of Technology, Warangal (NITW) Prof Bidyadhar Subudhi. Inaugurating a two-day Faculty Upgradation Programme on "Strengthening Student Mental Well-being, Mentoring and Positive Campus Culture" organised by the Centre for Mental Health and Wellness on Monday Reaffirming its commitment to holistic education and student well-being, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal today inaugurated a two-day Faculty Upgradation Programme on "Strengthening Student Mental Well-being, Mentoring and Positive Campus Culture" organised by the Centre for Mental Health and Wellness at the Ambedkar Learning Centre on Monday, Prof Bidyadhar said that NIT Warangal has always endeavoured to be a forerunner in promoting student well-being and holistic development by institutionalising mentoring, counselling, and wellness initiatives. Stating that creating a compassionate campus is a

shared responsibility, and every faculty member has a vital role in shaping an environment where students feel valued, supported, and empowered to excel, he expressed confidence that the Faculty Upgradation Programme would equip educators with the knowledge, sensitivity, and practical tools needed to strengthen mentoring practices and build a happier, healthier, and more inclusive campus for future generations.

Chairman, Centre for Mental Health and Wellness Prof. G. Amba Prasad Rao highlighted the importance of strengthening faculty mentoring and promoting student well-being through a positive and supportive campus environment. Dean (Student Welfare) Prof. K. Kiran Kumar remarked that student well-being is central to academic success and underscored the need for faculty members to foster an inclusive, empathetic, and student-centric learning ecosystem. 370 faculty members were participating in the programme, he added. Speaking on the occasion on the theme 'Lead Yourself Before Leading Others', IRSS (Retd.), Certified Mind Trainer and Life Coach, and Former Additional Secretary, Ministry of Railways, Government of India Girija Shankar Das encouraged the faculty members to cultivate self-awareness, emotional intelligence.

## Massive Public Meeting on August 6

■ **Demanding 50% Reservation for BCs**

■ **Let Us Pledge to Achieve 50% Reservation for BCs on Professor Jayashankar's Birth Anniversary: Kalvakuntla Kavitha**

**HYDERABAD**

Telangana Rakshana Sena President Kalvakuntla Kavitha announced that a massive public meeting will be held in Hyderabad on August 6 to demand 50% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs). Addressing a meeting of the party's BC leaders at the TRS office in Banjara Hills on Monday, Kavitha said that on the birth anniversary of Professor Jayashankar, the party would take a pledge to strive for securing 50% reservation for BCs. The public meeting will be held under the banner of "Samajika Nyaya Telangana Sadhana Sabha" (Convention



for Achieving Social Justice in Telangana). She said the party would bring together BCs and people from all sections of society to exert pressure on both the Central and State governments. Referring to Professor Jayashankar's vision, Kavitha recalled that he had urged people to first achieve geographical Telangana and then work towards a socially just Telangana. Following that vision, she said, the party is committed to securing 50% reservation for BCs. Kavitha noted that Telangana Jagruthi and the TRS

have been working among the people for the past two years to secure BC reservations in proportion to their population. Expressing confidence, she said the August 6 public meeting in Hyderabad would become a landmark event capable of influencing the country's direction on BC reservations. She pointed out that the midday meal scheme introduced by M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) in Tamil Nadu schools was later adopted across India. Similarly, she said, the Hyderabad meeting would serve

as a guiding force for nationwide movements demanding 50% reservation for BCs. She also announced that the TRS would observe August 6, Professor Jayashankar's birth anniversary, as Social Justice Telangana Day. Kavitha stated that, following sustained public movements, the Congress government in Telangana had passed two separate Bills in the Assembly and Legislative Council proposing 42% reservation for BCs in education and employment, as well as 42% reservation in local bodies, and forwarded them to the Central Government for approval. However, she alleged that the State Government was making no serious effort to secure the Centre's approval for these Bills. Calling for a united movement, Kavitha urged all sections of society to come together to realise the slogan "Manametho Manakantha" (Our Share in Proportion to Our Numbers) by fighting collectively for 50% reservation for BCs.

## Single Exam Should Not Decide a Student's Future: Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy

**HYDERABAD**

Admissions to premier national institutions such as AIIMS, IITs, NITs, IISERs and IIITs should not be determined solely on the basis of a single entrance examination, eminent educationist, environmentalist and NISA Lifetime Member Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy has said.

He proposed that 50 per cent weightage be given to Class 12 Board Examination marks and called for the introduction of a three-tier admission system for NEET and JEE to ensure a fair, transparent and merit-based selection process. Dr. Gopal Reddy said deciding a student's future through a single three-hour entrance examination while overlooking 12 years of schooling and continuous academic performance undermines the credibility and purpose of India's education system. He observed that the present "One Examination-One Opportunity" model places immense psychological pressure on students and fuels the multi-billion-rupee coaching industry, reducing the importance of sustained learning in schools.

Urging the Union Government, the Ministry of Education, CBSE and the National Testing Agency (NTA) to initiate comprehensive reforms, he said the guiding principle should be "Strengthen Schools, Make Selection Credible, End the Coaching Mafia."

**50% Weightage for Board Marks**

Dr. Gopal Reddy said a student's knowledge, discipline, analytical ability and learning habits are developed over 12 years of formal education and should receive due recognition during admissions. Granting 50 per cent weightage to Class 12 Board marks, he said, would restore the credibility of school education, improve accountability among schools and teachers, encourage year-round learning, reduce dependence on coaching centres, improve the quality of government and private schools, and promote holistic education instead of examination-oriented preparation. Three-Tier Admission Model He proposed that admissions to premier institutions should be based on:

- 50% – Class 12 Board Examination
  - 25% – NEET/JEE Mains
  - 25% – NEET/JEE Advanced (Descriptive Examination)
- Under the proposal, an AI-based national normalisation system would prepare a common merit list across different educational boards.
- Only shortlisted students would appear for the computer-based NEET/JEE Mains examination. Those qualifying would then take a pen-and-paper descriptive Advanced examination designed to assess conceptual understanding, analytical thinking, problem-solving ability and subject depth



rather than rote learning.

**Uniform Academic Standards**

Dr. Gopal Reddy also proposed adopting the NCERT curriculum across all educational boards to establish a common national academic framework. He suggested that only theory marks should be considered for normalisation, while internal assessments and practical examinations should be recorded separately as grades. He also recommended raising the minimum pass mark from 33 per cent to 50 per cent to improve academic standards.

**Transparent Examination System**

To strengthen the integrity of Board examinations, he suggested that they be conducted under the supervision of District Collectors on the lines of UPSC examinations. His recommendations include AI-assisted centralised evaluation, providing scanned answer scripts to students, imposing financial penalties on negligent evaluators and enforcing a strict zero-tolerance policy against malpractice and cheating.

**Action Against Dummy Schools**

Dr. Gopal Reddy proposed banning coaching institutions for students below 18 years of age or until completion of Class

12, arguing that schools—not coaching centres—should be responsible for quality education. In line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, he said schools should focus on all-round personality development, creativity, leadership, ethics, communication and critical thinking. He also recommended geotagged, face-recognition biometric attendance, mandatory 75 per cent attendance for examination eligibility, and strict legal action against dummy schools and dummy students.

**CBSE Should Lead**

He suggested that CBSE should pioneer the proposed reforms and set a national benchmark for other educational boards to follow, ensuring greater fairness and equal opportunities for students across the country.

Describing his proposal as the "Trinity of Trust", he said the admission system should balance three components:

**School Education Screening Examination Depth Assessment**

He said this balanced approach would identify genuine talent while restoring confidence in India's school education system. He expressed confidence that adopting these reforms would help India produce world-class doctors, engineers, scientists, innovators and responsible citizens while building one of the world's strongest and most equitable school education systems.

## BRS demands immediate release of water from Kaleshwaram project, targets Cong govt

**HYDERABAD**

Senior leaders of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) on Monday demanded that the Telangana government immediately begin lifting water through the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, alleging that the government was deliberately refusing to operate the system despite sufficient water availability. Addressing a press conference, former minister Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy said that up to 150 TMC of water could be stored by operating the motors at the Kannepalli pump house. He accused the government of misleading farmers and neglecting Telangana's irrigation needs. Jagadish Reddy challenged the government to hand over the project to former Chief Minister K. Chandrabab Naidu for a week, claiming the BRS would successfully pump water into the reservoirs. He said the party was even willing to take full responsibility

if any mishap occurred, dismissing concerns raised by Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy over the project's safety. He alleged that the government was staging a political drama to benefit AP chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and asserted that the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) had no role in the decision to lift water from the project. The former minister claimed the engineers had indicated that the Kannepalli motors had remained idle for nearly a year and alleged that Uttam Kumar Reddy lacked adequate understanding of the project's technical aspects. He also criticised other ministers, including Duddilla Sridhar Babu, accusing them of supporting the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy without addressing Telangana's irrigation concerns. Jagadish Reddy maintained that the Kaleshwaram project was designed to en-



sure water security during drought conditions and alleged that the government was reluctant to operate the pumps due to concerns over electricity costs, crop procurement obligations and bonus payments to farmers. Former minister Gangula Kamalakara questioned why water was not being lifted from Kannepalli and Yellampalli and warned that the BRS would launch fresh protests, including "Chalo Kannepalli" and "Chalo Yellampalli" if the government failed to act. He claimed that the NDSA had recommended only minor

repairs at the Annaram and Sundilla barrages and had not advised against storing water there. Former MP B. Vinod Kumar criticised Uttam Kumar Reddy's remarks about potential flooding in Bhadrachalam, arguing that the town had remained safe even during the 2021 floods when heavy inflows passed through the project. Vinod Kumar further alleged that large-scale sand excavation was taking place at the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages and claimed this was the real reason the reservoirs were not being filled. He urged the government to at least partially fill the Annaram and Sundilla barrages and resume water-lifting operations. On the other hand, the Telangana government has maintained that the decisions regarding operation of the Kaleshwaram project will be taken based on technical assessments and safety considerations.

## Be Careful with Pet and Other Animals - Lion: Capt: Dr.: Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, retired principal, columnist

**KARIMNAGAR**

We should be vigilant against zoonotic diseases transmitted from animals like dogs, cats, rats, birds, bats and monkeys around us, otherwise we risk ourselves by contracting many diseases, said retired principal, columnist and social analyst Lion:

Dr. Capt Burra Madhusudhan Reddy. Speaking as the chief guest at the World Zoonosis Day program organized by Satavahana Lions Club at



Padmanagar Manair High School today, he explained that almost 70 percent are animal-borne diseases. He said that World Zoonosis Day is cel-

ebrated every year on the occasion of the discovery of the rabies vaccine by renowned scientist Louis Pasteur on 06 July 1885. Dr Reddy advised students to be careful while touching the animals like dogs, cats, pigs. If we are in direct contact with them, we must wash our hands properly. He said that we have seen the corona or COVID-19 coming from bats took lakhs of lives as an epidemic. The diseases like bird flu, swine flu, rabies, Eb-

ola, monkeypox fall into the zoonotic category, he added. Satavahana Lions Club Vice President Lion Kadaru Ananth Reddy, who presided over the meeting, expressed his hope that the students would increase their awareness on various topics and gain general knowledge. He called for their increasing interest in the important calendar of events that come every year. Kadaru Sunitha Reddy, who was present as the guest of honor, presented the vote of thanks.



# Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off two new Express trains

NEW DELHI, JULY 6:

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways flagged off two new Express trains viz. Nanded – Mumbai and Tanakpur – Nanded along with extension of Tanakpur – Pilibhit service up to Shahjahanpur today i.e., 06th July, 2026 through video conferencing. Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand addressed the gathering on the occasion through video messages.

On this occasion, functions were held at Nanded, Tanakpur and Pilibhit Railway stations. Shri Ravneet Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State; Shri Ajay Tamta, Hon'ble Union Minister of State graced the occasion at Tanakpur Railway station along with other public representatives. Shri Jitin Prasad, Hon'ble Union Minister of State and other dignitaries graced the function at Pilibhit Railway station. Simultaneously, Shri Ashokrao Shankarrao Chavan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament; Smt. Kavita Santosh Mule, Hon'ble Mayor, Nanded – Waghalga; Dr. Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade, Hon'ble Member of



Parliament; Shri Ravindra Vasantrao Chavan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament; Shri Balwant Baswant Wankhade, Hon'ble Member of Parliament; Shri Amarnath Anant Rao Rajurkar, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Council and other dignitaries graced the occasion at Nanded Railway station. Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR; Shri Pradeep Kamle, Divisional Railway Manager, Nanded Division and other officials were also present at Nanded. Addressing the gathering, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, stated that the introduction of Tanakpur–Nanded Express fulfils a long-cherished dream of the people. He said that the new train service will strengthen rail connectivity between Uttarakhand and Maharashtra while also facilitating the journey of devotees to the holy



Takht at Nanded. The Hon'ble Union Minister further stated that the Nanded–Mumbai Express will significantly enhance connectivity for the people of the Marathwada region, particularly benefiting passengers from Washim, Hingoli and Basmat. Highlighting the transformative progress made in Indian Railways over the past 12 years under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw informed that over 37,000 Kms of railway tracks have been laid during this period, while 99.6% of the railway network has been electrified. He further stated that the Bullet Train project and the Dedicated Freight Corridors are progressing at a rapid pace. The Hon'ble Union Minister emphasized that Railways is continuously introducing new train services across various States with a

focus on providing affordable and safe travel to the middle class and economically weaker sections. He also informed that over 15,000 special train services were operated during the summer season this year up to the month of June, while around 12,000 special trains were operated during Diwali and Chhath festivals. Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, congratulated the people on the introduction of the two new train services. He stated that the Nanded–Mumbai Express will provide convenient and direct connectivity to Mumbai, benefiting passengers from the Marathwada region, particularly Washim, Akola and Nanded districts. He further stated that the Tanakpur–Nanded Express will facilitate the travel of devotees from Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to the holy Sachkhand Gu-

rudwara at Nanded.

Pushkar Singh Dhami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, stated that the Tanakpur–Nanded Express will strengthen the bond between Uttarakhand and Maharashtra by promoting faith, tourism and development. He added that the new train service will enhance connectivity between important destinations. Ravneet Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways, expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw for fulfilling the aspirations of the people through the introduction of the new train services. He stated that the Tanakpur–Nanded and Nanded–Mumbai Express trains will strengthen cultural and spiritual ties while enhancing connectivity and convenience for the people of the region.

At Nanded Railway station, Shri Ashokrao Shankarrao Chavan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament stated that the two new train services will further strengthen the connectivity of Nanded and Marathwada region with other major cities. He stated that in the past few years Rail network in Nanded region has witnessed major transformation due to the

collective efforts of the people and the leadership.

Smt. Kavita Santosh Mule, Hon'ble Mayor stated that the Nanded – Mumbai Express will be especially beneficial for students, pilgrims, business persons and other professionals. She stated that the new trains will also boost the socio-economic development in the region.

Dr. Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade, Hon'ble Member of Parliament thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Railway Minister for introduction of new express train services between Nanded – Mumbai and Tanakpur – Nanded. He stated that these trains will connect Nanded with important cities in Maharashtra and North India.

Shri Ravindra Vasantrao Chavan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament stated that the Nanded – Mumbai and Nanded – Tanakpur Express trains will further enhance connectivity and tourism from Nanded. He stated that Nanded is the Centre point connecting Hyderabad, Mumbai and Nagpur and requested to start more train services to facilitate the passengers. Earlier, Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR presented the welcome address at Nanded.

