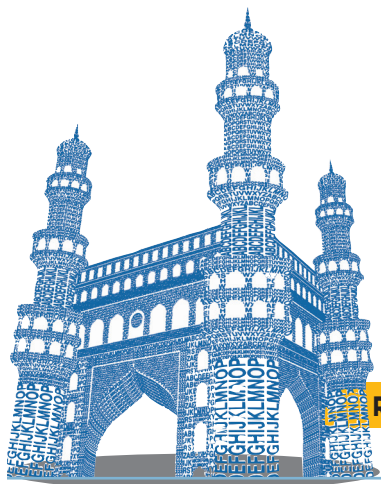




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328

VOL NO. 17

ISSUE NO.: 73

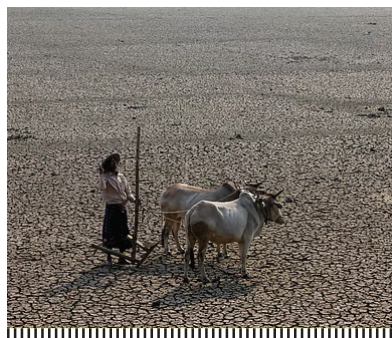
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'Water Bankruptcy' CAN CRISIS BE SALVAGED?

SPECIAL

02

What's Next for Fauzi Girl?

BOX-OFFICE

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CM Offers Special Assembly Meet

Revanth Reddy Invites Debate on Kaleshwaram in Assembly

Opposition invited to lead restoration if experts approve its plan.

No barrage refilling until structural issues fixed — warns of bigger disaster.

Project traced to Pranahita-Chevella scheme; cost rose 38,000 cr to 1.47 lakh cr.

Medigadda defects flagged since 2020; L&T told to repair; recalls Kannapalli roof collapse.

NDSA cites design/construction lapses; experts, AG invited to Assembly debate.

5 lakh family insurance cover announced, to launch on Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary.

SPECIAL

02



CM Cheers Argentina-Egypt Match With Students

Hyderabad, July 8: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy watched the FIFA World Cup 2026 match between Argentina and Egypt with welfare school students at Shilpakala Vedika, where a special LED screen was set up for the tel-

ecast. Argentina beat Egypt 3-2 in a closely fought game at Atlanta Stadium, with the CM joining students in cheering for their teams amid lively celebrations.

The screening followed Lionel Messi's Hyderabad visit

last December, which had sparked renewed football fervour in the state. Reddy said such events encourage young students to take greater interest in sports and build a healthy sporting culture in Telangana.

PANEL FORMED FOR DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

Committee to submit a report in 100 days.

Strict action against agencies which do not pay salaries to contract and outsourcing employees promptly

CM Revanth Reddy holds a review of the problems facing contract and outsourcing employees today.

Chief Minister on Tuesday constituted an official committee to strengthen digital governance in Telangana, directing it to submit its report within 100 days. He also ordered strict action against agencies delaying salaries of contract and outsourcing employees despite the release of government funds.

SPECIAL

02

India, Indonesia Seal Landmark Defence Pact

PM Modi Receives Indonesia's Highest Honour



JAKARTA, JULY 7:

India and Indonesia elevated their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to a new level on Monday with the signing of nearly 20 agreements spanning defence, critical minerals, maritime security, technology, healthcare, agriculture, and education during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Jakarta.

A major highlight of the visit was Indonesia's decision to procure India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system, marking a significant milestone in bilateral defence cooperation. Reports also indicated Indonesia's interest in acquiring India's indigenous Astra air-to-air missile for its Sukhoi fighter aircraft, further strengthening defence ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister Modi held wide-rang-

ing bilateral talks with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto after receiving a ceremonial welcome in Jakarta. During the visit, President Prabowo conferred upon Modi Indonesia's highest civilian honour, the Bintang Adipurna, in recognition of his contribution to strengthening India-Indonesia relations.

The two leaders witnessed the exchange of around 20 agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) covering diverse sectors, including defence cooperation, critical minerals, steel supply chains, maritime security, telecommunications, digital technology, agriculture, food security, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, disaster management, scientific research, innovation, election management, and space collaboration.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



Deadly Landslide Rocks Wayanad Construction Site

05

Telangana Sets Sights on Global AI Standards: Bhatti



HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the state is not only attracting investments, but also integrating environmental protection and social responsibility, thereby positioning itself as a guiding force for AI standards.

He, along with Industries and IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, inaugurated the "Green Growth Economic Sum-

mit — The Hyderabad Collective" at HICC in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

The summit, organised under the aegis of "The Meridian Collective," will be held over two days.

Addressing delegates from various countries, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that AI is not just about cloud computing and servers, but also involves critical resources such as electricity, water, land, and human capital.

"We are not opposing

AI, but we are guiding the world on how AI should be developed," he clarified. Bhatti Vikramarka said that Telangana is emerging as a hub for AI by promoting renewable energy and responsible resource management instead of depleting natural resources like water and electricity.

While aggressively inviting investments, Telangana is ensuring that they benefit both

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BJP Flags SIR Irregularities



HYDERABAD, JULY 7

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has submitted a representation to the Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), alleging irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and seeking immediate corrective measures to ensure a transparent and impartial verification process.

Led by Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao, along with BJP Election Commission Affairs Committee Chairman Marri Shashidhar Reddy and other senior leaders, the party claimed that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in parts of Hyderabad's Old City were allegedly distributing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Ahmedabad Blasts Verdict: 38 Death, 11 Life Terms

Ahmedabad: In a landmark judgment, the Gujarat High Court has upheld the 2022 special court verdict sentencing 38 convicts to death and 11 others to life imprisonment in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts case. The High Court dismissed all appeals challenging the trial court's verdict and confirmed the sentences awarded to the convicted members of the banned terrorist outfit Indian Mujahideen.

The Division Bench comprising Justice A.Y. Kogje and Justice Sameer Dave also directed the Gujarat Government to pay compensation of ₹10 lakh to the family of each person who died in the blasts, ₹5 lakh to those who sustained grievous injuries, and ₹1 lakh to those with minor injuries.



The court ordered that the compensation be disbursed by March 31, 2027. The serial bomb blasts took place on July 26, 2008, when 21 explosions rocked different parts of Ahmedabad within about 45 minutes. Crowded locations including Maninagar, Isanpur, Naroda, Bapunagar, Sarkhej, and Hatkeshwar, as well as public buses, markets, and open spaces, were targeted.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

₹360-Crore Boost for Revenue & Registration Infrastructure

PERMANENT OFFICES FOR REVENUE DEPARTMENT: PONGULETI



HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that the administrative approvals amounting to ₹360 crore have been granted for the construction of permanent buildings for Tahsildar, RDO, and Sub-Registrar offices in Telangana.

The Minister said this initi-

ative aims to enhance revenue administration in the state and deliver modern, respectful services to the public.

During a review meeting with officials on Tuesday about construction projects, the Minister revealed that the first phase will involve the construction of new buildings at an allocation of ₹263 crore to replace 107 deteriorating Tahsildar offices and 10 RDO offices that are currently housed in rented facilities. Furthermore, ₹97 crore has been earmarked for the establishment of 48 Sub-Registrar offices, as well as District Registrar offices in Adilabad, Khammam, and Mahabubnagar districts, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

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3 TIMES BETTER

CM Offers Special Assembly Meet



HYDERABAD, JULY 8

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday declared that the Telangana Government is prepared to convene a special session of the State Legislature for a comprehensive discussion on the present condition of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, asserting that the government would move forward only after experts recommend a scientifically sound solution.

Addressing ministers, legislators and senior officials after a presentation on "Collapsed Kaleshwaram – From Failures to Reconstruction" at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan, the Chief Minister said the government's objective was to preserve the nearly ₹1 lakh crore project while ensuring public safety.

He said the government was willing to hold the Assembly session on any date suggested by the Leader of the Opposition and was even open to convening a joint sitting of the Assembly and Legislative Council for an exhaustive debate on the project. Revanth Reddy also offered to entrust the restoration work to the Opposition if it could present a solution that wins the confidence of experts and technical professionals.

The Chief Minister cautioned against filling the Medigadda and other barrages

without first addressing the structural and geological issues identified by experts. Any hasty decision, he warned, could result in a far greater disaster.

Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, during the presentation, explained the sequence of events leading to the failure of the project and summarized the findings of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), along with reports submitted by various Central and State agencies. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and senior officials attended the programme.

Tracing the history of the project, Revanth Reddy said the original Pranahita-Chevella project conceived during the tenure of former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy was designed to irrigate 16.60 lakh acres largely through gravity flow. He alleged that after the formation of Telangana, the project was redesigned into Kaleshwaram despite objections raised by a committee of retired engineers, which had advised against shifting the project from Tummidihetti.

The Chief Minister said the original project, estimated at around ₹38,000 crore, eventually transformed into the Kaleshwaram Project with an estimated expenditure of nearly ₹1.47 lakh crore.

Despite the sharp increase in cost, he alleged that distributary canals were not completed and the intended ayacut had not expanded as planned.

Revanth Reddy alleged that warning signs regarding the Medigadda Barrage had surfaced as early as 2020, when an official reportedly pointed out structural defects and advised the construction agency, Larsen & Toubro, to undertake repairs. The failure to address these issues, he said, ultimately led to the collapse. He also recalled the roof collapse at the Kannapalli Pump House during floods in July 2020 and alleged that proper geological investigations had not been conducted before constructing the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

Quoting the findings of the National Dam Safety Authority, the Chief Minister said deficiencies in design, construction quality, maintenance and adherence to engineering standards were responsible for the damage to the project. He maintained that the NDSA had concluded that the project suffered from fundamental flaws and noted that the report had been submitted during the previous government.

Calling for an informed public debate, Revanth Reddy proposed inviting technical experts and the Advocate General to participate in the Assembly discussion with the Speaker's approval. He said the government was committed to implementing only those corrective measures endorsed by experts to prevent further damage.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the financial burden inherited by the present government, stating that loans amounting to ₹97,000 crore had been raised for the Kaleshwaram Project, while the current administration repaid ₹33,000 crore in a single financial year without compromising welfare and development programmes.

Listing the government's welfare initiatives, he referred to the farmer loan waiver, Rythu Bharosa, bonus for fine paddy, free power for agriculture, ₹500 LPG cylinders, free bus travel for women, recruitment of 67,618 government employees, continuation of Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes, distribution of fine rice and issuance of ration cards to eligible beneficiaries.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced that the Telangana Government would introduce a life insurance cover of ₹5 lakh for every family in the State on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

PANEL FORMED FOR DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced the constitution of an Official Committee to strengthen "digital governance" in the Telangana State. The committee will have to submit a report in 100 days. To streamline the prompt payment of salaries of contract and outsourcing employees, the Chief Minister instructed the authorities to take action against the agencies which are not functioning in tune with the government's goals.

The CM held a review of the problems facing the contract and outsourcing employees today. During the review, CM Revanth Reddy said that strict action must be taken against the agencies which are not paying salaries promptly to the contract and outsourcing agencies even after the release of funds by the government.

The Chief Minister sought the details

of the implementation of the digital governance and instructed the officials to formulate plans for digital governance and draft the necessary legislation. The CM emphasized that the administrative system should move forward through full-scale digitization. The main objective of the State government is to provide better services to the public and ensure welfare schemes reach beneficiaries directly through digital governance.

CM Revanth Reddy enquired about the digitalization of the data regarding contract and outsourcing employees along with regular government staff. The officials were ordered to digitize the entire data and ensure the salaries are paid on the first day of every month. The details of the contract and outsourcing employees in all departments including their salaries and bank account information should be digitized, the Chief Minister said.

BJP Flags SIR Irregularities

FROM PAGE 1

Enumeration Forms through camps organised by AIMIM leaders instead of conducting mandatory door-to-door verification. Further, they are giving access to the ECI app to the MIM leaders to upload the filled Enumeration Forms.

The BJP also alleged that many voters in GHMC, Cyberabad, Malkajgiri, Warangal and Karimnagar municipal corporation areas had not received Enumeration Forms due to lapses in household verification. It urged the CEO to ensure BLOs make mandatory house-to-house visits and revisit homes where voters are unavailable. The Supervisors must take steps ensuring that the BLOs go to all the households and distribute

and receive the Enumeration Forms.

The party further sought English versions of Enumeration Forms across Telangana, citing difficulties faced by migrants from other states who cannot read Telugu. It also alleged that some Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) were refusing to accept statutory forms for voter enrolment and transfer, while others cited technical issues in uploading Enumeration Forms. The BJP requested the CEO to investigate the alleged irregularities, issue necessary directions to election officials, and ensure that the SIR exercise is conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner in accordance with Election Commission guidelines.

Komatireddy kicks off ₹338-Cr HAM roads

HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Minister for Roads & Buildings, Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Tuesday launched road infrastructure works worth ₹338 crore under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), and laid the foundation stone for 14 road projects covering 149 km across Ibrahimpatnam, Maheshwaram, Medchal and LB Nagar constituencies.

Addressing a public meeting at Thorur village in Ibrahimpatnam mandal, the Minister said the State government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is undertaking infrastructure development beyond political considerations with the objective of building roads that would become a benchmark for the country.

Stating that Telangana has embarked on one of the country's largest road modernisation programmes, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said 441 roads covering 6,092 km are being developed at a cost of ₹13,000 crore under 34 HAM



packages. The newly launched works form part of this flagship initiative aimed at improving connectivity, road safety and economic activity, he said.

The Minister said the ₹338-crore package, includes the development of major corridors connecting Hayathnagar–Thorur–Koheda–Anajpur, Anajpur–Abdullapurmet–Bandaraviryal, Hayathnagar–Kuntloor–Pasumamula–Taramatipet, Sagar Road–Injapur–Thorur–Brahmanpally–Ragannaguda and Sagar Road–Injapur–Hayathnagar. The roads will

be upgraded into modern four-lane corridors with central lighting and enhanced safety features, benefiting rapidly expanding suburban areas.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the projects would significantly reduce traffic congestion, improve road safety, enhance regional connectivity and generate employment and investment opportunities. He reiterated that the government's vision is to provide high-quality roads that support Telangana's future growth and set new standards in infrastructure development.

Kavitha Gets Court Nod to Finalise Party Name

Hyderabad, July 7: The Delhi High Court has directed Kalvakuntla Kavitha to respond to the Election Commission of India notices regarding objections to her party name. The Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed founder of Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) party Kalvakuntla Kavitha to respond to the Election Commission's (EC) notices regarding the finalization of her party's name.

Kavitha approached the High Court after the EC wrote to her, stating that significant objections had been raised against the proposed name of her party (TRS) and asking her to suggest the alternative names.

During the course of hearing, the court declined to interfere in the EC's functioning and asked Kavitha to address all objections raised in the June 23 EC notice. Observing that both "Telangana Rakshana Samithi" and "Telangana Rakshana Sena" closely resemble the erstwhile TRS name, the court suggested that she submit alternative names to the Election Commission while responding to its objections.

SIR 2026: Door-to-Door Voter Verification Begins Across State

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, JULY 06

The Election Commission of India has begun a large-scale door-to-door enumeration drive across Telangana under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, aimed at producing accurate and error-free voter lists. The exercise started on July 2, 2026, with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) visiting homes to distribute enumeration forms to registered voters.

For the first week, BLOs are handing out pre-printed forms to each elector; if a household is locked, the form is left at the doorstep. Collection of completed forms begins after this first week. Every voter receives an original and a duplicate form—the original must be filled out and returned to the BLO, who provides an acknowledgment, while the duplicate is kept by the voter for personal records. If the elector is unavailable, any adult family member may accept the form on their behalf. Voters are advised to carefully check the printed details before submitting.

Each BLO handles roughly 1,000–1,300 electors and will make repeat visits to maximize coverage. Anyone who hasn't received a form can reach out to their BLO through contact details on the Chief Electoral Officer,



Telangana website, or use the "Book a Call with BLO" option. Forms can also be submitted digitally via the ECI app or the voters.eci.in portal. Officials stressed that no documents are being collected during this process—it's strictly for verifying and updating existing roll data—and warned voters against handing over any documents.

The enumeration drive runs until July 27, 2026. Nearly 36,000 BLOs, over 3,500 supervisors, and more than 1,000 senior officials are involved statewide. The draft electoral roll will be published July 31, 2026, followed by a claims-and-objections window from July 31 to August 30. Verification, hearings, and resolution of objections

will continue through September 28, with the final roll published October 1, 2026. Telangana has over 3.38 crore voters; about 2.38 crore had been mapped as of June 20, with nearly 90 lakh flagged for anomalies—underscoring the scale of correction needed.

In KPHB Colony, BJP corporator candidate Preetam Reddy, along with BJYM and Mahila Morcha members, has been running awareness campaigns to help residents understand the SIR process, verify their details, and correctly complete and return their forms. Officials continue to urge citizens to treat the revision seriously, as an accurate voter list underpins free and fair elections.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

India, Indonesia Seal Landmark

FROM PAGE 1

Defence cooperation emerged as the centrepiece of the visit. Besides the BrahMos missile deal, both sides agreed to enhance military exchanges, defence industrial collaboration, joint training programmes, and maritime security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Recognising Indonesia's strategic importance as one of the world's largest suppliers of nickel and other critical minerals, India announced

plans to expand investments in Indonesian steel, nickel, and rare-earth magnet manufacturing. The partnership is expected to strengthen India's supply chains for clean energy technologies and advanced manufacturing.

The two countries also agreed to jointly develop the strategically located Sabang Port near the Strait of Malacca. The project is expected to improve maritime connectivity, logistics, and regional security while complementing India's

strategic infrastructure development in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In the digital sector, both nations agreed to work towards linking India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Indonesia's payment system to facilitate seamless cross-border digital transactions for businesses and tourists. Prime Minister Modi also announced plans to establish a campus of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore in Indonesia, aimed at expanding educational and

academic cooperation.

Addressing the media after the talks, Prime Minister Modi said the growing trust between the two nations had laid the foundation for deeper collaboration across strategic sectors. He expressed confidence that the agreements signed during the visit would usher in a "golden era" in India-Indonesia relations, driven by stronger cooperation in defence, technology, education, maritime security, industrial development, and disaster management.

₹360-Crore Boost for Revenue...

FROM PAGE 1

DIG offices in Nizamabad and Warangal districts. The administrative approvals amounting to ₹360 crore have been granted for these construction projects, he said.

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy emphasised that all these buildings will adhere to a standardised design and will be outfitted with modern facilities, aiming to deliver efficient and transparent services to the public. The responsibility for the construction has been assigned to the Telangana Housing Corporation.

He further mentioned that 39 Sub-Registrar offices located within the Outer Ring Road limits are being restructured into 13 clusters to streamline the development of integrated Sub-Registrar offices.

WWThese projects are being executed by private construction firms without incurring additional costs to the government, he said.

The Minister also pointed out that the construction firms will handle maintenance for five years and noted that foundation stones have already been laid at four sites, with construction efforts advancing swiftly.