## Over 100 Special Trains will be notified for Onam Festival 2026 : Hon'ble Railway Minister

CHENNAI, JULY 6:

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, while addressing a press conference, announced that the Ministry of Railways will shortly notify over 100 Special Train services for the benefit of passengers travelling during the upcoming Onam festival, which is widely celebrated across Kerala. The Hon'ble Minister stated that the initiative reflects the Ministry's continued commitment to meeting the travel needs of the people of Kerala in reaching their home town.

In 2026, the ten-day Onam celebrations commence on 16th August and culminate on the auspicious day of Thiruvonam (Wednesday, 26th August, 2026) with festivities and tourism activities continuing throughout the month. Accordingly, the special train services are planned to be operated across the Onam festival period to cater for the anticipated surge in passenger demand.

The announcement of over 100 Special Train services for Onam 2026 marks a substantial increase in capacity over the previous year, reaffirming the Ministry of Railways' commitment to providing safe, convenient and comfortable travel for passengers during one of Kerala's most significant festive seasons. This is in line with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Plan for development of Railway Network in Kerala.

## YSRCP condemns action against social media activists in Andhra; terms it vindictive

AMARAVATI, JULY 6

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has accused the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh of acting in a vindictive manner against social media activists who are highlighting its failures in governance and said the party will stand by the victims, irrespective of their party affiliations. Former minister Ambati Rambabu told the media in Guntur that by haunting YouTuber influencers like KVR and Raavan, the coalition is digging its own grave by incessantly pursuing the cases till they are jailed and YSRCP will stand by those affected persons as the government's vindictive nature has come into the open. "The case of Prashna Raavan alias Bachalakura Joseph has gone too far, with the government haunting him and producing him before magistrates at multiple locations and when they failed to get remand they changed the Sections of the case he was charged with and ensured that he is remanded in Nellore jail," he said. The YSRCP leader said that those in power have booked him under UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) which is normally used against terrorists only to suit their purpose. He stated that demeaning the legal justice system, (Jana Sena) party cadre had mounted pressure on police to surrender the



accused to them so that they could take the law into their hands. He was referring to the Jana Sena cadres staging protests at various police stations where Raavana was kept, demanding police to hand over the YouTuber to them. "It has become a habit for the coalition government to convert victims as accused and this is going on since long," Rambabu said. The former minister another social media influencer KVR was also picked up from Hyderabad in the same manner.

"To cover up the custodial death of Sai Krishna and the suicide of Kranti Kumar, the government has been resorting to diversion politics and harassing journalists and social media activists in a very undemocratic and unlawful manner, filing cases at multiple places," he said.

Rambabu said while social media activists supporting TDP were posting objectionable material against YSRCP and its leadership, no action was taken so far despite the complaints. He announced that he will go on a padyatra to the DGP office to pursue the complaint he had given.

## Nurse injected toilet cleaner through husband's drip after murder bid failed

According to police, Sandhya and Prashant had been facing marital discord, allegedly over her relationship with Anil. Investigators claim the trio conspired to eliminate Prashant, who had recently returned from the Gulf, believing he had become an obstacle to their relationship. A chilling case has emerged from Telangana's Nizamabad district, where a woman allegedly used her training as a nurse to inject toilet cleaning liquid into her husband's intravenous (IV) line after an earlier attempt to kill him by pushing him off a rooftop failed, police said. The woman, Sandhya, along with her alleged lover Anil and his friend Venkat Sai, has been arrested for the murder of her husband, Prashant. Investigators allege the killing was the result of a premeditated conspiracy driven by an extramarital relationship. According to police, Sandhya and Prashant had been facing marital discord, allegedly over her relationship with Anil. Investigators claim the trio conspired to eliminate Prashant, who had recently returned from the Gulf, believing he had become an obstacle to their relationship. A chilling case has emerged from Telangana's Nizamabad district, where a woman allegedly used her training as a nurse to inject toilet cleaning liquid into her husband's intravenous (IV) line after an earlier attempt to kill him by pushing him off a rooftop failed, police said. The woman, Sandhya, along with her alleged lover Anil and his friend Venkat Sai, has been arrested for the murder of her husband, Prashant. Investigators allege the killing was the result of a premeditated conspiracy driven by an extramarital relationship. According to police, Sandhya and Prashant had been facing marital discord, allegedly over her relationship with Anil. In-

vestigators claim the trio conspired to eliminate Prashant, who had recently returned from the Gulf, believing he had become an obstacle to their relationship. Police alleged that the first attempt was made after the three accused made Prashant heavily intoxicated. Anil and Venkat Sai then allegedly assaulted him before pushing him off the rooftop of his house. However, Prashant survived the fall despite suffering serious injuries. The accused allegedly convinced him that he had accidentally fallen because he was drunk and got him admitted to a hospital for treatment. Police said it was there that the conspiracy entered a second and far more sinister phase. Investigators alleged that while Prashant was undergoing treatment with an IV line inserted, Sandhya, who works as a nurse at a private hospital, injected toilet cleaning liquid into the intravenous line using her medical knowledge. Police suspect the toxic substance led to his death.

**The case stems from comments allegedly posted by Muhammad Sanoof under a social media post by the daughter of N Ramachandran, one of the victims of the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam. Police alleged that the comments justified the attack, which killed 25 tourists and one local.**

A 26-year-old man has been arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for allegedly posting comments on social media justifying the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, police officials said on Monday. The accused, identified as Muhammad Sanoof, a native of Aikkarappadi in Kerala's Malappuram district, was arrested on Sunday after arriving at Kozhikode's Karipur Airport from Saudi Arabia. He had been detained on the basis of a look-out circular issued against him. Officials at Muttam Police Station said UAPA provisions were invoked after investigators questioned Sanoof and examined his mobile phone. The case stems from comments allegedly posted by Sanoof under a social media post by the daughter of N Ramachandran, one of the victims of the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam. Police alleged that the comments justified the attack, which killed 25 tourists and one local. The FIR was registered following a complaint filed by a leader of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM). Besides UAPA, Sanoof has also been booked for promoting enmity between different religious groups. He has been remanded to judicial custody. Police said they would seek his custodial interrogation,



gam. Police alleged that the comments justified the attack, which killed 25 tourists and one local. The FIR was registered following a complaint filed by a leader of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM). Besides UAPA, Sanoof has also been booked for promoting enmity between different religious groups. He has been remanded to judicial custody. Police said they would seek his custodial interrogation,

adding that the investigation could later be transferred to either the Crime Branch or the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS).

**BJP REACTS TO ARREST**

Reacting to the arrest, BJP Kerala president Rajeev Chandrasekhar questioned how "a young Malayali gets brainwashed into celebrating the brutal, cold-blooded murder of a fellow Keralite in the Pahalgam terror attack." Calling the arrest a "wake-up call", Chandrasekhar alleged that the incident was not an isolated case but the result of "years of appeasement, radicalisation and Congress-CPI(M)'s political hypocrisy."

He further said Kerala's future lay in "deeper integration with India's growth story" and called for an end to what he termed "dangerous politics" in favour of the "politics of performance."

# Kerala Man Held for Defending Pahalgam Attack

## DMK tried to kill me: TVK MLA alleges threat to life, poaching attempts

**Poaching of MLAs has been a rarity in Tamil Nadu politics. But the latest allegations suggest a shift, coming months after Vijay formed a coalition government after falling short of a majority by 10 seats, pointing to a more volatile phase in the state's political landscape.**

Days after a TVK MLA dropped a political bombshell by alleging that he was offered Rs 30–35 crore to switch sides and that 10 ruling party MLAs and a sitting minister had already agreed to join the DMK, another TVK legislator has levelled fresh charges of poaching. Speaking to the media in Thoothukudi, TVK's Srivaikuntam MLA Saravanan alleged that he was offered between 30 crore and 50 crore to join the DMK and claimed that he faced threats to his life after refusing the offer. "Several people have approached me offering Rs 30 crore, Rs 50 crore and even more. They asked me to join the DMK," he said. He further alleged that individuals linked to the DMK had visited his office and threatened to kill



him by running him over with a lorry. He also claimed there was an attempt on his life about 25 days ago. "One such incident occurred 25 days ago when a lorry came straight towards me and I had to swerve completely to escape," he said.

**SLAMS DMK'S ANITHA RADHAKRISHNAN**

Saravanan also hit out at DMK leader Anitha Radhakrishnan, who had earlier alleged that he was arrested to pressure him into quitting the Assembly and joining TVK. Reacting to the allegations, Radhakrishnan had told reporters after his arrest on July 4, "It was not horse-trading, but camel-trading that was offered to me; it will never happen." Responding to the statement, Saravanan said, "You are making allegations while I have evidence." Radhakrishnan had been arrested for allegedly making de-

rogatory remarks against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay at a public event, where he reportedly mocked Vijay's appearance and his transition from cinema to politics. The Srivaikuntam MLA further alleged that he was being targeted because he comes from a modest background in a region where politics is dominated by the wealthy elite. Srivaikuntam falls in Thoothukudi district in southern Tamil Nadu.

**TVK MLA N ELAIYARAJA'S POACHING CHARGES**

Saravanan's allegations come days after TVK MLA N Elaiyaraja also claimed that he was offered Rs 30–35 crore to switch allegiance. He alleged that an intermediary told him that 10 TVK MLAs and one minister had already agreed to join the DMK.

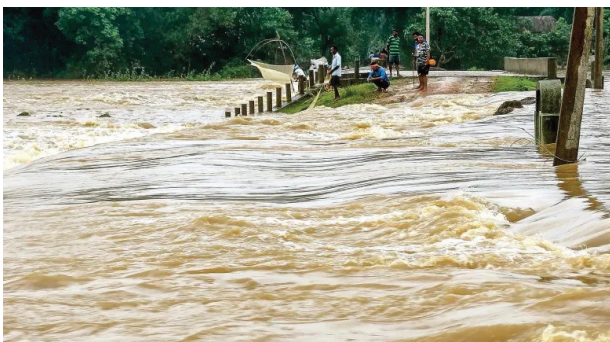
Speaking exclusively to India Today, Elaiyaraja said the accused, Thirunavukkurasu, had claimed that several legislators were already on board and repeatedly attempted to persuade him to join the alleged plan.

"He said he had already convinced to TVK MLAs and one minister. He even claimed a sitting minister was on board and offered me 30–35 crore in cash," Elaiyaraja said.

## Odisha Faces Minor Flood Amid Heavy Rainfall

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 6

Amid incessant rainfall across the state over the past few days, the Odisha Water Resources Department on Monday said the Baitarani River is expected to experience a minor flood, potentially affecting residents in the low-lying areas of Jajpur and Bhadrak districts. Speaking to media persons, a senior official of the Odisha Water Resources Department said that the Baitarani River currently poses the biggest challenge for the department due to the prevailing flood situation. "Owing to heavy rainfall in the upper catchment, we expect a minor flood in the downstream areas. We are currently releasing around 1,700 cumecs of water from Anandapur, and we expect the river to cross the danger level at Akhuapada (Bhadrak district). However, it will not create any major flooding situation," the official said. The official noted that the minor-to-moderate flood is expected to recede to normal levels within the next 24 hours.



He also assured that there is no threat of flooding in any of the state's other major rivers, including the Mahanadi. Meanwhile, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bhubaneswar Director Manorama Mohanty on Monday said that the depression over the north-west Bay of Bengal is expected to move in a north-northwestward direction over the next 24 hours, bringing widespread rainfall across Odisha. Mohanty also said that moderate to heavy rainfall is likely to continue in several parts of the state, with isolated places expected to receive very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall due to the system. She said districts

including Mayurbhanj, Kendujhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Debagada, Angola, Dhenkanal, Bargarh, Sonpur, Boudh, Balangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Koraput are likely to experience heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places. The IMD has also forecast thunderstorms with lightning and gusty surface winds of 30–40 kmph at isolated places across several districts. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the north Bay of Bengal and along the Odisha coast for the next two days as sea conditions are expected to remain rough to very rough under the influence of the depression.



## YouTuber Raavan arrested for 5th time in 6 days over remarks against Pawan Kalyan

YouTuber Raavan was arrested for the fifth time by the Andhra Pradesh Police on Saturday, extending a series of successive arrests that began on June 30 over multiple cases linked to his alleged remarks against Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. According to police, Raavan had just secured bail in the latest case registered against him by the Payakaraopeta Police when he was intercepted at the Vempadu toll gate and taken into custody once again. This time, he was booked under Sections 13 (punishment for unlawful activities) and 39 (offence relating to support given to a terrorist organisation) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The latest arrest follows a pattern that has seen Raavan repeatedly granted bail in one case only to be re-arrested in another. The sequence began with his arrest by the Pithapuram Police. After obtaining station bail from

a magistrate, he was immediately taken into custody by the Sarpavaram Police. Upon securing bail in that case, he was arrested again by the Inaguduru Police, followed by another arrest by the Payakaraopeta Police after his release.

**YSRCP QUESTIONS GOVT STANCE**

The repeated arrests have sparked a political controversy in Andhra Pradesh, with the opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) accusing the ruling coalition government of targeting the YouTuber. In a series of social media posts, the YSRCP questioned the government's actions and accused Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan of focusing on Raavan while neglecting other issues. Referring to the Sugali Preethi case, the party alleged that if the same level of attention had been devoted to securing justice in that case, the accused would have been punished.



EDITORIAL.

The Document Dilemma —  
Identity, Bureaucracy, and  
the Passport Row

The Ministry of External Affairs’ sudden declaration that an Indian passport is strictly a travel document, rather than conclusive proof of citizenship, has cracked open a foundational debate across the country. Meant to decouple the diplomatic machinery of international travel from local administrative battles, the announcement has instead highlighted a deeper systemic vulnerability. If an aggressively verified booklet issued by the sovereign state cannot cleanly anchor an individual’s citizenship, it raises a troubling question: what can?

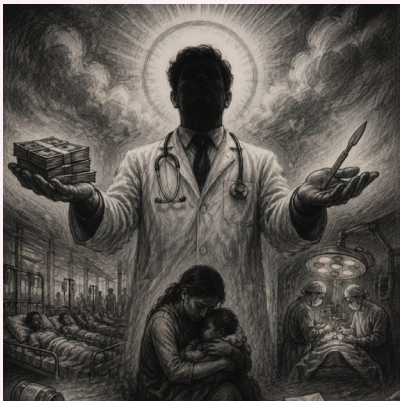
The immediate political and bureaucratic tremors are impossible to ignore. Triggered by high-profile cases where individuals found themselves arbitrarily dropped from voter lists—which then triggered adverse police verification reports that halted their passport renewals—the debate hits at a uniquely modern anxiety. Over the last decade, citizens have been told that documents like Aadhaar are strictly for residency, while Voter IDs are merely for the ballot box. By adding the passport to this list of “non-conclusive” proofs, the state inadvertently creates a bizarre legal limbo. It implies that a citizen can be intensely vetted by local police, scrutinized by regional passport offices, cleared by central intelligence databases, and yet conceptually remain a question mark inside their own borders.

While legal purists correctly argue that under the Passports Act of 1967, the document is simply meant to assert nationality to foreign ports, the practical domestic execution tells a different story. The state relies heavily on birth certificates or state domicile certificates to establish citizenship, but the infrastructure to issue these remains wildly fragmented across different regions and generations. Asking a citizen to produce a flawlessly preserved chain of custody for their parentage just to prove they belong—while they hold a chip-embedded e-passport in their hands—is an exercise in bureaucratic absurdity.