Telangana Sets Sights on Global AI Standards: Bhatti

FROM PAGE 1

the environment and local communities.

"It is not just about allocating land, water, and electricity. Industries must enhance local skills, use clean energy, and rely only on recycled water. This is not just engineering efficiency—it reflects our core values," he said.

At a time when the world is discussing carbon credits, Telangana has introduced the concept of "People's Credit." The government aims to ensure that AI investments go beyond data centers and contribute to local employment generation and skill development among rural youth, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that investments must come with clean energy, transparency, and respect for people.



Companies must not only reduce emissions but also take responsibility for enhancing local intellectual capital, he said.

He strongly asserted that technology must never compete with agriculture and the water needs of common people. Telangana will prioritise AI systems that adopt the most responsible water usage practices, Bhatti Vikramarka said.

The Deputy Chief Minister also stated that AI should be accessible to common citizens, breaking language barriers

and creating employment opportunities for rural youth from Mahabubabad to Adilabad.

Bhatti Vikramarka proudly declared that Telangana is not just a hub for data centres, but also a role model for teaching the world how to build them responsibly.

Welcoming industries while standing firmly on the side of people, the Telangana government's efforts are expected to position Hyderabad as a global benchmark for AI standards in the future, he added.

Ahmedabad Blasts Verdict: 38 Death, 11 Life Terms

FROM PAGE 1

Hospitals, including Ahmedabad Civil Hospital and L.G. Hospital, were also attacked, with one explosion occurring as victims from earlier blasts were being brought in for treatment. The attacks claimed 56 lives and left more than 200 people injured, with several victims suffering long-term hearing loss due to the intensity of the explosions.

The investigation was jointly

conducted by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), and other agencies. Suspects were arrested from Gujarat and several other states. A total of 77 people were charged, while 78 individuals faced trial. After a lengthy trial, the special court on February 8, 2022, convicted 49 accused, acquitted 28 due to lack of evidence, granted pardon to one approver, and sentenced four other approvers who later retracted their statements.

According to investigators, the attacks were carried out by members of the banned Indian Mujahideen, which later claimed responsibility. At the time, the bombings were widely believed to have been carried out in retaliation for the 2002 Godhra train burning and the subsequent communal riots. The case also witnessed dramatic developments dur-

ing the trial, including an alleged attempt by 24 accused to escape from jail by digging a tunnel, a plot that was foiled by the police.

Reacting to the High Court's verdict, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi described it as a "historic judgment," stating that justice had been delivered as the convictions and sentences of almost all the accused had been upheld.



City people should cooperate to make Jagannath Rath Yatra a grand success

■ **Karimnagar CP Ghaus Alam, IPS**

KARIMNAGAR, JULY 7

Karimnagar Police Commissioner Ghaus Alam has suggested that the Hindu devotees of Karimnagar town should cooperate in organizing the Jagannath Rath Yatra Mahotsav in a grand style with the joint efforts of Karimnagar ISKCON Sri Radha Govinda Mandir and Jagannath Rath Yatra Utsav Committee. Today, the members of the Jagannath Rath Yatra Utsav Committee led by ISKCON Narahari Prabhji met CP Ghaus Alam and extended an invitation card and sought the cooperation of the district police administration in running the event peacefully. The CP responded positively and said that heavy police arrangements will be made to ensure that this Rath Yatra continues smoothly, peacefully and with full of devotion, and suggested that the organizers should cooperate and sensitize the participating devotees. Speaking at the event, Narahari Prabhji said that this time, compared to the Rath Yatra organized in the past, more devotees will participate and security arrangements should be made accordingly. Along with Dr. Narahari Prabhji, Rath Yatra festival committee president Kanna Krishna, members Dr. L. Rajabhaskar Reddy, Lion capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, Tummala Ramesh Reddy, Komuravelli Venkatesham, and Rallabandi Gopal Reddy participated in this program.



Open e-Tender Notice No. Dy.CE/GS/SC/07/08/2026/OT, Dt: 03.07.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works:

S1. No. 1, e-Tender No.: 07.GS.SC.26.OT, **Name of the work:** Gati Shakti - Secunderbad Division - Out sourcing for preparation of Detailed project report including Detailed estimates (Engg, S&T, Elect (TRD & GS), Preparation of Project sheets (Working plan & section), Index plan, Index section, finalization of land requirement survey number wise, preparation of ESPs for station yards, GAD's for building, minor and major bridges and soil investigation for i) Proposed Bye pass line at Khanapur on VIB-PRLL section, ii) Proposed Bye pass line Pagidipally on SC-KZJ section and iii) Additional two loop line at Chakur station on VKB-PRLL Section., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 24,49,925.00, **EMD (Rs.):** 49,000.00, **Completion period in days:** 09 Months, **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria:** Reconnaissance Survey/ Preliminary Survey/ Final Location Survey for Railways/National Highway Projects/ State Highway Projects/ Irrigation Projects., **Bid closing date:** 31.07.2026

S1. No. 2, e-Tender No.: 08.GS.SC.26.OT, **Name of the work:** IRISET- Setting up of a Centre of Excellence including general infrastructure for Modern Signaling (Kavach) & Telecom., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 63,54,83,329.00, **EMD (Rs.):** 1,27,09,700.00, **Completion period in days:** 18 Months, **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria:** Any Civil Engineering Works (excluding Track works / Zonal works), **Bid closing date:** 31.07.2026

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

2. Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> which can be downloaded, can be participated and can view any modifications if any.

3. All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD through online payments only.

4. The tender notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of CPM/GS/SC, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad which can be seen on all working days.

5. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

6. All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offer.

Visit our site at "www.ireps.gov.in"

Dy. Chief Engineer/Gati Shakti/ Secunderabad

Open e-Tender Notice No. DRM/Works/SC/101-111/ AZC/2026/OT, Dt: 03.07.2026

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tenders for the following Annual Zonal Contract works for the period from 01.07.2026 to 30.06.2027 upto 14.00 hours on 03.07.2026.

S.No.:- 01, e-Tender No.:- 101.CO.SC.26.OT, **Name of the work:-** SW 1) Annual Zonal Contract - At Secunderabad station (service buildings and yard including) and BG Divisional Office complex and James street (including). SW 2) Annual Zonal Contract - Hyderabad (Including) to Begumpet (Including) & Hussain Sagar Jn. (Including). SW 3) Annual Zonal Contract - Electrical Loco Shed / Lallaguda., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 1,68,54,000/-, **EMD(Rs.):** 3,37,100/-.

S.No.:- 02, e-Tender No.:- 102.CR.SC.26.OT, **Name of the work:-** SW 1) Annual Zonal Contract - Kazipet station (Including), Kazipet Colony, ELS Colony including station limits etc. SW 2) Annual Zonal Contract - Electric Loco shed at Kazipet. SW 3) Annual Zonal Contract - Wangapalli (Excluding) to Kazipet (Excluding), DLS/KZJ colony (Including). SW 4) Annual Zonal

A505

Sr. DEN/Co-ord/ Secunderabad
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <http://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

A Call for Safer Campuses: JNTU Hyderabad Faces Demands to Replace Security Contractor

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, JULY 7

In a move that highlights growing concerns over campus safety, PhD research scholar Pitani Sandeep Goud has urged Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTU Hyderabad) to replace the current security contractor, Sri Kartikeya Security Services (SKSS), with a more transparent agency. The appeal emphasizes long-standing neglect of campus security that, in the scholar's view, has left students and staff vulnerable after years of perceived inattention.

Goud submitted petition emails and formal complaints on April 20, 2026, and again on June 9, 2026, but asserts that there has been little to no improvement. Reports from the campus describe guards and supervisors allegedly asleep during night shifts at the boys' hostel, with alcohol bottles reportedly visible around the premises. Such details point to a broader concern: the presence of alcohol and other prohibited items at night, which,



according to the petition, has fostered an environment conducive to drinking, quarrels, and violations of campus rules.

The petition calls for a high-level investigation into SKSS's performance, a comprehensive review of the current contract, tendering processes, and any extensions to ensure compliance with established rules. It requests accountability for security personnel deemed negligent and advocates for replacing the current contractor through a transparent tender process not only for the main campus but for all constitutional colleges affili-

ated with JNTU Hyderabad. Among the proposed measures are enhanced night-time security, surprise inspections, and a robust security framework designed to prioritize the safety of students and staff.

A reform-oriented agenda accompanies the appeal: the establishment of an effective, oversight-driven security system that can deter misconduct, deter rule violations, and restore trust within the university community. The petition has been submitted again to Damodar, the JNTU Hyderabad Rector, for review, signaling a continued push for action from the student body.

Organizers described the protest as a collective effort led by PhD research scholar Pitani Sandeep Goud, with participation from fellow students including Challa Ramakrishna Reddy, Jayaram Nayak, Ram, Paulson, and Gyaneshwar. The gathering underscored a growing demand for transparent governance, accountability, and safer campus conditions that align with the university's stated commitments to student welfare and academic excellence. As the university weighs the petition, campus observers say the episode highlights a broader conversation about security responsibility in higher education—where safeguarding students and staff requires continuous oversight, clear standards, and the courage to implement changes when trust has been eroded. The coming weeks are expected to reveal whether JNTU Hyderabad will undertake a systemic review of SKSS and move toward a security framework that better reflects the needs and expectations of its diverse campus community.