Compounding this anxiety is a simultaneous administrative squeeze. As the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026, took effect on July 1, the cost of securing a standard 36-page passport jumped by more than 60%, climbing from ₹1,500 to ₹2,500, and doubling to ₹5,000 for Tatkaal services. While a price correction after 14 years is normal fiscal housekeeping, the timing makes for a tough pill to swallow. Citizens are now paying a steep premium for a document that is being explicitly downgraded in domestic legal status.

India cannot afford to let its foundational relationship with its people turn into an endless loop of paper-chasing. If the passport is purely for transit, the government must rapidly deliver a singular, uncontested, and easily accessible digital citizenship certificate to clear the fog. Right now, the message flashing from the bureaucracy is deeply confusing: the state is completely sure of who you are when you cross the international border, but entirely unsure when you are standing right at home.

EQUAL TO GODS?"



Not equal to gods oh, heavens no!  
They deal in lives with hearts of snow.  
Where hope and hurt in silence bide,  
Lie patients lost, with none to guide.

White halls echo with muted cries,  
Yet no one's there to heed their sighs.  
In state-run beds, where hope decays,  
Compassion sleeps in shadowed bays.

Private blades are swift and cold,  
For golden coins, young lives are sold.  
They cut the cord 'fore time has come,  
No checks, no care just income sum.

Not a penny in pockets bare,  
Yet tests and scans float through the air.  
The pills they write a cryptic mist,  
Their purpose known to none but wist.

Loans are raised, for meds they buy,  
While dreams like Atlla fade and die.  
Kara metukulaye tales untold,  
Now drown beneath the debt they hold.

See how quick their hands can go,  
Not for pain but cash in flow!  
That doctor's coat, so starched and white,  
Conceals a heart that shuns the light.

A little mercy just a trace,  
Is that too much to embrace?  
Wombs that cry like mountains torn,  
Receive no help, just silent scorn.

“Doctor’s symptoms” cruel and cold,  
With warmth and soul long bought and sold.  
Try to scold? Then you’re a foe  
They’re gods, you see just so you know!

Saints of tomorrow? That’s the lie,  
Today they watch the poor souls die.  
So call them gods if gold you chase,  
But don’t expect an ounce of grace.



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



OPINION  
Rising Cybercrime in the Age of Digital Revolution:  
A Formidable Challenge



es, and conventional legal jurisdictions. The concern extends far beyond financial fraud. Recent allegations regarding the dissemination of child sexual abuse material through social media platforms have shocked the global community. If major digital platforms can profit from advertisements linked to such heinous content, it reflects not merely a technological failure but a profound ethical and social crisis.

This raises an important question: Can social media companies continue to evade responsibility by describing themselves merely as technology platforms? When Artificial Intelligence and sophisticated algorithms determine which advertisements reach which users, these companies must accept equal responsibility for the consequences. Although many digital platforms claim to remove objectionable content promptly, their commercial priorities often appear to outweigh their ethical obligations. If advertisements or content related to child exploitation, obscenity, cyber fraud, or organised crime remain active for extended periods, it is not simply a triumph for criminals—it is also an indictment of the accountability of digital platforms. A healthy digital society can flourish only when freedom of expression is balanced with social responsibility.

Perhaps the most tragic aspect of cybercrime is the immense psychological trauma suffered by victims. A lifetime's savings can disappear within minutes. Victims then find themselves running from banks to police stations and cyber helplines, yet delayed intervention often makes the recovery of stolen funds nearly impossible. Such experiences gradually erode public confidence in institutions and governance. When criminals escape punishment and victims receive little relief, the deterrent power of law itself begins to diminish. Recognising the seriousness of the challenge, the Government of India has

introduced several initiatives to strengthen cybersecurity, including the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, dedicated helplines, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), and various digital security programmes. The judiciary has also expressed serious concern by treating online financial fraud as a significant threat to economic security. Nevertheless, a substantial gap remains between policy formulation and effective implementation.

The first few hours after a cybercrime complaint are crucial. If suspicious bank accounts are frozen immediately and the movement of stolen funds is halted without delay, significant financial losses can often be prevented. Unfortunately, bureaucratic delays frequently work in favour of cybercriminals. Cybersecurity is no longer merely a policing issue. It has become a multidimensional challenge involving economic policy, national security, education, governance, and international cooperation. Developed nations have elevated cybersecurity to the level of national security by establishing specialised agencies, deploying cutting-edge technologies, training expert personnel, enabling real-time intelligence sharing, and enforcing stringent legal frameworks. India too must move decisively in this direction.

Local law enforcement agencies need comprehensive training in digital forensics, blockchain analysis, AI-assisted investigations, and international cyber law. At the same time, public awareness is equally indispensable. As technology evolves, criminals continually devise more sophisticated methods of deception. Therefore, digital literacy must become a nationwide movement through schools, universities, colleges, and civil society organisations. Citizens should be educated to identify suspicious links, fraudulent calls, fake investment schemes, and deceptive social media practices. However, responsibility cannot be shifted entirely onto citizens. Governments, banks, and digital service providers cannot absolve themselves by simply advising users to remain vigilant. Creating a secure digital ecosystem is fundamentally an institutional responsibility.

Weak Know Your Customer (KYC) systems, corruption, administrative negligence, and institutional collusion further facilitate cybercrime. If fraudulent identities are used to open bank accounts, if payment platforms fail to detect and block suspicious transactions promptly, or if internal complicity enables criminal networks to flourish, these are not merely technological failures—they constitute institutional crimes. Transparent audits,

strict accountability, and robust punitive measures are therefore indispensable. Cybercrime is no longer confined to any single nation. In the borderless world of the internet, criminals operate globally, making international cooperation imperative. The United Nations and the world's leading economies must work together to establish a comprehensive global legal framework, rapid information-sharing mechanisms, and advanced technological collaboration to combat cybercrime. Just as international cooperation has become essential in combating terrorism, it is now equally vital in addressing cyber threats.

Ultimately, the true purpose of the digital revolution is not merely technological advancement but the creation of a safer, more prosperous, and more dignified society. If digital transformation instead becomes synonymous with fear, insecurity, and mistrust, its promise will remain unfulfilled. The real strength of Digital India lies not in its apps, servers, or data centres, but in the trust with which millions of citizens conduct their daily digital transactions. What India needs today is not merely better technology, but an integrated framework that harmonises technology, ethics, law, and accountability.

The government must enact stronger laws, ensure swift justice, and establish highly efficient investigative mechanisms. Digital companies must fulfil their social responsibilities with greater seriousness. Financial institutions must strengthen security systems and institutional accountability. Citizens, too, must cultivate responsible digital behaviour and cyber discipline. Maintaining a healthy balance between digital innovation and cyber security will be one of the defining tests of a developed India. If this balance is achieved, Digital India can emerge as the world's most trusted digital democracy. If not, even the most remarkable technological achievements may ultimately collapse under the weight of public distrust.



LALIT GARGG  
Writer, Journalist,  
Columnist

India hand made: Taking India's  
Craft Heritage to the Digital Marketplace

India's handloom and handicraft traditions are far more than symbols of cultural pride. They represent one of the country's largest sources of rural employment, sustaining millions of artisans and weavers whose skills have been passed down through generations. Yet, despite the richness of this heritage, many artisans have long struggled with limited market access, dependence on middlemen and inadequate earnings.

The emergence of digital commerce is beginning to change this reality. Among the significant initiatives in this direction is Indiahandmade, a dedicated online marketplace developed by the Digital India Corporation under the Ministry of Textiles. Launched in 2023, the platform seeks to bridge the gap between India's traditional artisans and the rapidly expanding digital economy by enabling them to sell directly to consumers across the country.

The importance of such an initiative becomes evident when viewed against the scale of the sector. India is home to an estimated 64.66 lakh handloom and handicraft artisans, making it one of the largest craft ecosystems in the world. The sector is also a powerful engine of women's empowerment, with women constituting nearly 71 per cent of handloom weavers and 64 per cent of the overall artisan workforce as of August 2025. For millions of rural households, handicrafts and handlooms are not merely occupations but dependable sources of livelihood.

As consumer behaviour increasingly shifts towards online shopping, artisans too must become part of the digital marketplace. Indiahandmade provides that opportunity by offering a specialised e-commerce platform exclusively for handmade products. Unlike conventional online marketplaces, it is designed specifically to meet the needs of artisans, weavers and craft-based enterprises while preserving the authenticity of India's traditional products.

One of the platform's biggest strengths is its emphasis on direct market access. By connecting artisans directly with buyers,



it reduces dependence on intermediaries, allowing producers to receive fairer returns for their work. Greater visibility on a national platform also expands customer reach, enabling even small artisans from remote regions to showcase their craftsmanship before a wider audience.

The portal goes beyond simply listing products online. It equips artisans with digital tools and an accessible onboarding process, encouraging first-time sellers to embrace e-commerce. This digital empowerment has the potential to improve incomes, create sustainable livelihoods and strengthen the economic independence of thousands of rural families.

Another notable feature is the diversity of products available on the platform. Buyers can explore an extensive collection ranging from handloom apparel, home furnishings and décor to paintings, wooden furniture, jewellery, footwear, stationery, musical instruments and religious artefacts. The marketplace thus becomes a showcase of India's extraordinary artistic diversity, reflecting the unique craftsmanship of different regions.

Particularly significant is the platform's focus on Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged and One District One Product (ODOP) items. GI-tagged products derive their identity and reputation from a specific geographical region and include celebrated crafts such as Aipan art, Pashmina shawls, Dokra décor and Kerala's Mundu textiles. Similarly, the ODOP initiative highlights district-specific specialties including Banarasi silk, Tangail sarees, Ikat fabrics, Tussar silk, Chanderi textiles and

terracotta crafts. By providing dedicated visibility to these products, Indiahandmade not only strengthens regional identities but also promotes India's diverse cultural landscape.

Trust remains central to any successful digital marketplace. Recognising this, Indiahandmade incorporates several buyer-friendly features, including secure payment systems, purchase protection, customer support and free shipping. Such measures enhance consumer confidence while ensuring artisans can compete effectively in the growing online retail ecosystem.

Equally important is the platform's inclusive approach towards sellers. Many traditional artisans do not possess GST registration, often becoming a barrier to participating in formal e-commerce. Indiahandmade addresses this challenge by allowing sellers without GST registration to enrol using an Enrolment ID, provided they operate within their home state. This flexibility makes digital commerce accessible even to small-scale producers who might otherwise remain excluded.

Beyond technology, the true strength of Indiahandmade lies in the stories of the artisans themselves. Enterprises such as Santarms showcase handcrafted wooden décor, scented candles, marble idols, terracotta diyas and handloom sarees that blend traditional artistry with modern lifestyles. Dastkar Craft, representing more than 500 artisans, produces export-quality bamboo and cane furniture and home décor while preserving indigenous craftsmanship. Likewise, Villages

Craft continues the legacy of traditional weaving through handcrafted cotton towels, gamchas and bedsheets that combine utility with heritage. These enterprises demonstrate how digital platforms can transform local craftsmanship into nationally recognised brands without compromising authenticity.

The larger significance of Indiahandmade extends beyond commercial success. It represents an important step in aligning India's traditional craft economy with the broader objectives of Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat. Digital inclusion is no longer confined to urban entrepreneurs or technology-driven businesses. It now embraces artisans whose livelihoods depend upon preserving centuries-old skills while adapting to modern markets.

The government's ambition to onboard more than 60 lakh artisans reflects the scale of this transformation. If implemented effectively, the platform can become a catalyst for rural economic development, women's empowerment and cultural preservation simultaneously. By providing direct access to consumers, encouraging fair pricing and promoting regional craftsmanship, Indiahandmade has the potential to make India's handmade sector more competitive and sustainable.

In an age increasingly dominated by machine-made products and mass production, handmade crafts carry a distinct value that extends beyond economics. They embody history, identity and the creative spirit of communities spread across the country. Every handcrafted saree, bamboo basket, wooden carving or terracotta sculpture tells a story of tradition, patience and skill.

Indiahandmade ensures that these stories find new audiences in the digital era. By bringing artisans into the online marketplace, it not only strengthens livelihoods but also safeguards India's invaluable craft heritage. In doing so, it demonstrates that technology and tradition need not stand in opposition; together, they can create new opportunities while preserving the cultural legacy that defines the nation.





PM Marks  
Mookerjee's  
125th Jayanti  
with Op-Ed

NEW DELHI:

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, penned his thoughts in an Op-Ed on the life and legacy of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, highlighting his multifaceted contributions as an educationist, Vice Chancellor, Minister and political leader. Shri Modi underlined Dr. Mookerjee's unparalleled efforts towards strengthening India's unity and national integration. The Prime Minister further stated that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A) in 2019 stands as a fitting tribute to Dr. Mookerjee's lifelong dedication to the cause of national unity and integrity.

The Prime Minister posted on X:

Penned an Op-Ed on Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's life, emphasising his diverse accomplishments, be it Vice Chancellor, Minister, political leader and more.

TN CM Vijay urges PM Modi to reconsider  
proposed food security law changes

CHENNAI, JULY 6

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging the Union government to withdraw or reconsider the proposed amendments to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, warning that the changes would significantly reduce food grain entitlements for nearly 70 lakh poor and vulnerable people in the state.

In his letter, the Chief Minister expressed concern over the draft National Food Security (Amendment) Bill, 2026, published by the Union Department of Food and Public Distribution on June 24.

The proposed amendment seeks to replace the existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) entitlement of 35 kilograms of food grains per household per month, irrespective of family size, with

7 kilograms per person per month, subject to a maximum ceiling of 35 kilograms per household. While the Union government has stated that the amendment aims to address inequities and align food allocations with nutritional requirements, Vijay argued that the proposal would adversely affect Tamil Nadu, where the average family size is only 3.54 members. As a result, many of the poorest households would receive substantially less food grain than they currently do.

The Chief Minister pointed out that Tamil Nadu currently has 18.64 lakh AAY ration cards covering 69.27 lakh beneficiaries, including widows, persons with disabilities, senior citizens without regular income, tribal families, landless agricultural labourers, daily wage earners and people suffering from life-threatening illnesses.



He said these were the very sections the National Food Security Act was intended to protect through assured per-person allocation with a household-based food entitlements.

He further argued that changing the entitlement from a household-based system to a per-person allocation with a household ceiling would effectively penalise states such as Tamil Nadu that have successfully implemented family planning programmes and therefore have smaller family sizes. According to the Chief

Minister, Tamil Nadu currently receives 65,261 metric tonnes of food grains every month for AAY beneficiaries free of cost from the Union government. Under the proposed amendment, this allocation would fall to approximately 42,040 metric tonnes, leading to a sharp reduction in food support for poor families across the state. Vijay also highlighted Tamil Nadu's long-standing commitment to maintaining a robust Public Distribution System (PDS), often extending food security benefits beyond the Centre's prescribed norms. He noted that rice is the staple food in Tamil Nadu and forms the basis of daily meals, including idli, dosa, pongal and regular lunches. Any reduction in subsidised rice, he said, would force poor families to purchase food from the open market, increasing their financial burden and exposing them

to hunger and malnutrition. He added that the proposed amendment would particularly affect the 15.75 lakh AAY households in Tamil Nadu with fewer than five family members, covering nearly 58.51 lakh people, while similar impacts would also be felt in other states with smaller family sizes. Urging the Prime Minister to intervene, the Chief Minister requested that the Union government retain the existing provision of 35 kilograms of food grains per household per month under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, irrespective of the number of family members, as has been the practice since the enactment of the National Food Security Act in 2013.

He expressed hope that the concerns raised by Tamil Nadu on behalf of nearly 70 lakh poor citizens would receive favourable consideration from the Centre.



NFR Registers Encouraging  
Growth in Freight

MALIGAON, 6 JULY, 2026:

In its continued commitment towards efficient freight operations and timely transportation of essential commodities, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has achieved encouraging growth in freight loading during June 2026. N.F. Railway recorded a total freight loading of 0.968 million tonnes (MT) during the month, registering a 9.6% increase over the corresponding period of the previous year while achieving 110% of the monthly loading target. Several key commodities registered remarkable growth during June 2026. Cement loading witnessed a significant rise of 53.1%, while Petroleum Oil & Lubricants (POL) loading increased by 41.7% over the same period last year. Coal loading also recorded a healthy growth of 37.5%, followed by the &quot;Others&quot; category, which increased by 36.2%. Additionally, under the &quot;

Others&quot; category, stone chips loading registered an exceptional growth of 275%, reflecting enhanced movement of construction related materials across the region. Further, the cumulative freight loading up to June 2026 reached 2.931 million tonnes, registering a 6.2% growth over the corresponding period of the previous year and achieving 109% of the Board's cumulative target. The steady increase in freight loading highlights the growing economic and industrial activities across the Northeast and adjoining areas. This sustained growth has not only strengthened the regional supply chain network but has also contributed significantly to the revenue earnings of Northeast Frontier Railway. NFR continues to focus on technological advancements, operational efficiency and customer-centric freight services to ensure reliable transportation and sustained growth in freight movement in the coming months.

Mumbai Becomes Virtual  
Island After Downpour

Three days of continuous rainfall have brought Mumbai and its neighbouring areas to a standstill, severing the road and rail arteries that connect India's financial capital to the rest of the country and leaving thousands of commuters stranded.



By Monday morning, the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway, and the Mumbai-Konkan route had either been closed or placed under severe restrictions, bringing intercity movement to a near standstill. The Expressway was the worst hit. A landslide near the exit of Tunnel 2 forced a diversion on the Pune-Mumbai carriageway of the newly opened 'Missing Link', a 13-kilometre bypass through the Sahyadri mountains that had opened two months ago. Nearly 100 tonnes of debris fell at a location where, according to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, such an incident had never occurred before. The 'Missing Link' was eventually opened for vehicular traffic as the day came to a close. On the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway, waterlogging has choked traffic. Efforts to drain flood water are underway, but traffic movement remains painfully slow. Near Nagothane on the Konkan route, severe waterlogging has

left commuters stranded for over 24 hours with little sign of improvement. Train services between Pune and Mumbai were suspended after landslides struck the Thakurwadi and Monkey Hill sections, sending debris onto the tracks. Trains arriving from Gujarat were halted mid-journey, leaving passengers stuck in coaches for hours. Over 20 long-distance trains on the Western Railway remain stranded across Mumbai and south Gujarat, with over 40 services impacted. At least 10 have been cancelled, eight rescheduled, and several others diverted.

DEATHS, DAMAGE, DISRUPTION

Thirteen people have died in rain-related incidents over the past three to four days across Mumbai and Pune regions, according to Disaster Management Minister Girish Mahajan. Two people were killed after their house was buried in a landslide at Patan village in Pune's Maval tehsil. Another was swept away

on a flooded road in Pune's Khed. A fireman was injured while clearing a large uprooted tree, and a billboard and two walls collapsed in Thane. In Palghar, strong winds blew away tin-roofed sheds and uprooted trees at a residential school. Some parts of Palghar recorded nearly 300 mm of rainfall in just two hours by 9 AM on Monday.

Both houses of the state legislature were adjourned in view of the heavy rains. The Bombay High Court assured lawyers that no adverse orders would be passed if they were unable to reach court.

MORE RAIN LIKELY IN MMR

The India Meteorological Department has warned the situation could worsen, forecasting two more days of heavy rainfall. A red alert has been issued for Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, Nashik, and Trimbakeshwar, with the possibility of cloudburst-like conditions and rainfall exceeding 300 mm in isolated areas.

MP Tribal Woman Dies  
En Route to Hospital

REWA, JULY 6

A tribal woman died after her family members were forced to carry her on a cot for nearly two kilometres to reach a hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district after no ambulance could reach her village due to the absence of a motorable road. The incident has also revived allegations of irregularities in the road's construction. The incident occurred on Sunday evening in Nadna (Dihya) Gram Panchayat, under the Mangawan Assembly constituency. Ramkali Rawat, wife of the late Ram Swayamvar Rawat, was struck by lightning, villagers said. As there was no proper road connecting the village, an ambulance could not reach the spot. Family members and villagers carried her on a khatia (traditional cot) for nearly two kilometres through a muddy track in an attempt to take her to the hospital. However, she died before receiving treatment.

Speaking to IANS on Monday, Pushpendra Tiwari, a resident of Dihiya village, said, "No ambulance could reach the village because of the road. We had to carry the woman on a khatia for about 1 to 2 kilometres. Soil had been dumped on the road, but there was very little murrum. The road was in such poor condition that even



walking was difficult." The incident has once again drawn attention to the incomplete road connecting the villages of Dihiya and Nadna. Residents said they have repeatedly approached the authorities over the last four years, demanding completion of the road and action over alleged irregularities in the work. Mangawan MLA Narendra Prajapati, however, told IANS that he had sanctioned funds from his MLA fund for the road project. He said Rs 4 lakh was sanctioned for one village and Rs 2 lakh for Dihiya Gram Panchayat.

According to him, nearly 70 per cent of the sanctioned amount had been released, but the remaining work could not be completed due to a shortage of funds. Tiwari, however, said around 200 families of Dihiya and Nadna villages have been affected by the incomplete road, while nearly 40 to 45 families are directly dependent on it. "This is the second

such incident in the last five years. During the COVID-19 pandemic too, a woman had to be carried on a cot because no vehicle could reach the village, and she also died," he said. A memorandum submitted by villagers to the Rewa District Collector on August 12, 2025, a copy of which is available with IANS, alleged that only six truckloads of murrum were laid on the road, while the remaining funds were misappropriated. The allegations have not been officially verified. The incident has also triggered a political reaction. Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Arun Yadav alleged that the incident exposed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government's claims of "double-engine development".

He said a tribal woman had to be taken to hospital on a cot because there was no proper road or ambulance access, and questioned who should be held responsible when the lack of

Experience the Power  
of Forgiveness

(On the occasion of "Global Forgiveness Day" on 07 July)

Forgiveness is a complex and deeply personal journey. Forgiveness is described as pardoning someone after an offence, including letting it go of feelings of resentment or anger. Forgiveness is not always easy. At times, it feels more painful than the wound we suffer, to forgive the one that inflicted it. And yet, there is no peace without forgiveness. Withholding forgiveness onto forgiveness may also cause negative emotions and problems with anger and frustration. The giver and taker may never repair their relationship, but forgiveness allows to move onto a more peaceful lives.

Global Forgiveness

Day-2026:

Global Forgiveness Day observed on 07 July annually, was established in 1994 to highlight the transformative power of forgiveness and encourages individuals to forgive one another. This day aims to spread awareness about the benefits of forgiveness, including improved mental health, stronger relationships, improved global peace and reconciliation, and greater societal harmony. It's a perfect opportunity to pause, reflect, and practice forgiveness on our daily life. It's also a chance to embrace the spirit of forgiveness,

whether through personal reflection, family activities, or community events. The theme of this years Global Forgiveness Day is "Power of Forgiveness" to spread the message of how important is the habit of forgiveness.

Ways to Celebrate the Day:

Forgiveness can lead to emotional and physical well-being, strengthen relationships, and a more compassionate society. By forgiving people, individuals can free themselves from the burdens of the past and foster a more positive outlook on life. On the occasion of Global Forgiveness Day we can share inspirational quotes about forgiveness, post a personal story that impacted your life, host a live session, create a video, share tips, encourage followers, and highlight famous acts of forgiveness. Forgiveness has been linked to many mental health benefits including reduced stress, anger, depression, and state of anxiety. Positive relational health - including improved social support and mental quality - comes from forgiveness. It also leads to an array of physical health benefits including lower BP, and improved cardiovascular health. The forgiveness offers more chances of happy and healthy life than those who hold on to anger, resentment, and thoughts of revenge.

Karjat-Lonavala train op  
disruption due to landslides after  
whopping 600 mm rain in 24 hours

MUMBAI: (JUL 6)

Multiple landslides were triggered in the Karjat-Lonavala Ghat section on the Mumbai-Pune line after it received a whopping 600 millimetres of rainfall in a 24-hour period, severely disrupting rail traffic, Central Railway officials said on Monday. The Ghat section had also received around 300

mm of rainfall the previous day, CR Chief Relations Officer Swapnil Nila said. "About 160 mm of rain fell in the first four hours on Sunday, leading to landslides at multiple vulnerable locations. The first landslide occurred near Thakurwadi, impacting all three lines in Bor Ghat, followed by another between Monkey Hill and Khandala," he pointed out.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's Ideals Continue to  
Inspire National Service and Unity: CM Nayab

CHANDIGARH, JULY 6:

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday described Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee as a symbol of patriotism, sacrifice and unwavering principles, saying his life continues to inspire generations to place national service above personal interests. Addressing the 125th birth anniversary commemoration of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder in Ambala, the Chief Minister said the occasion was not merely to remember the great leader but to follow his ideals and encourage the youth to embrace his vision of national unity and selfless service. Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda attended the programme as the chief guest. Several BJP leaders, including Haryana BJP President Dr. Archana Gupta, paid floral tributes to Dr. Mookerjee before the event. On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced that the proposed Science Centre in Ambala, being built at an estimated cost of Rs. 85 crore, will be named after Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.



Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Sh. J.P. Nadda and Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini acknowledging the greetings of the gathering during a programme organised on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee at Ambala City on July 6, 2026. BJP State President Dr. Archana Gupta is also seen in the picture.

He also announced that a statue of the nationalist leader would be installed near the under-construction Shaheed Smarak in the city. Saini said the nationwide celebrations marking Dr. Mookerjee's 125th birth anniversary began last year and will continue until July 2027. The campaign aims to take his ideas and contributions to every household while expressing the nation's gratitude for his service. He described Dr. Mookerjee as a rare combination of scholarship, patriotism and dedicated public service. Recalling his achievements, the Chief Minister said Dr. Mookerjee was born in Kolkata on July 6, 1901,

into a family deeply committed to education and public life. At the age of just 33, he became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta. Later, he served as a member of the Constituent Assembly and became Independent India's first Minister for Industry and Supply. Saini said Dr. Mookerjee always placed principles above political power. He recalled that Dr. Mookerjee resigned from the Union Cabinet in 1950 over issues concerning national interest. Later, along with Guru Golwalkar and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, he established the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, which eventually became the ideological foundation

of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Highlighting Ambala's historical connection with Dr. Mookerjee, the Chief Minister said the leader stopped at Ambala railway station on May 8, 1953, while travelling to Jammu and Kashmir. He informed the then Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah that he would enter the state without a permit to understand the prevailing situation. Despite being stopped and later arrested after entering the state, Dr. Mookerjee remained firm in his commitment. He died in detention near Srinagar, a sacrifice that Saini described as one made for the unity and integrity of India. The Chief Minister

also recalled Dr. Mookerjee's famous slogan against having separate symbols and constitutional arrangements within one nation. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfilled that long-standing vision through the abrogation of Article 370, adding that the country is now working towards the goal of a developed India by 2047 while drawing inspiration from Dr. Mookerjee's ideals. Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda said Dr. Mookerjee was the architect of the vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" and dedicated his life to preserving India's unity and cultural identity. He said the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, founded by Dr. Mookerjee in 1951, laid the ideological foundation for the BJP, which has grown into the world's largest political party. Nadda said Dr. Mookerjee's dream of complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir was realised through the removal of Article 370 in 2019. He also noted that the Citizenship Amendment Act fulfilled Dr. Mookerjee's commitment to providing citizenship to persecuted refugees from East

Pakistan. The Union Minister said flagship initiatives such as Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, defence manufacturing, semiconductor production and the National Education Policy reflect Dr. Mookerjee's vision of a strong and self-reliant India. He praised the National Education Policy for making education more accessible, flexible and rooted in Indian languages. Nadda also lauded Haryana's development under the "double-engine government," citing improvements in infrastructure, transparent recruitment, healthcare, women's welfare and farmers' welfare. He congratulated the Chief Minister for naming the Ambala Science Centre after Dr. Mookerjee and announcing the installation of his statue. Speaking at the event, Haryana BJP President Dr. Archana Gupta described Dr. Mookerjee as a pioneer of India's industrial development. She said his contributions as the country's first Industry Minister and his emphasis on railways, airports, defence production and nuclear energy continue to guide India's development journey today.





# Donald Trump says White House renewal reflects America’s revival

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Monday said the restoration of the White House is a symbol of what he called America's broader renewal, arguing that the country's most recognisable building should reflect national strength, history and confidence.

Speaking from the Rose Garden, Trump devoted a significant portion of his remarks to the renovation of the White House, describing the work as both a preservation effort and a statement about the country's future. "We're putting a lot of love back into the White House because, frankly, it was treated very badly," Trump said. The President began by explaining why the Rose Garden had recently undergone extensive changes, noting that the original lawn had become impractical due to the site's marshy ground. "The White House was built on a wetland, and the grass was always very wet," he said, adding that visitors' shoes would sink into



what he described as a "quicksand pit." The new granite paving, he said, was designed to preserve the grounds while making the space more usable for official ceremonies.

Trump also highlighted what

he called the "Presidential Walk of Fame", stretching "from George Washington... all the way up to Trump," alongside restoration work on the West Wing pathways and the White House's historic columns.

He said workers had removed more than a century of accumulated paint to restore the original architectural details. "We've taken about 150 years of paint off of the columns," Trump said. "You couldn't even see the details." The President argued that the project was intended not merely to modernise the White House but to preserve one of America's most important national landmarks.

"This will happen every 200 years or so. You'll get somebody that will bring it back," he said. Trump repeatedly compared the White House with historic buildings overseas, recalling visits to Windsor Castle and China's Great Hall. Speaking about Windsor Castle, he recounted a conversation with King Charles III about William the Conqueror, joking that perhaps the British monarch should be called "Charles the Conqueror."

He also argued that the United States should possess ceremonial facilities equal to or surpassing those of other world powers. "I was in the

Great Hall of China recently... They have a very large ballroom... we're going to have one that tops everything," Trump said. Throughout the speech, Trump portrayed the White House as more than a residence or workplace, describing it as a visible representation of the presidency itself.

"There's no place like the Oval Office," he said. "There's no place like it... in terms of overall impact and everything that it represents."

The President delivered the remarks while launching his administration's "Trump Accounts" programme for newborn Americans, but frequently returned to the theme of restoring institutions that he believes define the country. Trump's latest renovation programme, including work on the Rose Garden, the grounds and a proposed new ballroom, reflects his longstanding interest in architecture and construction, themes that have frequently featured in both his business career and his presidency.

## US President launches ‘Trump Accounts’ for children

WASHINGTON



US President Donald Trump on Monday officially launched the "Trump Accounts", a new investment programme aimed at giving American children an early financial stake in the country's economy, describing it as one of the most significant initiatives of his presidency.

Speaking at the White House during what organisers described as the first joint opening bell ceremony involving the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq, Trump said the accounts would allow children to accumulate wealth from an early age through investments linked to the stock market.