In the Presence of CM Prajavani In-charge Dr. G. Chinna Reddy

■ **K. Vidyasagar Takes Charge as CM Prajavani State Nodal Officer**

■ **Charge Handed Over by Divya Devarajan**

HYDERABAD, JULY 7

In the presence of CM Prajavani in-charge and Telangana State Planning Board Vice Chairman Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, K. Vidyasagar assumed charge as CM Prajavani State Nodal Officer



on Tuesday. Divya Devarajan, who was serving as CM Praja-

vani State Nodal Officer until now, has been transferred as

Director of the Panchayat Raj Department. She handed over the charge to newly posted Vidyasagar. At the event held on Tuesday at Mahatma Jyoti-ba Phule Praja Bhavan, Dr. G. Chinna Reddy congratulated both of them. Chinna Reddy appreciated the services rendered by Divya Devarajan. He expressed confidence that the CM Prajavani program would run even more smoothly under the leadership of the new State Nodal Officer, K. Vidyasagar.

‘Governance Diaries – Season 2’ Launched with Grandeur at GCET



■ **Students should contribute to the nation's development through integrity, discipline, and a spirit of service: Former DGP Shri Anjani Kumar (IPS)**

GHATKESAR, JULY 7

Geethanjali College of Engineering and Technology (GCET), under the aegis of its National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit, organized the inaugural episode of "Governance Diaries – Season 2" on Tuesday with great enthusiasm. The event was graced by Shri Anjani Kumar, IPS (Retd.), former Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana, as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the students, Shri Anjani Kumar shared valuable insights from his distinguished career in the police service. He spoke about the challenges he encountered, the key measures taken to maintain law and order, and the critical decisions made during difficult situations. Emphasizing the importance of integrity, transparency, and commitment in public service, he stated that ethical values, discipline, punctuality, and responsible leadership are essential for

earning and sustaining public trust. He encouraged students to set ambitious goals, work hard, and grow into responsible citizens who contribute meaningfully to society.

Presiding over the event, GCET Chairman Shri G. Ravinder Reddy said that the Governance Diaries initiative aims to nurture good governance, leadership qualities, social responsibility, and a spirit of public service among students. He noted that the program serves as a platform for students to interact directly with eminent personalities from the fields of administration, policing, judiciary, and public service, enabling them to gain practical insights and inspiration.

The event was attended by the college Vice Chairman, Director, Principal, Dean Dr. Madhusudan Rao, faculty members, NSS Programme Officers, staff, and a large number of students. The program concluded with the college management felicitating the Chief Guest in recognition of his distinguished service and inspiring address.

If you'd like, I can also adapt this into a press release, news article, or media-ready version in a more journalistic style.

GITAM Scholar Awarded Ph.D. for Research in Mathematical Modelling of Molecular Structures

HYDERABAD, JULY 7

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, congratulated Dr. Jaina Pranavi on being awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Mathematics and Statistics. She carried out her research under the guidance of Dr. J. Vijayasekhar, Associate Professor, School of Science, as a full time research scholar.

Her doctoral thesis, titled "Mathematical Modelling of Molecular Structures Using Topological Indices: A Graph-Theoretic Approach," explores the application of graph theory to model molecular structures and accurately predict their physical and chemical properties without relying on computationally intensive quantum-chemical methods.

The research developed mathematical models based on topological indices to analyse various classes of molecules, including aliphatic ketones, fatty acids, and anticancer compounds. These models successfully predict-

ed key molecular properties such as boiling point, melting point, molar volume, enthalpy, and polarisation with high accuracy.

The study highlights graph theory as a simple, reliable, and computationally efficient approach for molecular modelling, offering significant applications in computational chemistry, pharmaceutical research, materials science, and drug discovery. It also strengthens the emerging field of mathematical chemistry by reinforcing the connection between graph theory and molecular science, while providing a strong foundation for future research integrating artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor, DUVV.S.R. Varma, Resident Director, Dr. M. Reza, Director, School of Science, and Dr. Jadav Ganesha, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, congratulated Dr. Jaina Pranavi on her achievement and commended her valuable contribution to research.



SOUTHERN RAILWAY			
No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-13,14			Dt. 03.07.2026
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager / Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai - 3, invites online tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works for further details, please refer to www.ireps.gov.in			
S.No.	Tender No. / Name of the work	Value ₹	Closing date/ time
1	Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-13	47,77,439.09	21/07/2026 (15:00hrs)
	Modification of OHE arrangements in connection with provision of FOB in Chennai Division.		
2	Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-14	94,03,581.00	21/07/2026 (15:00hrs)
	Strengthening of earthing arrangement by replacing corroded MS Flats with GI Flats in MSB-VM,CGL-AJJ and Yards in Chennai division.		
(Sr.DEE / TRD/MAS)			
Divisional Railway Manager, Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Chennai-3			



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SHORT
TAKES

ACP (Crimes) conducts surprise inspection at Cyber Crime Police Station

HYDERABAD: Additional Commissioner of Police (Crimes & SIT) M. Srinivasulu conducted a surprise inspection at the Cyber Crimes Police Station (CCPS) in Hyderabad on Tuesday to review its functioning and operational preparedness. Accompanied by DCP (Cyber Crimes) V. Aravind Babu and the ACP/SHO of CCPS, Srinivasulu inspected the Cyber Crime Laboratory and verified key records and registers. During the inspection, all investigating officers and their teams were found present and actively engaged in investigations. The visit concluded with a formal General Diary (GD) entry, and the Additional CP appreciated the staff for their discipline and dedication to duty.

UoH opens admissions for UG, integrated PG courses; applications till July 21

HYDERABAD: The University of Hyderabad (UoH), a premier central university recognized as an Institution of Eminence (IoE), has invited applications for admission to its Undergraduate (UG) and Integrated Postgraduate (PG) programmes for the 2026-27 academic year. Admissions will be based on CUET (UG) 2026 scores. The University is offering 470 seats across 17 specialised programmes, including a four-year B.S. (Honours/Research) in Chemistry, Integrated M.Sc. courses in six science disciplines, and Integrated M.A. programmes in 11 humanities and social science subjects. The varsity ensures equitable access as per government reservation policies (including allocations for SC, ST, OBC, EWS, PWD, and DP categories). The online application process commenced on July 7 and will remain open until July 21.

Govt School Closure Opposed; Reconsider, Urge Educationists

Demand regulation of private schools and strengthening of government education

HYDERABAD, JULY 7

Prominent educationists, intellectuals, poets, journalists, legal experts, economists, and civil society representatives from Telangana have strongly opposed Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's reported proposal to reduce the number of government schools in the state from around 27,000 to 4,000, a statement made recently at The Hindu Huddle Conclave in Bengaluru. They have urged the Chief Minister to immediately withdraw the proposal.

More than 100 eminent personalities from various fields have addressed an open letter to the Chief Minister expressing concern over the proposal. The letter was released during a press conference held on Tuesday at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram in Hyderabad.

The signatories demanded that the government withdraw the proposed closure of nearly 23,000 government schools, particularly those serving rural areas. They also called for strict regulation of the rapidly expanding privatization and corporatization of education, introduction of pre-primary classes in all government primary schools, improvement of basic infrastructure, and recruitment of adequate teaching staff across government schools.

Speaking at the press conference, senior journalist and editor K. Ramachandra Murthy said government's often act contrary to the promises made before coming to power. He stated that closing thousands of schools on the grounds of declining student enrolment would deprive many



children of access to education and weaken the public education system.

Former NAAC Chairman Prof. V. S. Prasad observed that while the education sector in the state is facing a crisis, politics has increasingly influenced education. He criticized the government for announcing school closures without adequately assessing the social consequences of such a decision.

Former High Court Judge Justice Chandrakumar questioned whether the government had conducted any scientific study to identify the real reasons behind the decline in enrolment before deciding to close government schools. He argued that declining student numbers should not be used as justification for shutting down schools.

Economist Prof. D. Narasimha Reddy pointed out that the ruling party had promised in its election manifesto to allocate 15 percent of the state budget to education and reopen around 6,000 schools that had previously been closed. Instead, he said, the government allocated only 8.2 percent of the budget to education while announcing the closure of nearly 23,000 schools, calling it a betrayal of public trust. Former Central Infor-

mation Commissioner Prof. M. Sridhar Acharyulu expressed serious concern over the long-term consequences of closing such a large number of schools. He criticized the move, especially since the Chief Minister also holds the Education portfolio, describing it as a regressive decision.

Senior High Court advocate Chikkudu Prabhakar alleged that, like the previous government, the present administration was acting without adequate democratic consultation. He argued that the proposal violated the spirit of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, which seeks to ensure that every village has access to a school.

Sahitya Akademi Award-winning poet and writer Dr. Nandini Sidda Reddy described the proposal as deeply unfortunate and called upon the public to unite in protecting and strengthening government schools.

Political scientist Prof. G. Haragopal said the announcement had shocked civil society and warned that closing village schools would sever the strong social and emotional bond between communities and their local educational institutions. He urged the government to immediately withdraw the proposal.

Prof. K. Chakradhar Rao crit-

icized the government for allocating inadequate funds to education despite Telangana being one of the country's financially stronger states. He alleged that public education from kindergarten to postgraduate level was being systematically weakened.

Prof. K. Lakshminarayana stated that the government had failed to effectively regulate private schools and enforce existing rules, including G.O. Ms. No. 1 and provisions under the Right to Education Act.

Among those present at the press conference were Dr. Vanamala, film producer Syed Rafeeq, Shankar (DBF), Prof. Anwar Khan, TPTF State President C. H. Anil Kumar, DTF State President M. Somaiah, General Secretary T. Linga Reddy, Palamuru Study Forum Convener M. Raghavachari, Education Protection Committee State Co-Vice President Y. Ashok Kumar, State Joint General Secretary M. Raghu Shankar Reddy, PDSU State President P. Mahesh, PDSU Vijumbhanna President A. Vijay, former TPTF State General Secretary Maisa Srinivas, M. Prakash Rao, B. Muthyalu, Vijay Kumar, Narsaiah, and several other education activists and public representatives.



Comprehensive Welfare Policies to Be Formulated for Telangana Movement Activists

Telangana Government High-Level Committee

HYDERABAD, JULY 7

A high-level committee constituted by the Telangana Government to recognize those who participated in the Telangana statehood movement and to ensure social security and welfare benefits for them and their families held an extensive meeting on Friday with student activists from Kakatiya University (KU). The meeting took place at the Amaraveerula Jyothi memorial opposite the State Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnabha Prabhakar, who is also a member of the high-level committee, along with committee members Prof. M. Kodandaram (MLC), Addanki Dayakar (MLC and Government Whip), S. Ramulu Naik, Mothe Shobhan Reddy, and others. They held detailed discussions with KU student movement leaders, activists, and family members of Telangana martyrs.

During the meeting, the student activists presented several key recommendations to the committee. They urged the government not to limit its efforts to issuing identity cards for movement activists but to introduce comprehensive welfare measures for activists and their families. These measures should include

employment opportunities, access to higher education, quality healthcare, housing, pensions, and financial security. They also appealed to the government to take special steps to ensure lasting recognition and permanent social security for those who sacrificed for the formation of Telangana.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnabha Prabhakar said that the role played by students of Kakatiya University and Osmania University during the second phase of the Telangana movement was historic. He stated that the government's objective is not only to recognize movement activists but also to formulate welfare reforms that provide them with long-term social and economic security.

The Minister assured participants that all the suggestions and proposals submitted by student activists and the families of martyrs would be thoroughly examined and incorporated into the high-level committee's report. He added that the report would be presented to the Chief Minister, following which appropriate measures would be taken to ensure justice and comprehensive welfare for the families of Telangana movement activists.

The meeting was attended by former Kakatiya University student activists, family members of martyrs, representatives of various movement organizations, and social activists in large numbers.

Rythu Bharosa Funds Released Today for Farmers Owning 7 to 8 Acres of Agricultural Land

Today, Rythu Bharosa funds have been released to farmers owning 7 to 8 acres of agricultural land.

7,750.45 crore has been credited under the Rythu Bharosa scheme in just 7 days.

Today, 259.73 crore has been credited to the accounts of 58,831 farmers owning 7 to 8 acres of cultivated land.

So far, a total of 7,750.45 crore in Rythu Bharosa assistance has been provided to 68.96 lakh farmers, said Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao.

HYDERABAD, JULY 7

State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao announced that, under the Rythu Bharosa scheme, the State Government has directly credited ₹259.73 crore into the bank accounts of farmers owning 7 to 8 acres of agricultural land as part of the 7th phase of fund disbursement. In this phase, 58,831 farmers received financial assistance covering 4.32 lakh acres of cultivated land.

The Minister stated that the government is releasing Rythu Bharosa funds in phases to ensure that farmers do not face any inconvenience. He noted that funds

had already been released in the first six phases for farmers owning up to 7 acres of land, and that today's release covers all farmers owning between 7 and 8 acres.



He further said that, so far, under the Rythu Bharosa scheme, the government has released a total of ₹7,750.45 crore in assistance to 68.96 lakh farmers, covering 129.17 lakh acres of cultivated land.

The Minister emphasized that the welfare of farmers is the State Government's foremost priority and reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that every eligible farmer receives Rythu Bharosa assistance.

Prioritize Clean and Green Campuses and Strict Menu Implementation in Gurukuls and Hostels

Emphasis on maintaining clean and green environments in Gurukuls and hostels; no compromise on implementation of the prescribed menu

Special committee to strengthen BC Study Circles.

Traditional Occupations Fair (Kulavrutthula Mela) to be held from July 16, with equal opportunities for all communities

Minister Ponnabha Prabhakar reviews BC Welfare Department initiatives with senior officials.

HYDERABAD, JULY 7

With 20 days having passed since the reopening of Gurukuls and hostels, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnabha Prabhakar chaired a review meeting with senior officials at the Secretariat to assess the implementation of decisions taken during the previous review and evaluate the progress of BC Welfare Department programmes.

During the meeting, the Minister directed officials to ensure that all Gurukuls and hostels maintain clean, hygienic, and green campuses. He in-



structed that the government-approved menu must be implemented without exception in every Gurukul and hostel.

The Minister emphasized that District BC Welfare Officers (DBCWOs) should discharge their responsibilities with discipline while giving the highest priority to students' welfare. He also advised public representatives to frequently visit Gurukuls and hostels to personally assess students' living conditions.

To improve the quality of BC Study Circles, the Minister directed officials to constitute a special committee to strengthen civil services coaching as well as vocational training and skill

development programmes. He also instructed officials to study successful Study Circle models in places such as Delhi and Ahmedabad and adopt suitable best practices in Telangana.

Regarding the Traditional Occupations Fair (Kulavrutthula Mela), scheduled to begin on July 16 at the HMDA Grounds, the Minister directed that equal opportunities be provided to artisans and practitioners of traditional occupations from all communities. He also instructed officials to prepare comprehensive guidelines for implementing the Sewing Machine Scheme, aimed at promoting women's economic self-reliance. The Minister further

called for expanding skill development programmes under the BC Welfare Department to enhance employment opportunities for Backward Classes. He also asked officials to conduct a comprehensive study of Economic Support Schemes and prepare proposals for their implementation.

Additionally, the Minister instructed officials to submit a detailed report on the distribution of laptops to Gurukul students who secured admission to prestigious institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). He directed the BC Welfare Commissioner and the Secretary of Gurukuls to conduct surprise inspections of Gurukuls and hostels to ensure that students are receiving quality facilities and services.

The Minister also instructed officials to immediately complete the distribution of Katamayya Rakshana Kavacham kits in districts where training has already been completed but the kits are yet to be distributed.

The review meeting was attended by BC Welfare Department Secretary Balamayadevi, Gurukuls Secretary Saidulu, and senior BC Welfare Department officials including Malliah Battu, Alok Kumar, Mamidi Harikrishna, Srinivas Reddy, and others.

Delhi HC tells Kavitha to take call on finalising her party's name



HYDERABAD, JULY 7

The Delhi High Court has directed Kalvakuntla Kavitha to respond to the Election Commission of India notices regarding objections to her party name. The Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed founder of Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) party Kalvakuntla Kavitha to respond to the Election Commission's (EC) notices regarding the finalization of her party's name.

Kavitha approached the High Court after the EC wrote to her, stating that significant objections had been raised against the proposed name of her party (TRS) and asking her to suggest the alternative names. During the course of hearing, the court declined to interfere in the EC's functioning and asked Kavitha to address all objections raised in the June 23 EC notice. Observing that both "Telangana Rakshana Samithi" and "Telangana Rakshana Sena" closely resemble the erstwhile TRS name, the court suggested that she submit alternative names to the Election Commission while responding to its objections.

KCR condoles demise of veteran Telangana activist and ex-MLA

HYDERABAD, JULY 7

BRS president and former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao expressed his sorrow over the passing of Kommidi Narsimha Reddy, a Telangana movement activist and former MLA of Bhongir.

In a statement on Tuesday, KCR acknowledged Narsimha Reddy's significant contributions to the Telangana movement and his role in public service.

Recognising him as a leader who was deeply connected to the people, the BRS chief emphasised that Narsimha Reddy exemplified simplicity, integrity, and honesty throughout his political journey.

He highlighted Narsimha Reddy's remarkable act of donating hundreds of acres of his own land to the needy during the Bhoodan movement and his active involvement in the 1969 Telangana agitation. KCR also remembered Narsimha Reddy's dedication to preserving the Musi River and his efforts to secure water from the Godavari River for Telangana.

Zonal Level Police Duty Meet-2026 Begins at Karimnagar Commissionerate

KARIMNAGAR, JULY 7

The 3rd Zonal Level Police Duty Meet-2026, organized by the Telangana Police Department, commenced on Tuesday at the Karimnagar Police Commissionerate and will continue till July 8, Police Commissioner Gaussh Alam said.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner stated that a total of 91 police officers and personnel from five districts under Zone-III are participating in the two-day event. The participants include 24 from Karimnagar, 19 from Siddipet, 21 from Rajanna Sircilla, 13 from Kamareddy, and 14 from Medak. He said the Duty Meet is aimed at enhancing the professional competence of police personnel by strengthening



their investigative skills, promoting scientific methods of investigation, encouraging the use of modern technology, and improving the quality of policing and public service delivery. Competitions are being conducted in Scientific Aids to Investigation, Anti-Sabotage

Check, Dog Squad, Computer Awareness, Photography, and Videography. Outstanding performers will be selected to represent Zone-III at the Multi-Zonal Level Police Duty Meet, he added.

Highlighting the incentives announced by the State Gov-

ernment, the Commissioner said gold medal winners will receive ₹3 lakh and three advance increments, silver medal winners ₹2 lakh and two advance increments, while bronze medal winners will be awarded ₹1 lakh and one advance increment. Cash incen-

tives will also be presented to the winning teams.

The Commissioner urged the participants to treat the Duty Meet not merely as a competition but as an opportunity to sharpen their professional skills, uphold discipline, and reinforce their commitment to public service. He expressed confidence that the event would further strengthen technological expertise, coordination, and operational efficiency within the police force, ultimately leading to better services for the public.

Additional DCP Venkataramana, ACPs Srinivas G., Venugopal, and Venkataswamy, along with officers and police personnel from the participating districts, attended the inaugural programme.