"Trump accounts are about giving every American child a stake in America's future and getting some of the upside," Trump said. "Nobody's seen anything like it."

The President said his administration had already deposited one-time seed contributions of 1,000 dollars into more than 500,000 accounts and encouraged parents to enrol their children through the programme's website. He said millions more children would receive contributions from private donors and companies.

"People come into the world with essentially no money and end up at a very

young age being very rich," Trump said. "This is something that we've wanted to do... for 25 years."

Trump credited the recently enacted "One Big Beautiful Bill" with making the programme possible and said the legislation's supporters had decided to name the accounts after him. "I did not ask for it," Trump said. "They think it would sell better if your name's on it."

The event brought together senior administration officials, financial market leaders and philanthropists, including Michael and Susan Dell, who announced a commitment of 6.25 billion dollars for eligible American children born between 2016 and 2024. Michael Dell said every eligible child would begin life with an investment in "America's greatest companies" and urged other business leaders to participate.

"Our founders... pledged their fortunes to an idea. Today we're pledging our fortune to the next generation of children," Dell said.

## Bangladesh police arrest six FCS members over alleged extremist links



DHAKA

At least six members of Fatah Combat System (FCS), including its chief instructor Shah Amanat Sabir, were arrested in Bangladesh, with investigators alleging that the group was undergoing training to facilitate the activities of an extremist organisation, local media reported. According to officials of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), the arrests were made on Sunday from a sand field in the Konapara area of Jatrabari in the capital.

DMP Additional Deputy Commissioner (Media and Public Relations) Niaz Mehdi said that the six FCS members were initially detained before being shown arrested under Bangladesh's Code of Criminal Procedure. While police requested a seven-day remand, the court granted only three days, Bangladesh media outlet 'Dhaka Stream' reported.

A senior official of Bangladesh's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit said that the suspects are currently being held in CTTC custody. Following the arrests, the FCS in a social media post called for the release of those detained. A comment posted beneath it which briefly appeared urged "all Al-Qaeda and IS supporters" to assemble outside the police station.

The arrests followed allegations by journalist Zulqarnain Sayer, a contract member of an investigative team with an international media outlet, who recently claimed in a social

media post that Shah Amanat Sabir and FCS were providing training to extremists through an extensive network and maintaining ties with militants returning from Afghanistan.

Sayer also accused the group of using a housing project funded by a charitable organisation as a cover to recruit members for the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and establish a Bangladesh-based outfit modelled on the Pakistani militant group, Dhaka Stream reported.

Citing information, the Bangladeshi newspaper 'Blitz' recently reported that the FCS has been operating in several districts across Bangladesh under the guise of a self-defence and martial arts institution.

"Publicly, it advertises discipline, fitness, confidence, and practical combat skills. Privately, it is accused of something darker: ideological screening, digital radicalisation, recruitment pipelines, and links to transnational jihadist movements. If true, this is not merely a law-enforcement issue. It is a national security warning," the report noted. "The allegation that FCS presents itself as a faith-conscious martial arts network while quietly circulating propaganda from groups such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM), Hamas, and Al-Qaeda affiliates follows a familiar global pattern: use respectable institutions to identify vulnerable recruits. The method matters as much as the message," it warned.

## Xi to visit Washington in Sep: Trump

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said on Monday that Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to visit Washington in late September, using the announcement to underscore his administration's plans to expand the White House with a new state ballroom capable of hosting larger gatherings for visiting world leaders.

Speaking at a Rose Garden luncheon, Trump revealed the planned visit while describing ongoing renovation and expansion projects at the White House, including what he called a long-overdue ballroom that would transform the executive mansion's ability to host state occasions.

"President XI is coming here, toward the end of September. 24th, I believe, and what we need is a big ballroom we could hold thousands of people in to see him. Everyone wants to see him; same thing with King Charles, same thing with a lot of the leaders of countries and now we're going to have a place the likes of which no country has," Trump said. The President said



the White House has struggled for decades to accommodate large state events, noting that the Executive Mansion currently lacks a dedicated ballroom.

"For 150 years they've wanted a ballroom to be built. We don't have a ballroom in the White House," he said. Trump said the new structure would become one of Washington's landmark buildings and would also enhance security for visiting dignitaries. "When it's completed... it'll be one of the most beautiful structures in Washington," he

said. "Bulletproof, drone-proof, missile-proof in many cases."

The President said the project would include a significant military component and would be developed in consultation with senior military officials. "We're doing it in conjunction with the military and the generals," he said. "It's really a national security must." Trump also compared the proposed ballroom with venues he had seen during overseas visits, saying the United States should possess a ceremonial space befitting its global

## Trump's merit if Italy, Spain spend more on defence: NATO Chief

ROME

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is changing its skin and focusing on an increasingly central role for Europe in defence, local media reported.

On the eve of the Ankara summit, the Alliance's Secretary General Mark Rutte explained that the model of recent years "was not sustainable", reiterating the need to rebalance the weight between the United States and Europe. Rutte also acknowledged Donald Trump's role in increasing military spending by allies, stating that the American president is strongly pushing NATO countries to invest more in security.

Rutte declared that what they are witnessing is a NATO that is actually changing in a transformative sense, and that



the NATO of just three, four or five years ago was not sustainable. He said it is not sustainable to ask a country with 350 million inhabitants, living eight hours by plane from here, to defend Europe from the Russians, with 600 million people living in this part of NATO territory, Italian news agency Adnkronos reported.

He added that it is not sustainable for the richest area in the world to be so excessively dependent on the United States, explaining that it is nec-

essary to rebalance the situation, with the US continuing to guarantee the nuclear umbrella and decisive conventional support, while a stronger role for Europe, with greater commitment also from Canada, is important.

He noted that, otherwise, the Alliance probably would not have been sustainable in the long term, and that now they are creating a sustainable Alliance in which the United States knows it is in a fair situation. He added that they are spending as much as the US, taking on greater responsibility for the conventional defence of Europe, thereby strengthening Europe and NATO.

On the military spending front, Rutte acknowledged the weight of the Trump administration, stating that if countries like Italy and Spain are increasing defence spending,

it is also due to the "Donald Trump factor."

He said that the United States is strongly encouraging allies to reach 5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for defence and security spending, and that is probably a weak term. According to the secretary general, it is very helpful that the American president is committed to this.

Rutte then also cited Italy and Spain among the countries that have increased defence investments, noting that last year, countries like Spain, Italy, Belgium, and Canada all reached 2 per cent. He said it was thanks to Russia and Ukraine, but perhaps there was also, in a small part, the Trump factor, and he commended him for that. He further added that Trump is the first since Eisenhower to keep this promise.

## EAM Jaishankar meets King of Bahrain, interacts with indian community



MANAMA

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday met the King of Bahrain, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and thanked him for ensuring the safety and well-being of the Indian diaspora in Bahrain. In a post on X, Jaishankar said he was honoured to have an audience with the King and also privileged to meet Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the audience.

He conveyed warm personal greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and deeply valued the King's continued guidance for advancing the India-Bahrain partnership.

He thanked him for ensuring the safety and well-being of the Indian diaspora in Bahrain. He also interacted with members of the Indian community in Bahrain during his official visit to the Persian Gulf island nation. In another post on X, he said he was pleased to interact with members of the Indian community, who have made deep contributions to Bahraini society and have served as a liv-

ing bridge between India and Bahrain.

He listened to their experiences and suggestions for deepening the India-Bahrain partnership. Earlier in the day, Jaishankar met with his Bahraini counterpart, Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, in Manama to discuss bilateral ties and ongoing developments in the region. During the meeting, Jaishankar expressed appreciation for the Bahrain leadership for ensuring the well-being of the Indian community living there.

In a post on X after the meeting, he said he was delighted to meet the Bahraini Foreign Minister and expressed deep appreciation for the efforts to ensure the well-being of the Indian community. He discussed deepening bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on ongoing developments in the region. Jaishankar arrived in Bahrain after concluding his engagements in Qatar. During his visit to Doha, he met Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and interacted with representatives of the Indian community in Qatar.

## Five tortured bodies recovered in Balochistan’s Gwadar, rights body slams Pak for extrajudicial killings

QUETTA

Five tortured dead bodies of Baloch men were recovered from Balochistan's Gwadar district, with families and rights groups alleging that at least four had been forcibly disappeared months earlier, local media reported.

Pakistani military officials, however, said that the five were armed men killed in an operation launched following Friday's vehicle-borne attack by the Baloch Liberation Army's Majeed Brigade on a Pakistan Coast Guards camp in the Panwan area of Jiwani in Gwadar.

The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), the Voice for Ba-



loch Missing Persons (VBMP), activists, journalists, and relatives of the deceased rejected the official version, citing documented cases of the men's disappearances and earlier protests by their families before the operation took place,

The Balochistan Post reported. The deceased were identified as Abdul Haq, Peeri Assa, Shah Bakhsh, and Haider Ali Mohammad, while the identity of the fifth person was not immediately known.

Meanwhile, Paank, the Ba-

loch National Movement's Human Rights Department, on Monday strongly condemned the recovery of five tortured bodies from Panwan area in Jiwani on July 4, raising grave concerns over enforced disappearance, torture, and extrajudicial killings across Balochistan.

Paank revealed that Abdul Haq Baloch, principal of Memar-e-Nau Academy in Gwadar, was extrajudicially killed by Pakistani forces. After months of enforced disappearance, it said, his tortured body was recently recovered in Jiwani along with others.

Condemning the killing of Abdul Haq Baloch, human

rights body Baloch Voice for Justice (BVJ) said that this is not an isolated incident but reflects a systematic pattern in which enforced disappearance is followed by the recovery of mutilated bodies.

"This practice has become a defining feature of the ongoing campaign of Baloch genocide, where families are subjected to prolonged uncertainty, psychological torture, and irreversible loss," it added.

Furthermore, the BYC said that the 28-year-old fisherman Peeri Assa was brutally tortured and killed on July 4 by Pakistani forces following months of his enforced disappearance.

## MoS Margherita attends Rwanda’s Liberation Day celebrations

NEW DELHI

Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, on Monday attended the 32nd anniversary celebrations of Rwanda's Liberation Day.

In a post on X, Margherita said he was delighted to attend KWIBOHORA32, the 32nd anniversary of Rwanda's Liberation Day. He conveyed heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Rwanda on this joyous occasion, adding that Rwanda's socio-economic transformation over the past three decades is inspirational.

Rwanda's High Commissioner to India, Mukangira Jacqueline, addressed the gathering. The High Commission of

Rwanda to India posted on X that the High Commissioner addressed the gathering in the honoured presence of Margherita and recognised RDF members who are in India for a working visit.

Earlier in the day, the Rwandan delegation laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi to honour fallen brave soldiers ahead of the 2nd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting between India and Rwanda. The High Commission posted on X that, ahead of the 2nd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting in New Delhi, the Rwandan delegation, led by Brig Gen Kanabayire Louis, began with a wreath-laying at the National

War Memorial to honour fallen brave soldiers.

India-Rwanda bilateral relations have been given impetus by several bilateral institutional mechanisms. These include the Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) at the level of MoS/Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) at the level of Joint Secretary/Director General, and the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC).

Bilateral relations between India and Rwanda have been cordial and have grown steadily over the years. In 1999, Rwanda officially opened its Mission in New Delhi and appointed its first resident Ambassador in 2001.





NCLAT Upholds  
Ushdev  
International  
Liquidation  
  
NEW DELHI: (JUL 6)

Insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT on Monday dismissed an appeal by Singapore-based Taguda Pte Ltd against the liquidation of Ushdev International, holding that the resolution applicant's "persistent and inordinate failure" to implement its plan for over three years left the NCLT with no other option.

A two-member NCLAT bench has upheld the order passed by the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which had directed initiating of liquidation for Ushdev International, which was engaged in ferrous metal trading and wind power generation.

Over the submission of Taguda -- one of the bidders for Ushdev International -- that it is ready to immediately pay Rs 227 crore, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) said this proposal has already been rejected by the Stakeholders' Consultation Committee in their meetings.

Sensex ends 521 points higher,  
Nifty above 24,400; HDFC up 3%

**Benchmark equity indices extended their winning run to a fifth straight session on Monday, supported by gains in heavyweight banking stocks after strong quarterly business updates from HDFC Bank and Axis Bank. Lower crude oil prices and continued foreign investor interest also lifted market sentiment.**

The BSE Sensex rose 521.16 points, or 0.67%, to close at 78,285.07, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 159.50 points, or 0.66%, to settle at 24,430.35.

HDFC Bank emerged as the top Sensex gainer, rising 3.59% after reporting healthy June quarter business numbers. M&M climbed 2.02%, BEL gained 1.79%, Reliance Industries advanced 1.31%, ICICI Bank rose 1.12%, while Maruti Suzuki, Bharti Airtel, Eternal, Sun Pharma, Asian Paints, Tata Steel and Titan also ended higher.

On the downside, Kotak



Mahindra Bank fell 3.89%, followed by TCS, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid, Adani Ports, HCLTech, UltraTech Cement, IndiGo, Infosys and Tech Mahindra.

**BANKS LEAD MARKET HIGHER**

Financial stocks remained the biggest support for the market after HDFC Bank and Axis Bank posted robust provisional business updates for the June quarter.

The Nifty Financial Services 25/50 index gained 0.69%, while the Nifty Private Bank index rose 0.47%. ICICI Bank climbed 1.12%, while HDFC Bank surged 3.59% to become the biggest contributor to the

Sensex's gains. However, Kotak Mahindra Bank bucked the trend, falling 3.89% after reporting slower sequential loan and deposit growth.

**AUTOS, REALTY SHINE; IT UNDERPERFORMS**

Auto stocks also witnessed strong buying. The Nifty Auto index gained 1.36%, supported by expectations of healthy June quarter sales and earnings. The Nifty Realty index jumped 1.81%, while the Nifty Consumer Durables index gained 1.48%. Nifty Oil & Gas rose 1.12%, Nifty Metal advanced 0.98%, Nifty Financial Services Ex-Bank gained 0.17%, Nifty MidSmall Financial Services rose 0.24%, Nif-

ty Chemicals climbed 0.64%, Nifty Healthcare gained 0.24% and Nifty500 Healthcare added 0.11%. Information technology stocks, however, witnessed profit booking after last week's sharp rally. The Nifty IT index declined 0.59%, while the Nifty Media index fell 0.95% and the Nifty PSU Bank index lost 0.88%. Nifty FMCG slipped 0.20%.

The rally was broad-based across the broader market as well. The Nifty100 gained 0.64%, Nifty200 rose 0.60%, Nifty500 advanced 0.57%, Nifty Midcap50 added 0.45%, Nifty Midcap100 gained 0.45% and Nifty Smallcap100 climbed 0.75%.

India VIX edged up 0.16%, indicating slightly higher volatility expectations.

**LOWER CRUDE, FIIS SUPPORT SENTIMENT**

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said lower crude oil prices and improving foreign institutional investor (FII) flows continue to support domestic equities.

"Equities traded with a

positive bias despite mixed global cues, supported by stable crude prices. Continued softness in crude would support inflation, the current account balance, OMC profitability, and overall macro stability. Globally, profit-book- ing in crowded AI-led trades impacted the global market while India could perform well led by large caps due to improvement in FIIs inflows trend," he added.

He further said that on the domestic front, financials, autos, realty, and oil & gas led the gains. Financials were supported by expectations of healthy private bank earnings, while autos benefited from strong volume trends and improving demand outlook. "Realty remained buoyed by resilient housing demand," he said.