Baghel Meets
Punjab Leaders,
Channi Camp
Absent

CHANDIGARH: (JUL 7)

Amid reports of infighting in the Punjab Congress, AICC general secretary in charge of the state, Bhupesh Baghel, on Tuesday held pre-schedule meetings with party leaders, even though those backing Charanjit Singh Channi as the state unit chief are yet to meet him. State Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, however, claimed that ex-chief minister Channi would meet Baghel in a day or two. Replying to a question, Warring said that Baghel held meetings with the chairpersons of various committees, barring two.

Pune Murder:
Cops Probe
Fiancée's Secret
Wedding

PUNE: (JUL 7)

In a fresh twist to the investigation into the murder of Pune realtor Ketan Agarwal, police are currently trying to find out whether his fiancée Siya Goyal married her lover secretly months before allegedly pushing the victim to his death, officials said. Goyal (20) and Chetan Chaudhary (22) are accused of pushing 25-year-old Agarwal from a cliff at Lohagad Fort in Pune district on June 18, in which he died. "Analysis of some chats exchanged between Siya and Chetan indicates that they had secretly married. There are unconfirmed murmurs also about their marriage. We are verifying this claim and also checking whether the marriage was legally registered," a senior official from the Pune Rural Police said.

Panel to Probe
Baglamukhi
Temple
Donation Row

AGAR MALWA (MP): (Jul 7) Amid allegations of theft of offerings at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the administration of Agar Malwa district on Tuesday ordered a probe into complaints of a non-government agency collecting money and jewellery from devotees at the famous Maa Baglamukhi Mandir at Nalkheda. The ancient temple is a famous 'Siddhapeeth' where politicians frequently perform rituals and 'havans', especially during the election season.

TVK ally VCK to push for
separate law against
honour killings in Tamil Nadu



The Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) will raise the demand for a separate law to curb honour killings during the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly session, Social Justice Minister Vanni Arasu said. Arasu said both the VCK and the Tamil Nadu government led by TVK chief Vijay support bringing dedicated legislation against caste-based honour killings, adding that all necessary steps would be taken to prevent such crimes. "It is the stand of the VCK and also the Tamil Nadu government to bring a separate law against honour killings. We will take all steps to stop honour killings," Arasu said. Recalling his earlier remarks in the Assembly, the minister said he had demanded a separate law against caste-based honour killings during his first speech in the House and would raise the issue again. "I will emphasise once again on this, and a good decision will be taken soon," he added. The statement comes days after a 19-year-old man and his alleged 16-year-old girlfriend were found hanging in a thatched shed in Tamil Nadu's Mayiladuthurai district. The man's relatives

2 dead after landslide hits construction
site in Wayanad, several feared trapped

A major landslide struck near a tunnel project site in Kerala's Wayanad, with around seven people believed to be trapped. The incident, which occurred near Mundakkai, has revived memories of the 2024 disaster.

Two people died, and eight were injured after a massive landslide struck near a tunnel construction site in Kerala's Wayanad, reviving memories of the 2024 disaster that left over 300 dead. At least seven workers are still missing in the incident, which comes amid incessant rainfall in Wayanad over the past few days. The incident occurred near Meenakshi Bridge, where work on the Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi twin tunnel project is under way. The project, once completed, will connect Malappuram and Wayanad districts. The area is near Mundakkai, which was the worst hit in the 2024 landslides. A government official said those feared trapped under the debris were engineers and security staff. "If work was going on there, it would have been a bigger tragedy," she said. The injured have been admitted to Meppadi



WIMS Hospital for treatment. **'NOT NATURAL, BUT MAN-MADE LANDSLIDE'**

According to the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), the area received around 265 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours - the highest rainfall recorded this season. A red alert for heavy rain was issued for Wayanad earlier this week.

Videos on social media from the site showed thick slush barrelling down the hillside, uprooting trees on its way. Another video shows people running to save themselves from the landslide.

The site also has a few

houses and homestays, raising concerns that more people could be trapped. Initially, local residents stepped in and pulled people to safety.

Later, fire and rescue personnel from nearby Kalpetta were rushed to the spot. Several teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were also pressed into rescue operations. Terming it a "man-made" landslide, Kerala Agriculture Minister T Siddique blamed the Konkarn Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), which has undertaken the project, for the incident. "This is not a natural landslide. This is a man-made landslide. This occurred due to an unsci-

entific way of accumulating mud there," Siddique said. He further said that the district collector had written to Konkarn Railways regarding the chance of a landslide at the site. "The Konkarn Railway authorities were told to remove this debris. But it was not done," the minister said. "Such things cannot be tolerated because two years ago, 298 people lost their lives in the Mundakkai landslide," Siddique further said.

A report in News Minute said the soil removed for the construction of th tunnel was piled on one side of the site. It was washed downhill by floodwaters, causing the trag-

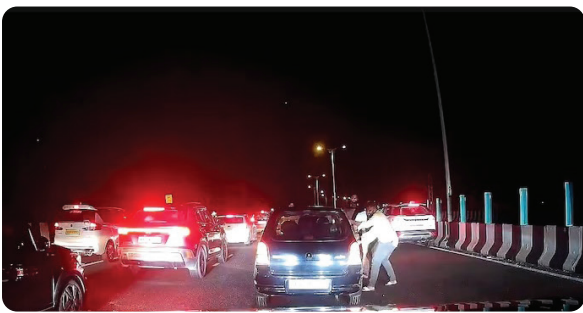
edy. Upon completion, the Anakkampoyil-Meppadi will be the longest road tunnel in Kerala, and the third-longest in India. In the wake of the landslide, Chief Minister VD Satheesan held an emergency meeting. Siddique and Revenue Minister AP Anil Kumar have been sent to Wayanad to coordinate the rescue operations.

WHY IS WAYANAD PRONE TO LANDSLIDES?

The hilly terrain of Wayanad is no stranger to such massive landslides. In fact, Wayanad is the most susceptible district to landslides in all of Kerala. It also falls under Zone III for seismic activity.

The scars of the 2024 devastation are still fresh. A series of landslides struck Chooralmala, Mundakkai and Punchirimattom, erasing entire hamlets from Kerala's map. Officially, the government claimed 298 lives were lost. However, locals said the toll was much higher.

Over the decades, Wayanad has been wrecked by multiple such tragedies, such as the Mundakkai landslide in 1984, the Kappikkalam landslide in 1992 (11 deaths) and the Valamthode tragedy in June 2007.



Family Attacked
on Bengaluru-
Mysuru Expressway

A family was attacked after a group of men intercepted their car on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway. A dashcam video of the assault has gone viral as police are yet to announce any action.

A family travelling in a car on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway was allegedly attacked after a group of men intercepted their vehicle and physically assaulted them. The incident, captured on the dashcam of a vehicle travelling behind, has since gone viral on social media. The family comprised a man, his wife, their children and an elderly woman, all travelling in a Maruti Suzuki Alto.

The 52-second video begins with vehicles moving along the expressway before the Alto comes to a halt. Moments later, a group of men rushes towards the family's car. The men are seen shouting at the driver before forcefully opening the driver's door and physically assaulting him. As the attack escalates, an occupant of another vehicle steps out in an apparent attempt to intervene. Despite this, the assailants drag the driver out of the car, while a woman from the Alto also steps out, seemingly trying to stop the assault. Police are yet to issue an official statement or confirm whether any arrests have been made. Action in the case is awaited.

Former Chief Minister Shri
YS Jagan reaches Pulivendula

PULIVENDULA, JULY 7:

YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister Shri YS Jagan arrived in Pulivendula on Tuesday. After reaching the Pulivendula helipad, he proceeded to his camp office in Bhakarapuram.

Shri YS Jagan is visiting Pulivendula for two days to participate in the birth anniversary programs of the late Chief Minister and legendary leader Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy. As part of this visit, he conducted a Praja Darbar (public grievance meeting) at the camp office today and received petitions from the public. A large number of people, youth, and party workers attended the Praja Darbar. Young people lined up to meet YS Jagan. They directly explained their problems to him and submitted petitions. On this occasion, several people complained to YS Jagan that the coalition government was not caring about

**Receives petitions from people at Praja Darbar
People complain to Shri Jagan that welfare schemes are not being provided...
"We will fight against the government on public issues" — Shri YS Jagan**



the poor. They expressed their distress, stating that welfare schemes were not being implemented properly, new pensions were not being sanctioned, and schemes such as fee reimbursement had been stopped. YS Jagan patiently listened to the people's problems and assured them of support. He said that justice must be provided to the poor, students, senior citizens, and all eligible beneficiaries. He stated that the YSR Congress Party would fight against the gov-

ernment on public issues. He assured people that justice would be delivered to everyone once their government returns to power.

Teacher association leaders meet YS Jagan

During the Praja Darbar, representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Federation of Teachers' Organisations (FAPTO) and YSR Kadapa district representatives met former Chief Minister YS Jagan. They submitted a petition requesting exemption of in-service teachers from the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) and sought his support in recommending necessary amendments to the Right to Education Act to the Central Government.

Teacher association leaders explained to YS Jagan that conducting TET for teachers who are already in service was unfair. They expressed concern that ask-

ing teachers who had completed B.Ed., secured jobs, and completed 25 years of service to appear for TET again was unjust. They requested him to put pressure on the Central Government on this matter. After listening carefully to the teachers' concerns, YS Jagan assured them that YSR Congress Party MPs would discuss the issue with the Central Government. He said that YSRCP MPs would meet Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and explain the problem.

YS Jagan to visit Idupulapaya tomorrow

Tomorrow, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the late Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy, Shri YS Jagan will visit Idupulapaya. He will participate in special prayers held at the YSR Ghat and pay tributes to the late leader.