Meanwhile, the rupee weakened 0.2% against the US dollar to close at 95.3950, pressured by a stronger dollar and maturing contracts in the non-deliverable forward market, which weighed on the domestic currency.



You may not be able to sell  
your electrical products  
from Oct 1. Here's why

**India will require BIS certification and the ISI mark for 90 categories of electrical appliances from 1 October 2026. The phased rollout could disrupt manufacturing, imports and sales for businesses that miss approval timelines.**

If you manufacture, import or sell electrical appliances in India, a key deadline is fast approaching.

From October 1, 2026, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification will become mandatory for 90 categories of electrical appliances. That means products without a valid BIS licence and the ISI mark can no longer be manufactured, imported, stored, distributed or sold in India.

The upcoming requirement was highlighted by Prakash Dadlani, an electronics appliance manufacturer with over three decades of experience in OEM, ODM, imports and exports, in a post on X.

According to Dadlani, the rule will apply to a wide range of products used in homes every day, including electric toothbrushes, vacuum cleaners, coffee makers, food processors, ovens, water heaters, hair clippers, beauty devices and several other electrical appliances.

**WHAT IS BIS CERTIFICATION?**

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is India's national standards body responsible for ensuring products meet prescribed quality and safety standards.

For products covered under mandatory certification, manufacturers must obtain a BIS licence and affix the ISI mark before they can legally sell them in the country. The certification process includes product testing, factory inspection and approval by BIS.

**WHO HAS TO COMPLY?**  
The implementation will

happen in phases.

Large and medium manufacturers, along with all importers, must comply by October 1, 2026.

Small enterprises have until January 1, 2027.

Micro enterprises have been given time until April 1, 2027.

**WHY SHOULD BUSINESSES NOT WAIT?**

According to Dadlani, obtaining BIS certification typically takes between three and six months because products have to undergo testing, factories are inspected and licences need regulatory approval. He advised manufacturers not to wait until the deadline, as delays in certification could affect their ability to continue business.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU MISS THE DEADLINE?**

According to Dadlani, companies without the required certification could face several consequences once the rule comes into force. These include products being stopped at customs, restrictions on manufacturing and sales, product recalls and penalties under the BIS Act, 2016.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CONSUMERS?**

While the new requirement is aimed at manufacturers and importers, it is expected to benefit consumers as well.

Mandatory BIS certification means more electrical appliances sold in India will have to meet prescribed quality and safety standards before reaching the market. The move is also expected to reduce the availability of uncertified and substandard electrical products.

Consumers buying appliances after the new rules come into effect should look for the BIS certification and ISI mark, which indicate that the product complies with India's safety standards.

Sebi plans to make it easier to short  
stocks. Here's what it means for investors

**The proposed changes are aimed at boosting activity in the cash equity market and encouraging investors to shift away from the country's much larger derivatives market, where retail investors have suffered heavy losses in recent years.**

If approved, the move would mark one of the biggest overhauls of India's stock lending and borrowing mechanism in years.

**WHAT IS SHORT SELLING?**

Short selling, commonly known as "shorting", is a way of making money when a stock's price falls. Normally, investors buy a share first and hope its price rises before selling it. In short selling, an investor borrows shares, sells them in the market and later buys them back. If the share price falls in the meantime, the investor returns the borrowed shares and

pockets the difference as profit. For example, if you borrow a share worth Rs 1,000, sell it and later buy it back for Rs 900, you make a profit of Rs 100 before costs. However, if the stock price rises instead of falling, losses can mount because the investor still has to buy back the shares to return them.

**WHAT IS SEBI PLANNING?**

According to the Reuters report, Sebi plans to expand the stock lending and borrowing mechanism (SLBM), which allows investors to borrow shares for short selling.

At present, only 176 companies out of nearly 2,600 stocks listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) are eligible for borrowing and lending.

The report says Sebi wants to nearly double that number by relaxing some of the existing eligibility norms so that a much larger pool of liquid stocks can be shorted. Currently,



ly, stocks qualify for the lending and borrowing framework based on factors such as liquidity, trading volumes and their ability to support derivatives trading. One requirement, for instance, is an average monthly trading turnover of at least Rs 100 crore over the previous six months. The report says Sebi is considering easing some of these thresholds. The regulator is also looking at reducing collateral requirements. At present, investors may have to provide collateral of up to 130% of the value of borrowed shares.

In comparison, collateral requirements in markets such as the US and Europe are generally around 100%. According to the report, the proposals are likely to be finalised by the end of this year.

**WHY NOW?**

India's stock market has grown rapidly over the past decade, with the market capitalisation of NSE-listed companies rising from around \$1 trillion to over \$5 trillion. But the derivatives market has expanded even faster. According to the report, capital deployed

in derivatives is now around three times that of the cash market, while the gross value of derivative contracts is nearly 500 times larger than the cash market—much higher than in major global markets. Sebi has repeatedly flagged concerns over excessive retail participation in derivatives, saying that nearly 90% of retail investors lose money in this segment. The government has also taken steps over the past 18 months to make derivatives trading more expensive in an effort to curb excessive speculation. By making short selling easier in the cash market, Sebi hopes more trading activity shifts towards transactions backed by actual shares rather than leveraged derivative contracts.

**WHY ARE SO FEW STOCKS ELIGIBLE TODAY?**

India's stock lending rules are among the strictest globally. Following stock market scams in the past, regulations

governing the cash market were tightened in the early 2000s and again between 2017 and 2020. As a result, only a small fraction of listed companies currently qualify for borrowing and lending despite thousands of stocks being listed on the NSE. The report also notes that Sebi had constituted a working group last year to review the stock lending and borrowing framework.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR INVESTORS?**

If the proposals are implemented, investors will have access to a much wider range of stocks for short selling. Institutional investors and sophisticated traders could find it easier to hedge portfolios or profit from falling stock prices. Investors who lend their shares through the stock lending and borrowing mechanism could also earn additional income. However, short selling remains a high-risk strategy because losses can be unlimited if a stock's price continues to rise. The report also notes that, unlike the US and Europe where stock lending often happens through brokers, India requires all stock borrowing and lending to be conducted through recognised exchanges.

HDFC, RBL, ICICI jump up to 4%: Why are banking stocks rising today?

**HDFC Bank led a broad rally in banking stocks after reporting strong provisional June quarter business growth. The move lifted expectations for a solid earnings season even as analysts tracked loan mix, CASA pressure and improving macro signals.**

HDFC Bank and other banking stocks rallied sharply on Monday after the country's largest private lender reported better-than-expected business growth for the June quarter, raising hopes of another strong earnings season

for the sector. The rally also comes at a time when banking stocks are benefitting from improving liquidity, healthy credit growth, easing foreign investor selling and expectations that lower crude oil prices will support India's broader economy. The Nifty Private Bank index gained around 0.5% in early trade, led by HDFC Bank, Bandhan Bank, IndusInd Bank, RBL Bank and Federal Bank. On the Sensex, HDFC Bank emerged as the top gainer, climbing over 3.5%. ICICI Bank rose more than 1%, while SBI was also trading in the green. Axis Bank, another major private lender, was among the top gainers earlier in the session after its quar-



terly update.

**WHY ARE BANKING STOCKS RISING?**

Investor confidence improved after HDFC Bank reported healthy provisional business numbers for the June quarter over the weekend. The bank said its gross advances rose 15.4% year-on-year, while pe-

riod-end deposits increased 14.7%, indicating that loan demand remains strong despite concerns over global economic uncertainty. Axis Bank also impressed the Street after reporting an 18.8% growth in gross advances during the June quarter. According to brokerage CLSA, most banks that have announced their provisional June quarter numbers have either met or exceeded expectations. "Most of the banks which reported June quarter provisional numbers have met or exceeded our estimates, with the exception of Kotak and RBL," said Piran Engineer, Senior Research Analyst at CLSA. He, however, cautioned that investors

should continue monitoring the composition of loan growth and the impact of lower current account and savings account (CASA) deposits on banks' margins. "While overall growth has been strong, we remain watchful of the granularity within loan book expansion and potential impact of declining CASA ratios on margins," Engineer said. **PRIVATE BANKS LEAD THE RALLY**  
The strength was visible across the private banking pack. The Nifty Private Bank index was up nearly 0.5%, with HDFC Bank leading the gains by rising around 3.5%. Bandhan Bank gained about 3%, IndusInd Bank climbed near-

ly 3%, RBL Bank advanced over 1.5%, while Federal Bank also traded over 1.5% higher. On the benchmark indices, ICICI Bank gained more than 1%, while Axis Bank also remained firmly in positive territory after its quarterly business update. Kotak Mahindra Bank, however, bucked the trend and declined more than 3% after reporting sequential moderation in both loan and deposit growth. **ANALYSTS REMAIN POSITIVE**

Analysts believe banking stocks continue to enjoy favourable fundamentals. Credit growth has remained healthy, while deposit mobilisation has also improved.



Oncology Manufacturing Unit Inaugurated in Siddipet

**MARKOOK, (SIDDIPET) JULY 6, 2026:**

CIRO Pharma Private Limited inaugurated its state-of-the-art Oncology (Cancer) and Softgel Manufacturing Facility at Biotech

Park Phase III, Markook Mandal, Siddipet district, marking a significant milestone in India's pharmaceutical manufacturing sector. The facility was inaugurated by Telangana Ministers D. Sridhar Babu and Ponguleti

Srinivasa Reddy, who formally opened the Biotech Park Phase III by cutting the ceremonial ribbon. Following the inauguration, the ministers toured the advanced manufacturing facility and visited the plant units to review its

world-class infrastructure and production capabilities. The inauguration marks the commissioning of one of India's most advanced pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities, designed to produce high-quality oncology

and softgel formulations for domestic and global markets. The facility has been built to meet the highest standards of quality, innovation, safety, and international regulatory compliance.

The project is expected to

strengthen Telangana's position as a leading life sciences and pharmaceutical manufacturing hub while contributing to the production of advanced cancer medicines and creating employment opportunities in the region.

Microsoft to cut  
4,800 jobs as AI  
spending continues to rise

The latest round of layoffs comes at a time when major technology companies are spending billions of dollars on AI infrastructure and facing growing pressure to show returns on those investments. Microsoft is laying off around 4,800 employees, or about 2.1% of its global workforce, as the company continues to invest heavily in artificial intelligence (AI) while looking for ways to improve efficiency across its business, reported Reuters. The latest round of layoffs comes at a time when major technology companies are spending billions of dollars on AI infrastructure and facing growing pressure to show returns on those investments.

**PART OF A BROAD-ER TECH INDUSTRY TREND**

Microsoft is not alone in reducing its workforce. Amazon and Meta Platforms have also announced thousands of job cuts this year as major technology companies face growing pressure to justify their massive spending on artificial intelligence. According to industry estimates, Big Tech's AI investments are expected to exceed \$700 billion this year, increasing the need for companies to generate returns while managing rising costs.

**SHARES HAVE HAD A DIFFICULT YEAR**  
Microsoft announced the



layoffs on Monday after a challenging first half of 2026. The company's shares have fallen nearly 23% during the first six months of the year, making it its weakest first-half performance since 2022. Earlier this year, the company offered voluntary buyouts to around 9,000 employees in the United States, representing about 7% of its US workforce. Microsoft also regularly reviews its workforce near the end of its financial year in June as it prepares spending plans for the next fiscal year.

**AI DEMAND IS BOOSTING AZURE BUT RAISING COSTS**

Strong demand for artificial intelligence has continued to drive growth in Microsoft's Azure cloud computing business. Azure had been the exclusive seller of OpenAI's models until April, helping the company benefit from the growing adoption of AI services. However, expanding AI infrastructure requires heavy investment in data centres, and those rising costs are putting pressure on Microsoft's cash flows.





# A Real Rajput Retreat

## A Lived-In Rajput Haveli and a Rooftop Symphony: The Sterling Jaisingharh Experience

The timeless allure of Udaipur, often affectionately referred to as the Venice of the East, has an uncanny ability to beckon travelers back to its shimmering lakes and majestic palaces. It is a city where history is not merely confined to the glass enclosures of museums, but rather, it breathes vibrantly through the narrow, winding streets, the echoing courtyards, and the very air that sweeps across the Aravalli hills. The beautiful lakes and palaces of Udaipur called out to me once again, and quite frankly, I just could not resist the invitation. A recent getaway to this magical city with my family led me to discover Sterling Jaisingharh, a magnificent boutique haveli-themed property that effortlessly manages to strike that rare, elusive balance between preserving old-world Rajputana charm and providing the plush comfort of a modern, luxury stay. From the moment we began our approach, the location alone presented itself as a major attraction. The property is nestled comfortably in a remarkably quiet and peaceful neighborhood, shield-

ed from the chaotic hum of the city's more heavily trafficked tourist corridors. Yet, miraculously, it is situated less than two kilometers away from the iconic triad of Udaipur's landmarks: Lake Pichola, the City Palace, and Fatehsagar Lake. It represents the ultimate geographical sweet spot—intimately close to everything you could possibly want to see and experience, but far enough away to allow you to retreat into a sanctuary of profound calm at the end of a long, exhilarating day of sightseeing.

### A Heritage Haveli That Breathes and Feels Lived-In

It is important to understand that Sterling Jaisingharh is not merely a modern building masquerading behind a faux-heritage facade; it is not just a themed hotel constructed for the sake of aesthetics. It is, in fact, an authentic, lived-in family home. Commissioned and built around a decade ago by a noble Rajput family, the property continues to carry forward a distinct cultural legacy that you can feel the moment you walk

through its grand archways.

The architectural layout of the property is thoughtfully divided into three distinct sections. One of these sections remains the private, exclusive residence of the property's owner, ensuring that the soul of the family home remains intact. The other two expansive wings function as the hotel accommodations for guests. Sterling took over the management of this unique property in October 2023, seamlessly injecting professional hospitality standards into the familial environment. During my visit, I was accommodated in the "C wing," a cozy yet grand section housing about fifteen rooms.

There is a very specific, undeniable authenticity that comes from knowing the space you are sleeping in is still partly inhabited by its creators. It strips away the sterile, manufactured aura that often plagues commercial hotels. Instead, wandering through the corridors of Jaisingharh feels far more akin to being graciously hosted in a grand heritage home by an aristocratic family.

## Finding Solace: The Pool, The Lawns, and The Library

While the room was a sanctuary in itself, the property's external facilities truly elevated the holiday experience. The central pool area swiftly became my undisputed go-to spot during the crisp mornings and the golden-hour evenings. Surrounded on all sides by the imposing, beautiful haveli-style architecture and bordered by a lush green lawn, it is exactly the kind of visual palette you crave during a vacation.

I particularly looked forward to the daily high-tea experience hosted by the poolside. The hotel staff would set up an inviting spread of tangy, spicy local chaats, alongside steaming cups of freshly brewed tea and coffee. Accompanied by peppy, uplifting music playing softly in the background, this afternoon ritual created a wonderfully relaxed, easy-going vibe. It was the perfect bridge between a day of exploring and an evening of dining, allowing guests to mingle, snack, and unwind.

For moments when I sought absolute silence and introspection, the property's dedicated library offered a wonderful refuge. Tucked away from the main activity zones, the library is a cozy enclave where you can pull out a fascinating book on Rajasthani history, sink into a comfortable chair, and enjoy an hour of quiet, undisturbed time.