Congress: Labour Codes
Favoured Corporates

Congress has attacked the new Labour Codes after the sudden termination of hundreds of CorroHealth employees in Kerala. The party said the episode showed how the laws could weaken protections for workers and favour big business.



The Congress on Monday dubbed the new Labour Codes as "black laws" and alleged that the Modi government has designed them for ease of corporate bigwigs that trample upon the rights of hardworking labourers and demanded that the laws be sent back for parliamentary scrutiny. In a post on X, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal highlighted the sacking of over 800 employees of a health company in Kerala and said it is a warning sign for India's labour class. "The shocking mass firing of 800-900 employees at CorroHealth in Kerala is a warning sign for India's labour classes. It's clear that the new Labour Codes are the black laws that will send millions of lamb to slaughter. "In this case, an

entire workforce was handed Full and Final Termination Letters one fine morning and fired with unfair compensation. The IR Code has defined a 'worker' as anyone earning below Rs 18,000 - essentially ruling out most IT workers like those fired at CorroHealth," he alleged. There was no immediate comment available from the company on the charges. Not only that, it legalises the concept of a "fixed-term contract" to pave the way for conversion of permanent employees into unstable hire-or-fire temporary workers, the Congress leader claimed. "The tragic reality is that the Modi Government has designed these Labour Codes for the ease of corporate bigwigs, and trample upon the rights of the hard-

working labourers who give their sweat and blood to build our country. "These laws must be sent back for Parliamentary scrutiny to restore the balance in favour of the workers, not big business," Venugopal said in his post. The shocking mass firing of 800-900 employees at CorroHealth in Kerala is a warning sign for India's labour classes. It's clear that the new Labour Codes are the black laws that will send millions of lamb to slaughter. In this case, an entire workforce was handed Full and Final— K C Venugopal (@kvenugopalmp) July 6, 2026 Around 900 medical coding professionals at the Indian operations of a US-based healthcare analytics firm were abruptly terminated when they reported for duty on Friday morning, sparking widespread outrage and prompting immediate intervention by the Kerala government. The affected staff, spread across the company's offices in Kochi and Kozhikode, alleged they were forced out without prior notice or adherence to contractual notice periods.

TMC Youth Rally Gets
HC Nod With Restrictions

The High Court capped participation in the rally at 1,000 supporters and directed that it be held only between 2 pm and 4.30 pm. The organisers have been instructed to vacate the area by 4.30 pm without exception.



The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday granted conditional permission to the Youth Trinamool Congress (Mamata Banerjee faction) to hold a protest rally in Kolkata on July 8, modifying the proposed route and imposing a series of restrictions aimed at ensuring public safety and maintaining law and order. Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya allowed the rally to proceed from Ballygunge Phari to Hazra Crossing, instead of the route originally sought by the organisers. The court also directed that the procession must not circle the Hazra Crossing and should remain confined to one side of the road throughout its duration. The High Court capped participation in the rally at 1,000 supporters and directed that it be held only

between 2 pm and 4.30 pm. The organisers have been instructed to vacate the area by 4.30 pm without exception. The court further directed the Youth Trinamool Congress to submit a written undertaking to the Joint Commissioner of Police, accepting responsibility for any untoward incident that may occur during the event. It also prohibited the use of loudspeakers and directed the organisers to ensure that law and order is maintained throughout the rally. The order came after the Youth Trinamool Congress approached the High Court challenging the Kolkata Police's refusal to grant permission for the proposed demonstration. The organisation had applied to the Joint Commissioner of Police on July 6, seeking per-

mission to organise a protest march on July 8 against several recent incidents. However, the police rejected the application, prompting the Mamata Banerjee-led party's youth wing to move the High Court. The organisers had originally sought permission to hold the rally from Ballygunge Phari to Lansdowne Market. Opposing the plea, the state government argued that allowing a political procession along the proposed route on a working day would cause significant disruption. It also pointed out that several hospitals are located along the stretch, and the rally could adversely affect the movement of ambulances and patients. After hearing submissions from both sides, Justice Bhattacharyya modified the proposed route and permitted the rally subject to strict conditions. The court made it clear that the restrictions were necessary to balance the organisers' right to protest with the need to minimise inconvenience to the public and ensure that essential services, particularly healthcare facilities in the area, remain unaffected.

AP Approves 11 Projects
Worth ₹9,076 Crore

AMARAVATI, JULY 7

Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) on Tuesday approved 11 projects with Rs 9,076 crore investment. The State Level Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meeting, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, cleared the projects which are expected to generate 10,531 jobs. The approved proposals include Adani Foundation's project at Kapuluppada in Visakhapatnam district, with a proposed investment of Rs 2,200 crore, said an official release. Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister directed the officials to promote industrialisation to provide additional income opportunities for farming families and enable them to emerge as entrepreneurs. He emphasised attracting investments to strengthen the rural economy and called for leveraging the growing demand for ethanol. The Chief Minister said that increas-



ing ethanol blending to 40 per cent would provide significant additional income to maize farmers. He instructed officials to actively encourage investments in the ethanol manufacturing sector, noting that ethanol demand would increase substantially for blending with petrol and diesel. CM Naidu also directed officials to formulate a comprehensive policy covering ethanol, methane and aviation fuel. Reiterating that wealth creation and a circular economy are key pillars of the government's development strategy, the Chief Minister stressed the need to promote food processing industries on a large scale. Highlight-

ing the immense potential of the tourism sector, the Chief Minister proposed the establishment of 100 Experience Centres at major tourist destinations across the State, including Thimmamma Marrimanu.

He said tourist destinations such as Polavaram, Dindi, Gandikota, Kambham Cheruvu and Lambasingi should be developed into world-class attractions. The CM informed the meeting that the Jindal Group has expressed interest in establishing a resort near Lambasingi and Araku.

The Chief Minister also called for the promotion of Andhra Pradesh's traditional handicrafts and cultural heritage, including Etikoppaka, Kondapalli, Dharmavaram, Mangalagiri, Uppada and Ponduru. He instructed officials to expedite the preparation of the Suryalanka Master Plan and develop projects such as Kangundi Fort in Kuppam and an Elephant Safari in Chittoor district.



EDITORIAL

The Crumbling Hills:
Confronting India’s
Landslide Crisis

Every monsoon season, India’s mountain ecosystems issue a violent, muddy wake-up call. The recent, terrifying mudslides in Wayanad, Kerala—striking directly at the site of an under-construction tunnel road—along with major debris flows near hydropower projects in Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh, underscore a grim reality. Our hills are quite literally losing their footing. Once dismissed as random, isolated natural disasters, landslides in India have evolved into a predictable, annual national crisis. While the climate crisis provides the ammunition via intense, localized cloud-bursts, human short-sightedness is pulling the trigger. The catastrophic 2025 flash floods and landslides in Uttarkashi’s Dharali region, which claimed dozens of lives, proved that the fragile Himalayan terrain can no longer withstand the compounding pressures we place upon it. Yet, from the Western Ghats to the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, the blueprint remains stubbornly unchanged: fragile slopes are aggressively blasted for multi-lane highways, river valleys are choked by massive hydroelectric infrastructure, and unmanaged tourist infrastructure overburdens pristine valleys. By cutting into the “toe” of steep slopes for roads and destabilizing the soil through heavy quarrying, we trigger what experts increasingly classify as “man-made disasters.” To break this cycle, India must urgently shift from a mindset of post-disaster rescue to one of proactive, climate-resilient engineering. First, we must respect ecological boundaries through mandatory, independent carrying-capacity assessments before any major infrastructure is cleared in eco-sensitive zones. Turning a blind eye to geology in the name of fast-tracked connectivity is a losing gamble. Second, our engineering standards must adapt; traditional concrete retaining walls must give way to bio-engineering solutions, slope-reinforcement techniques, and advanced drainage management that allows water to flow without taking the mountain with it. Finally, investing in hyper-local, satellite-linked early warning systems can give vulnerable slope-side communities the few critical hours they need to evacuate safely. Development cannot come at the cost of the very earth beneath our feet. If we do not fundamentally alter how we build, live, and travel across our highlands, we will continue to watch our communities wash away in rivers of mud. The mountains are speaking; it is time we finally listen.

THE ROOTED FLAME



Mistake not embers' sudden glare
For hearth-fire built of patient care.
A spark may dazzle passing sight
But stars are schooled in ancient night.
The mountain does not chase the cloud,
Nor kneel because the wind is loud.
It stands—serene through storm and praise,
Its silence older than our days.
O youth, your pulse is quick and bright,
Your dreams take wing at fragile light;
Yet wings that lack truth's boundless sky
Will only circle never fly.
Love is not nearness clothed as flame,
Nor hunger wearing mercy's name.
It is the courage, calm and far,
To be a home not seize a star.
Before you reach for someone's hand,
Ask first can you alone still stand?
A river faithful to its source
Needs neither borrowed might nor force.
Grow roots so deep that loss won't tear;
Shine clear as dawn in doubt's dim air.
Let character be what you wear,
And conscience be your inner prayer.
Beauty bends to time's command,
Charm dissolves like sea-foam

sand;
But virtue, carved by daily choice,
Becomes the soul's unaging voice.
Do not love to fill a seam,
Nor turn a sacred bond to dream.
Two halves that wander incomplete
Will stumble where their shadows meet.
Be whole—then love.
Be still—then rise.
Be true—then trust another's eyes.
A tree that knows both root and height
Clings not in fear, nor grips in fright.
It offers fruit without demand,
And shade without a binding hand.
Let not this day in crimson loud
Measure worth by fleeting crowd.
Let it be a vow within
To conquer self before you win.
For love that ripens, slow and deep,
Is not a prize the world can keep.
It grows unseen, yet firm and bright
A rooted star in inward night.
When silver threads adorn the brow,
And passion bows to gentler vow,
The love that chose to walk not race
Will still be warm in time's embrace.
Then youth, when age unveils its art,
Will learn
Steady hearts outshine the start.