### The Pinnacle of the Trip: Dining at Udaipur Katha

While the architecture and the room were spectacular, the absolute standout experience of my entire stay was, without a shadow of a doubt, Udaipur Katha—the hotel's magnificent rooftop grill and dining space. By a stroke of incredible luck, I happened to visit just as they had officially opened their uppermost rooftop section to guests, and the timing genuinely could not have been more perfect.

The restaurant's official tagline is "Siz-

zles, Stories, and Sundowners," and having experienced it first-hand, I can attest that it is remarkably apt. The tantalizing sizzles of the freshly grilled, spiced food, combined with the whispered stories of the ancient city below, made for an unforgettable sundowner experience against a truly breathtaking backdrop.

As the sun began to dip below the horizon, painting the sky in vibrant strokes of orange, pink, and deep purple, the rooftop space completely transformed. The cabana-style seating offered a sense of intimate luxury, while soft, warm ambient lights flickered to life, casting a romantic glow over the tables. The real showstopper, however, was the uninterrupted, panoramic view of the majestic Aravalli hills, their silhouettes darkening against the twilight sky. To elevate the sensory experience even further, the air was filled with the soulful, melodic tunes of live music played on traditional Rajasthani string and percussion instruments. The entire atmosphere felt intoxicatingly lively, deeply cultural, and undeniably magical.

I opted to try their specially curated "Great Katha Dinner Menu," and I am thrilled to report that the culinary execution matched the unparalleled setting. The gastronomic journey commenced with a selection of deeply comforting soups and spiced shorbas, which perfectly warmed the palate. This was swiftly followed by a vibrant platter of chaats. Among these, the incredibly soft, melt-in-the-mouth Dahi Ke Kebab and the pungent, crispy Onion Hing Ki Kachori stood out as clear winners, bursting with authentic street-food flavors refined for a fine-dining setting.

Then came a delightful culinary curveball: Ker Sangri Sushi Rolls. The very idea of taking the quintessential, rustic Rajasthani desert beans (Ker and Sangri)

and presenting them within the delicate, precise format of Japanese sushi was audacious. Yet, it worked brilliantly—a true surprise of traditional, earthy flavors delivered in an elegant, modern bite. Accompanied by a range of refreshing, expertly mixed mocktails with well-balanced flavor profiles, the appetizers set a very high bar.

The main courses continued this trend of delightful surprises. When I saw Gulab Jamun Ki Sabzi on the menu, my curiosity peaked, and I simply could not resist ordering it. Yes, you read that correctly—it is a savory, spiced vegetable dish featuring soft, unsweetened gulab jamuns dunked into a rich, complex, and deeply flavorful gravy. I later learned that this is an authentic, traditional Rajasthani delicacy, often prepared during times when fresh vegetables were scarce in the desert. It was highly unusual to my palate at first, but surprisingly rich and comforting, eating much like a decadent kofta curry.

However, the crown jewel of the main course, and perhaps my absolute favorite dish of the entire evening, was the Macchi Jaisalmeri—a robust Mewari fish preparation. The fish was cooked to tender perfection, flaking beautifully at the touch of a fork, and the gravy was an exquisite masterclass in spice blending. It was intensely flavorful, impeccably well-balanced without being overwhelmingly hot, and entirely memorable. We accompanied this with their Dal Makhani, which was slow-cooked, creamy, and undeniably excellent.

To conclude this royal feast, the dessert served was a Mango Mastani. It was rich, luscious, and celebrated the king of fruits so perfectly that I genuinely found myself contemplating asking for a second serving, despite being entirely full from the lavish meal that preceded it.

## Inside the Royal Suite: A Masterclass in Space and Art

For the duration of my stay, I was booked into the Royal Suite, a name that the room lives up to in every conceivable metric. It was nothing short of grand. Spread generously across an expansive 550 square feet, the room completely bypassed the claustrophobia that sometimes accompanies older heritage properties. Instead, the suite felt magnificently open, incredibly airy, and meticulously designed with a clear emphasis on both aesthetic pleasure and ergonomic comfort.

The very first thing that commanded my attention upon walking through the heavy wooden doors was the intricate detailing overhead and around me. The ceilings and walls were adorned with breathtaking hand-painted miniature art and traditional Pichwai motifs, offering a visual feast of Rajasthan's legendary artistic

heritage. These were not generic prints, but careful, deliberate strokes of artistry that told stories of a bygone era.

Complementing the artwork were the traditional jharokhas—the iconic overhanging, enclosed balconies typical of Rajasthani architecture. These features did not merely enhance the historical aesthetic of the room; they served as perfectly framed windows offering lovely, picturesque views of the shimmering pool and the meticulously manicured lawn area below.

Furthermore, the suite did not lack in generous seating arrangements. Besides the exceptionally comfortable, plush king-sized bed that anchored the room, the suite featured a beautifully carved diwan positioned perfectly within the jharokha. This cozy nook quickly became my favorite spot; it was comfortable enough to

loungue on for hours throughout the day with a good book or simply to watch the light change over the property. The Royal Suite is precisely the kind of room where you never feel a rushed urgency to step out immediately. You are naturally inclined to slow your pace, unpack your bags, and spend a few quiet, restorative hours just soaking in the indoor ambience.

In terms of modern convenience, the room left nothing to be desired. Everything functioned flawlessly. The suite was immaculately clean, exceptionally well-maintained, and fully stocked with all the premium essentials one expects from a luxury boutique stay. Most importantly, the space never felt stuffy or overly antique, a common pitfall in heritage-style designs; it was a perfect marriage of the 18th-century aesthetic and 21st-century comfort.

## Mewari: An Ode to Local Flavors and Culinary Innovation

While the rooftop stole my heart at dinner, the property's primary indoor restaurant, Mewari, proved to be an equally formidable culinary destination during the day. Mewari boasts an extensive, thoughtfully designed menu with a heavy, deliberate focus on hyper-local Rajasthani flavors and indigenous millets, highlighting the region's agricultural heritage. The restaurant space itself is a visual treat, featuring a highly cozy, atmospheric bar area adorned with ancient architectural elements and plush, royal seating that transports you back in time.

I enjoyed a leisurely lunch here and found the menu to be wonderfully interesting, striking that delicate balance of offering unique regional dishes without trying too hard to be unnecessarily fusion-forward. I started with the Millet Raab Soup, a traditional Rajasthani broth that was earthy, deeply wholesome, and surprisingly filling. This was followed by a fascinating starter: Paneer Tikka with a Bajra (Pearl Millet) Coating. The bajra crust provided a fantastic, rustic crunch that contrasted beautifully with the soft, marinated paneer inside, adding a brilliant textural twist to a

familiar classic.

For the mains, we ordered the Paneer Ka Soya, the rustic Dal Banjara, and a vibrant Makai Palak Ka Saag (corn and spinach). Each dish felt like it had been cooked in a traditional home kitchen—deeply comforting, unpretentious, and flawlessly executed with high-quality ingredients.

Yet, the absolute zenith of my lunch at Mewari was undoubtedly the dessert. They served a fusion creation: Ghevar Cheesecake with Rabri. Ghevar, the honeycomb-like traditional Rajasthani sweet, served as the base for a rich, creamy cheesecake, generously drizzled with thickened, sweetened milk (rabri). How did it taste? In a word: Heavenly. It was a textural and flavor masterpiece that I will remember for a long time.

Mewari is also the venue for the daily morning breakfast. The buffet spread provided is fairly elaborate and caters to a wide audience, offering a well-curated mix of hearty Indian classics and lighter continental options. Whether you are in the mood for hot stuffed parathas, tangy poha, crispy dosas made to order, eggs done your way, or just a simple croissant with coffee, there is more than enough variety to suit most dietary pref-

erences and ensure you start your day on the right note.

## A Note on Service: Warmth with Minor Nuances

A beautiful property and great food can only go so far without good hospitality, and overall, the service at Sterling Jaisingharh felt genuinely warm, welcoming, and easy-going. Throughout the day, the staff members were highly attentive, unfailingly polite, and notably prompt. Whether I was making a request at one of the restaurants, asking for directions, or just walking around the property, interactions were consistently smooth, and there was always a smiling face available to assist. Check-in was a breeze, setting a positive tone immediately.

If I were to offer a single area for constructive improvement, it would be regarding the night service. On a couple of specific occasions late in the evening, responses to room service requests were slightly slower than what I had experienced during the daylight hours. It was a minor hiccup and certainly did not detract from the overall joy of the experience, but achieving a more consistent speed of service around the clock would elevate the property from excellent to flawless.







CRICKET

Oman appoints Vinayak Shukla as captain of men's cirkcet team



**MUSCAT:** Oman Cricket, the governing body for the sport in the country, has appointed Indian-origin wicketkeeper-batter Vinayak Shukla as captain of the men's national team, heralding it as the start of a new chapter in the country's sporting history. Shukla, the vice-captain of the team, succeeds Jatinder Singh, who led Oman at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 in India earlier this year. Oman Cricket picked Vinayak Shukla as captain for being a key contributor to the team's growth and success over the years. Omani Cricket made the announcement of his captaincy via a social media post on Monday.

Glasgow CWG

IOA to unveil official kits and give send-off to 124-member contingent

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) will organise a ceremonial send-off on Tuesday for the 124 members of the Indian contingent that will be representing the country in 10 sports disciplines at the 2026 Commonwealth Games to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from July 23 to August 2. Leading India's campaign will be two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra, Tokyo 2020 silver medalist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, decathlete Tajaswin Shanker, and Olympic boxing medallist Lovlina Borgohain as the other star participants. Reflecting the inclusive nature of the Glasgow Games, the Indian contingent comprises both able-bodied and para athletes. Although the competition programme has been compressed for this edition of the Commonwealth Games.

FIFA WC: UEFA blasts FIFA over Balogun ban reversal after Trump intervention

NYON

European football's governing body UEFA launched a scathing attack on FIFA on Monday after world football's governing body suspended the one-match World Cup ban handed to United States striker Folarin Balogun following intervention from U.S. President Donald Trump, calling the move a threat to the integrity of the sport.

The surprising decision allowed Balogun to play in the United States' Round of 16 match against Belgium. It received a lot of criticism from UEFA, coaches, officials, and former FIFA president Sepp Blatter. They questioned FIFA's ability to act independently.

Balogun received a red card after a VAR review for dragging his studs down the leg of Bosnia and Herzegovina defender Tarik Muharemovic during the Americans' Round of 32 win. This meant an automatic one-match suspension. However, FIFA decided to delay the suspension for a one-year probation period without overturning the red card itself.

FIFA made this decision after Trump asked FIFA president Gianni Infantino to look at the case.

"We express our disbelief at such an unusual, confusing, and unjustifiable decision," UEFA stated, adding that FIFA had "crossed a red line."

"When the certainty of rules is no longer guaranteed by its guardians, the integrity of the game is at risk, and the credibility of a competition is weakened."

The criticism quickly spread throughout the football community.

Former Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp questioned the apparent political influence on FIFA's disciplinary actions. "This is our sport, not theirs."

"If Donald Trump and Gianni Infantino really settled this between them, it is



crazy; it puts everything into question. These two individuals, who know little about football, should have no role in this."

The head of the German football association warned that "the integrity of the competition and the credibility of FIFA are at risk," while the European Commissioner for Sport warned against "weaponizing sport for political goals."

Trump praised FIFA's decision on his Truth Social platform, saying: "Thank you to FIFA for doing what was right and correcting a great injustice," while the White House celebrated Balogun's reinstatement with a social media post saying: "USA-USA-USA."

England manager Thomas Tuchel,

while arguing that Balogun's challenge did not deserve a red card, questioned the process of overturning the suspension, especially since his own defender Jarell Quansah was sent off in England's win over Mexico.

"Who reverses this decision and when? And on what basis? How far does this go now? This is strange for me."

"Where does this start and where does this stop?"

Belgium, facing the United States in the knockout stage, also reacted strongly. The Royal Belgian Football Association expressed that it was "astonished" by FIFA's ruling and confirmed it was exploring all possible options.

Even former FIFA president Sepp Blat-

ter joined the criticism. "Red cards are not overturned by political calls. They are overturned by rules, evidence, and independent organisations."

"If a U.S. President intervenes with the FIFA President – and a player is suddenly cleared before a World Cup knockout match – the question is unavoidable: Where is FIFA going? Football must never become a playground for political power."

This controversy follows another disputed FIFA disciplinary decision that cleared Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo to play in the World Cup after FIFA suspended the final two matches of a three-game ban he received during qualifying.



South Korea football chief steps down after early World Cup exit

NEW YORK

Chung Mong-gyu resigned as president of the Korea Football Association on Monday as the fallout from South Korea's disappointing World Cup campaign continued. Chung's departure follows that of head coach Hong Myung-bo after South Korea failed to reach the knockout stage, finishing third in Group A with three points. South Korea defeated the Czech Republic but lost to Mexico and South Africa.

Announcing his resignation, Chung acknowledged both the successes and failures of his tenure, reports Xinhua. "There were moments when I lived up to expectations and moments when I left you deeply disappointed," he said. "All the success is thanks to our players and fans, and all the mistakes are my responsibility. I am convinced that Korean football will overcome adversity and reach great heights once again, as it always has."

Queiroz steps down as Ghana coach

Meanwhile, the fallout for poor performance in Africa continued as Carlos Queiroz has stepped down as Ghana coach in the wake of his side's World Cup campaign ending in the last-32 of the tournament with a 1-0 defeat to Colombia.

The 73-year-old led Ghana into the knockout stage with a solid performance in the group stage that saw a 0-0 draw with England, a 1-0 win over Panama, and a 2-1 defeat to Croatia, but his side never looked like getting to grips with Colombia despite another organised defensive display.

Wimbledon: Cobolli downs De Minaur to reach 2nd straight QF at All England

LONDON

Flavio Cobolli continued his meteoric rise by reaching the quarterfinals at Wimbledon for the second straight year, overcoming Alex de Minaur in a fourth-round match at the All-England Club on Monday.

In the first men's singles meeting between two Top-10 players at this year's Championships, Cobolli produced a composed display to beat de Minaur 7-5, 7-6(4), 6-3 in two hours and 34 minutes. With this, the 24-year-old became just the third Italian man, after Nicola Pietrangeli and Jannik Sinner, to reach multiple Wimbledon quarterfinals.

Cobolli first won the hearts of the Wimbledon faithful last summer when he reached the quarterfinals



by beating Marin Cilic. He backed that up by taking a set from Novak Djokovic two days later.

Cobolli, who reached his first major final at Roland Garros last month, is continuing his rise with another deep run at Wimbledon. The World No. 10 will next face former World No. 3 Grigor Dimitrov or the last remaining Briton, Arthur Fery, for a place in the semifinals in southwest

London. Under the blazing London sun, Cobolli kept his cool. Despite De Minaur holding a break advantage in both the second and third sets, the Italian repeatedly wrestled back control of the longer exchanges, using his weight of shot, sharp angles, and fearless ballstriking to wear down the resilient Australian. Cobolli was happy to have his day's work wrapped up in three sets as he wanted to watch a FIFA World Cup match later in the evening. "There is the World Cup, and I want to see Spain and Portugal," he said. "I hope that I can go early to the house, but first we have to find one. Because actually, we don't have a house," he added as quite a few spectators murmured that they had houses in the vicinity of the All-England Club.

U-23 Asian Boxing: Vishvanath, Ganga, Hitesh register dominant wins; Tanu shines on Day 2

JAKARTA

Asian Champion Vishvanath Suresh (50kg) led India's strong showing on Day 2 of the U-23 Asian Boxing Championships, securing a commanding 5:0 victory over Uzbekistan's Amirbek Ismoilov in Jakarta.

Continuing India's impressive run in the men's division, Ganga (55kg) delivered a clinical performance to defeat Mongolia's Amgalanbaatar Bulgankhuu by a unanimous 5:0 decision. Hitesh (70kg) added to the momentum with an equally dominant 5:0 win over Chinese Taipei's Jun-Zhanglin, underlining India's depth across weight categories. In the 60kg bout, Sagar Jakhar faced a setback, losing by disqualification against Japan's Koichi Nakayama.

In the women's category, Tanu (51kg) extended India's winning streak with a confident 5:0 victory over Korea's Ryeongyeon Kim, showcasing control and precision throughout the bout.

India's strong performances early in the competition reflect the team's solid preparation and intent to challenge for top honours at the continental event, which is being held in Jakarta from July 5 to July 16.

With multiple boxers advancing in their respective categories, India will look to build



on this momentum in the coming days of the championships.

India opened its campaign at the U-19 Asian Boxing Championships in emphatic fashion as World Boxing Futures Cup gold medallist Chandrika Pujari and silver medallist Joyshree Devi registered dominant victories on the opening day in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Competing in the preliminary rounds, Chandrika outboxed Mongolia's Lakham Tsendbaatar to secure a unanimous 5-0 victory in the girls' 51kg category. Joyshree followed with an equally commanding display, forcing a second-round Referee Stopped Contest (RSC) against Chinese Taipei's Chen Ning Hong in the girls' 54kg division to book her

place in the next round.

The Boxing Federation of India has fielded a strong contingent across the U-19 and U-23 categories, with 20 boxers competing in each age group. The championships provide an important platform for India's next generation to test themselves against Asia's finest, as the country looks to build on its recent success and continue its dominance on the continental stage. India's campaign continues on Monday with a strong quartet of U-23 men's boxers set to enter the ring. Asian champion Vishvanath Suresh (50kg) opens proceedings against Uzbekistan's Amirbek Ismoilov, before Ganga (55kg) faces Mongolia's Amgalanbaatar Bulgankhuu.

World Archery upgrades Jyothi Surekha Vennam's World Cup Final bronze to silver

MUMBAI

Jyothi Surekha Vennam's bronze medal at the 2025 Archery World Cup Final in Nanjing has been upgraded to silver by World Archery, the sport's global governing body, after Mexico's Marina Bernal was disqualified for violating anti-doping regulations. India's top compound archer, Jyothi, was originally placed third in the final standings of the championship. However, the medal standings were revised after

Mexico's Marina Bernal was disqualified for violating anti-doping regulations.

The doping sample collected from Bernal on September 29, 2025, resulted in her disqualification in accordance with World Archery Federation Rule 3, leading to an official revision of the final results. The 23-year-old Bernal did not challenge the doping offense after testing positive for an anabolic steroid (nandrolone) in an out-of-competition test in September and is



banned until after the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. According to information received from the Archery Association of India, the decision

was confirmed by World Archery on Monday. Great Britain's Ella Gibson has consequently been awarded the bronze medal. Meanwhile, Jyothi Surekha is currently preparing for the Archery World Cup Stage 4 in Madrid, for which she has been included in the national squad.

The Indian contingent is set for the final stage of the Archery World Cup, with a strong mix of experienced campaigners and rising stars across recurve and compound events.

Sooryavanshi was always meant to debut, India building for next T20 World Cup: Kotak

NOTTINGHAM

India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak has insisted that teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was always part of the team's plans and did not require any special preparation before becoming India's youngest international cricketer, while stressing that the management's larger focus remains on building a squad capable of defending the T20 World Cup in two years.

Speaking on the night before the third T20I against England in Nottingham, Kotak mentioned that the 15-year-old opener, who made his debut in the second T20I at 15 years and 99 days, was selected for his fearless style of play. "He was set to debut from the moment he joined the team; it's not like he was only ready for



his debut in the last match," Kotak told reporters. "For us, it was all about his game, his instincts, and how he plays. The way he has played to get here, he should keep playing that way."

"I don't think there were any specific instructions given to him on what to do," he added.

Kotak acknowledged that the Indian team is undergoing a transition under new captain Shreyas Iyer while also managing the absence of key all-rounder

Hardik Pandya. However, he emphasised that the long-term goal remains the same. "Our aim is to improve in all three areas: batting, bowling, and fielding. Since we won the last World Cup, we plan for the next one in two years. We want to reach the next level because all other teams will also work to get better."

"In the last two years, we haven't lost a single series. We won the T20 World Cup and the Asia Cup T20. But after losing two matches, many people have said we are losing now," Kotak said.

"That's just the nature of the game. Sometimes, during a transition, when the captain changes, Hardik is absent, and you try to introduce three or four young players, things can happen. The Indian team's efforts remain unchanged.

Delhi HC closes Vinesh Phogat's plea as infructuous, directs WFI to conclude disciplinary proceedings

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday directed the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to take a decision within two weeks on the show-cause notice issued to wrestler Vinesh Phogat, while closing as infructuous her petition challenging exclusion from the Asian Games 2026 selection trials.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma observed that the writ petition had become infructuous since Phogat had already been permitted to participate in the selection trials pursuant to earlier judicial orders.

Disposing of the petition, the Delhi High Court directed the WFI to take a decision on the show-cause notice issued to Phogat on May 9 within two

weeks and place the outcome on record after communicating it to both the wrestler and the court. The federation also assured Justice Sharma that Phogat would be granted a personal hearing before any final decision is taken in the disciplinary proceedings.

During the hearing, counsel appearing for Phogat argued that the petition also raised larger issues concerning the WFI's selection policy.

However, the Delhi High Court observed that such issues would require an independent challenge and said the present proceedings could be disposed of, leaving it open to the wrestler to file a fresh writ petition.

In its order, Justice Sharma recorded that since Phogat had already participated in the



selection trials, her challenge to the denial of participation no longer survived for adjudication. The dispute originated after a single-judge Bench had earlier declined to grant interim permission to Phogat to participate in the May 30-31 Asian Games selection trials without first hearing the WFI.

At the same time, Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav had directed the federation to take the disciplinary proceedings initiated against the

wrestler to their logical conclusion and place its decision on record before the next date of hearing.

Phogat subsequently approached a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court, which permitted her to participate in the selection trials, observing that motherhood could not be treated as a ground for excluding a woman athlete from professional opportunities.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia had also questioned the WFI's revised eligibility criteria and directed that the selection process be video-recorded under the supervision of independent observers.

The WFI challenged that interim order before the Supreme Court. While allowing

the selection trials to proceed, the apex court expressed reservations over certain observations made by the Delhi High Court at the interim stage. Subsequently, after the completion of the selection trials, the Supreme Court disposed of the federation's Special Leave Petition (SLP) as infructuous, clarifying that its order should not be construed as affirming the Delhi High Court's observations against the WFI and keeping all issues open. Phogat's comeback bid ended at the Asian Games selection trials held on May 30 and 31 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, where she lost 4-6 to Meenakshi Goyat in the women's 53kg semifinals and failed to secure qualification for the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya.





# No Greater Emotion Than Har Har Mahadev: Virat Karrna



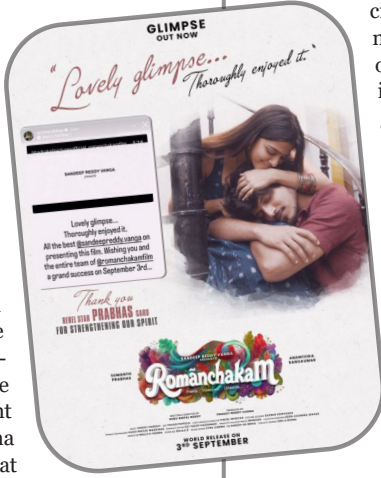
The team of Nagabandham held a success meet to express gratitude to audiences after the film witnessed encouraging growth at the box office. With collections reportedly improving from Saturday onwards, the makers said the audience's support has given them confidence and motivation. Producers Kishore Annapureddy and Nishitha thanked moviegoers for making the film a success and revealed that the collections doubled from Saturday. Riding on the positive momentum, they also announced that the team would soon begin work on their next production. "The film was conceived with the intention of presenting the values of Sanatana Dharma and introducing the younger generation to the sacrifices made by their ancestors. Nagabandham is an Indian mythological spectacle made with Hollywood-style visuals." Director Abhishek Nama said he welcomes criticism and believes audience opinion matters the most. Acknowledging the feedback received after release, he revealed that the team immediately trimmed portions of the film, including a song in the first half, and the extended climax fight. He emphasized that the film is inspired by historical events rather than fiction. "This is not a fictional tale. Afghans

came to India in 1747 and attacked Madurai. Adi Shankaracharya formed a group called Naga Sadhus to protect the temples. These are historical facts; many Hindus were killed brutally, and exoduses still occur. I hope the audience will support the film." Lead actor Virat Karrna expressed happiness over the audience response and said it was heartening to see viewers emotionally connect with the film. While clarifying that he respects reviewers, he appealed that the final verdict should be left to audiences instead of discouraging them from watching the film. "Whenever Lord Anantha Padmanabha Swamy appears on screen, many viewers are removing their footwear out of reverence and watching with tears in their eyes. Some say the film lacks emotion, but when people are moved to tears at the sight of Anantha Padmanabha Swamy on screen, what

greater emotion could there be? When theatres echo with chants of 'Hara Hara Mahadev,' what more emotional connection does a film need? Hats off to our director for creating such powerful emotions and grand visuals. The film has been getting stronger from Day 2, and today's bookings are also very encouraging. Across India, the film is receiving an excellent response. The interval and climax are generating tremendous applause. We are confident that the film will continue to post strong collections during the weekdays as well." Nabha Natesh also thanked the audience for the wonderful response.

## Romanchakam Glimpse: Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Touch!

Young actors Sumanth Prabbas and Ananthika Sanilkumar are coming together for an exciting entertainer titled Romanchakam. The project has become even more special with presenter Sandeep Reddy Vanga and producer Pranay Reddy Vanga backing the film under the Bhadrakali Pictures banner. The makers recently released the title poster, which has been receiving a positive response for its colourful presentation and cheerful



vibe. Building on that excitement, the makers have now released the glimpse of Romanchakam, offering a visually captivating glimpse. Featuring picturesque, painting-like frames lensed by cinematographer Pawan Papula and a soothing score by Vasuki Vaibhav, the glimpse beautifully captures the romance between the lead pair while subtly hinting at the emotional distance that separates them. The sea, emotion and beautiful duo, everything

makes it a perfect one. The on-screen chemistry between Sumanth Prabbas and Ananthika emerges as one of the film's biggest strengths, while the impactful slap sequence leaves a lasting impression. The poetic lyrical lines in the glimpse further suggest that the film will take viewers on an emotionally rich and vibrant journey. Blending romance, humour, and suspense, Romanchakam promises to be an engaging youthful entertainer. With its heartfelt emotions, refreshing narrative, and visually appealing presentation, the film is shaping up to be an exciting romantic entertainer. Directed by debutant Venu Gopal Reddy, the film promises a balanced blend of romance, comedy, and emotional drama. Known for supporting strong and unique content, the Vanga brothers' association has significantly increased curiosity surrounding the project.

# Raja The Raja Trailer: Timeless Love Saga



The upcoming romantic entertainer Raja The Raja has received a major boost ahead of its release, with Mythri Movie Distributors coming forward to presenting the film in theatres. Backed by K Niharika Dasari under Vrindavan Creations and directed by Annil Boyiidapu, the film features Ruthvik and Vishakha Dhiman as the lead pair. Meanwhile, the makers dropped the film's theatrical trailer. The trailer transports viewers to a royal kingdom where Saikumar portrays Raja Virata Varma Devaraya, a ruler devoted to tradition and honor. Amidst this backdrop blossoms a love story that meets a tragic end after the protagonist is accused of bringing misfortune upon

the kingdom and is sentenced to death. Time then shifts to the present, where the lovers return in new identities. Director Annil Boyiidapu wins brownie points for showing love stories in two different eras in captivating manner. Ravikiran Boyidapu's cinematography beautifully differentiates the royal and modern worlds, while Mark K Robin's background score adds emotional intensity. The production standards are top class. For a debutant, Ruthvik delivers a surprisingly assured performance, seamlessly balancing two vastly different roles. He brings intensity to the historical portions and effortless charm to the contem-

porary episodes. Vishakha Dhiman impresses with her elegant screen presence and shares delightful chemistry with the hero. Saikumar's regal portrayal lends gravitas to the narrative, while Dr. Naresh Vijaya Krishna makes his presence felt as hero's father. The trailer certainly succeeds in building excitement for Raja The Raja, slated for release on the 17th of this month.

# Sobhita Redefines Goa Fashion With Tradition

Sobhita Dhulipala recently reconnected with Telugu audiences through Cheekatilo, a crime thriller streaming on Amazon Prime Video, where she played a true-crime podcaster investigating a serial killer in Hyderabad. This marked her return to Telugu content after earlier work in Goodachari and Major, alongside her acclaimed roles in Made in Heaven and The Night Manager. In a recent picture from Goa, Sobhita skipped the expected beachwear look and posed instead in a traditional handwoven saree. The cream drape featured a purple temple-border pallu and a navy blue border with gold motifs, paired with a matching purple blouse. She kept her styling simple with a pearl necklace, gold jhumkas, bangles, and a red bindi. Known for picking layered, unconventional roles, Sobhita continues to balance Telugu cinema with pan-India projects across film and OTT platforms.



# Will Gatta Kusthi Sequel Repeat Its Magic in Telugu?

Gatta Kusthi is a super hit Tamil film that was released in 2022. Starring Vishnu Vishal and Aishwarya Lekshmi in the leads, the film got a sequel, which was released recently. Going by the reports in trade, the sequel is bigger than the first part, ensuring a blockbuster status to the franchise. The film was released in Telugu also where the first part didn't work. The first part did not work well at the telugu box office. But at the same time, with the second part doing well at the ticket windows, there is a plan to release the second part in Telugu. It'll be a dubbed version and we have to see to what extent the sequel will impress the audiences.

The film's plot is that Veera has a preconceived set of criteria for what he wants in a bride. However, he ends up unexpectedly marrying a woman who is the complete opposite of his expectations. Aishwarya plays a wrestler in the film, and the second part is all about the hero keeping his promise to his wife in supporting her wrestling career. Despite some reviews pointing out the flaws, the general audiences largely embraced the movie. While the first part made an amount of 16 crore rupees in its lifetime in Tamil, the second part collected 19 crore rupees in just three days. It clearly shows that the second part is working out pretty well at the box office. Directed by Chella Ayyavu, the film's franchise was jointly produced by Ishari K. Ganesh, Vishnu Vishal and Ishan Saksena through the companies Vels Film International, Vishnu Vishal Studioz and IVY Entertainment.



# Divya Bharathi Blooms In Dreamy Green Look

Divya Bharathi is once again grabbing attention with a fresh set of dreamy pictures that perfectly blend elegance with effortless charm. In the latest photos, Divya looks radiant in a sheer pastel green co-ord layered over a matching outfit, striking relaxed poses on a cozy lounge chair. Her voluminous wavy hair, subtle makeup, and colourful charm bracelets complement the breezy look, while the sunlit backdrop, indoor plants, and neutral interiors create a calm, sophisticated vibe that enhances the overall shoot. On the work front, Divya Bharathi has a promising slate ahead. After Kingston Rose in 2025, she is gearing up for Aasai, Telugu film G.O.A.T, and Madhil Mel Kaadhal, which is currently under production.