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



OPINION

Sustainable Hyderabad: Redefining Development - From Waste to wealth

Hyderabad has emerged as a formidable economic powerhouse on the global map. With glittering glass facades, world-class IT corridors, and expansive roads bustling with constant traffic, the city stands as a symbol of rapid progress. However, a city cannot be classified as “world-class” solely based on infrastructural expansion. In reality, the true beauty and sustainability of a city depend on how it manages its environment, public health, and resources. To transform Hyderabad into a truly ‘Global City’—a smart and sustainable metropolis—environmental consciousness must take precedence over concrete jungles.

Waste Management:
From Crisis to Opportunity

In a rapidly growing city like Hyderabad, waste management is one of the most critical challenges. The sheer volume of waste generated daily by a burgeoning population and changing consumption patterns cannot be solved merely by shifting garbage to dumping yards. The core of sustainable development lies in transforming today's waste into tomorrow's resources—a principle known as the ‘Circular Economy.’

The first step in this transformation is the strict, grassroots-level implementation of waste segregation at the source. Once waste is categorized into wet and dry streams, the burden on dumping yards can be significantly reduced by processing organic waste into high-quality compost and recycling dry waste like plastics. Furthermore, by modernizing and transparently managing ‘Waste-to-Energy’ plants, the city can achieve a degree of self-sufficiency in its energy requirements.

Public Health and
Environmental Stewardship

Public health is an inseparable component of urban development. A city, no matter how economically advanced, cannot be truly livable without clean air, potable water, and litter-free streets. Scientific waste management is directly linked to public health. Improper disposal leads to the spread of diseases and the contamination of groundwater, both of which erode the city's quality of life.

Beyond waste management, transforming Hyderabad into a ‘Green City’ is essential. This requires the rigorous protection of the city's lakes, stringent

pollution control regulations, and the creation of small urban forests in every ward. To improve air quality, the city must aggressively promote public transport, incentivize the adoption of electric vehicles, and develop dedicated walking and cycling tracks to reduce carbon emissions.

The Future Path:
Redefining ‘Smart City’

Being a ‘Smart City’ is not just about adopting technology; it is about how effectively technology is leveraged for social benefit. Digital monitoring systems should be integrated into every stage of the process, from waste collection to final processing. Simultaneously, fostering environmental responsibility among citizens through continuous awareness campaigns regarding waste management is vital.

In conclusion, for Hyderabad to rise as a world-class city, it must achieve not only physical heights but also ethical and environmental standards. If the city's journey progresses on the twin wheels of development and environmental protection, Hyderabad will undoubtedly become a safe, healthy, and livable sanctuary for future generations. Only then will the dream of a truly ‘Global Hyderabad’ become a reality.

To effectively strengthen the role of citizens in Hyderabad's waste management and transform the city into a sustainable model, a combination of behavioral, economic, and technological policies is essential. Based on successful models implemented in various Indian cities and the framework of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), here are the key policy recommendations:

Fiscal Incentives and
“Nudge” Policies

Rather than relying solely on enforcement, local bodies should introduce systems that reward responsible behavior: Waste-to-Value Purchase Models: Similar to the Dry Waste Collection Center models, residents should be incentivized to sell segregated dry waste (plastic, metal, paper) to municipal centers. Providing direct financial benefits or utility bill rebates for consistent source segregation creates a tangible “value” for waste.

Polluter Pays Principle: Implement a graduated service fee system where households that fail to segregate their

waste pay higher collection charges, while those who effectively compost and segregate pay lower, subsidized rates.

Rewards for “Zero-Waste” Communities: Housing societies that achieve 100% on-site processing of wet waste (via community composting) could be awarded property tax rebates or special certification as “Green Societies,” which enhances their property value.

Decentralized Community
Empowerment

Moving away from a purely top-down approach, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) can empower local institutions:

Resident Welfare Association (RWA) Accountability: Formalize the responsibility of RWAs for managing waste within their boundaries. Giving them the authority to oversee waste collection contractors ensures a higher level of service quality and local accountability.

Community Resource Persons (CRPs): Deploy local volunteers or “swachh ambassadors” within each ward to conduct door-to-door education. Personal interaction is far more effective in changing entrenched habits than generic posters or mass media advertisements.

Micro-level Infrastructure: Establishing neighborhood-level “Dry Resource Centers” makes the act of recycling accessible. When a citizen sees a clean, organized collection center nearby, the motivation to keep waste segregated increases.

Digitization and Transparency

Technology should be used to build trust and simplify participation:

Gamified Apps: Enhance apps like MyGHMC or Swachh Dhooth to include leaderboards, digital badges, or “citizen points” for users who verify their segregation habits through photos or consistent collection logs.

Real-Time Feedback Loops: Implement a transparent ticketing system where a citizen can track whether their segregated waste was actually processed correctly. If a citizen knows their effort is not going into a common, mixed-waste landfill, their participation becomes sustained.

Geo-Tagging Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs): Enable citizens to geotag illegal dumping sites via mobile apps, with automated alerts sent to local san-

itary inspectors for immediate cleanup.

Educational and Social
Re-Engineering Curriculum
Integration:

Introduce “waste literacy” in school curriculums within the city. Children often act as the best agents of change, influencing their parents to adopt better segregation habits at home.

Mainstreaming the Informal Sector: Integrate the existing network of informal waste pickers into the formal municipal system. When citizens see that their waste supports the livelihoods of local workers who are now working in safe, dignified conditions, it builds a sense of social responsibility.

Cultural Campaigns: Conduct “Zero-Waste” festivals and events. By showcasing that events can be organized without creating a massive trail of garbage, the city can normalize low-waste lifestyles as a social status symbol.

Stringent Enforcement with
Fairness Spot Fines for
Persistent Non-Compliance:

While incentives are vital, there must be a transparent, non-discriminatory penalty system for commercial establishments (hotels, supermarkets) that produce large volumes of waste and fail to process it at the source.

Tailored Strategies for Vulnerable Areas: A “one-size-fits-all” policy often fails in a diverse city like Hyderabad. Policies must be adapted for high-density areas, commercial clusters, and urban slums, ensuring that the necessary bins and collection frequency are provided specifically for those contexts.

The goal is to move from “managing trash” to “managing resources.” When citizens stop viewing waste as “disposable” and start viewing it as a “community asset,” the efficiency of the entire municipal system will naturally increase.



DR. CHITYALA RAVINDER
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‘WATER BANKRUPTCY’ CAN CRISIS BE SALVAGED?

Water availability continues to be critical in India, not just this year but for the future. The IMD has predicted about a 30% deficit in rainfall till June-end, or even less. Worse, the recent World Environment Performance Index has ranked India 176th among 180 nations. The UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), committed to ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, appears not to be a priority. Nearly 2.2 billion people still lack safely managed drinking water, 3.5 billion lack safely managed sanitation, and about 4 billion people experience severe water scarcity for at least one month per year.

Nearly 75% of the world's population lives in countries classified as water-insecure or critically water-insecure. The prediction of below-normal rainfall this year in India due to the El Niño effect may further aggravate the crisis. The world is already in a state of “water bankruptcy.” In many basins and aquifers, long-term overuse and degradation mean that past hydrological and ecological baselines cannot realistically be restored. While not every basin or country is water-bankrupt, enough critical systems around the world have crossed these thresholds and are interconnected through trade, migration, climate feedbacks and geopolitical dependencies that the global risk landscape is now fundamentally altered.

These developments are reflected in the recently released Global Water Bankruptcy report of the UN University, which reveals that many human-water systems are now in a post-crisis failure state where past baselines can no longer be restored. Water bankruptcy is defined as a persistent post-crisis state of failure in which long-term water use and pollution have exceeded renewable inflows and safe depletion limits, and key parts of the water system can no longer realistically be restored to previous levels of supply and ecosystem function. “Water stress” and “water crisis” are no longer sufficient descriptions of the world's new

water realities. Many rivers, lakes, aquifers, wetlands and glaciers have been pushed beyond tipping points and cannot bounce back to past baselines, making the language of temporary crisis inaccurate in many regions.

The timing of this report is crucial. The period leading to the 2026 and 2028 UN Water Conferences, together with the conclusion of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development,” in 2028, represents a pivotal opportunity to accelerate implementation, strengthen accountability and elevate water as a global priority. These milestones provide a platform to align commitments, partnerships and investments with hydrological realities and long-term resilience, while planning and implementing policies that reflect water resources available under current and future conditions.

The picture in most countries, including India, is distressing, with surface waters and wetlands shrinking on a massive scale. Over half of the world's large lakes have lost water since the early 1990s, affecting about one-quarter of the global population that relies on them directly. Over the last five decades, humanity has lost roughly 410 million hectares of natural wetlands—almost the land area of the European Union—including about 177 million hectares of inland marshes and swamps, roughly the size of Libya or seven times the area of the UK. The loss of ecosystem services from these wetlands is valued at over US\$5.1 trillion, equivalent to the combined GDP of around 135 of the world's poorest countries.

Meanwhile, groundwater depletion and land subsidence show that hidden reserves are being exhausted. Around 70% of the world's major aquifers show long-term declines, while land subsidence linked to groundwater over-pumping now affects over 6 million square kilometres—almost 5% of the global land area—and nearly 2 billion people, permanently reducing storage and increasing flood risk in many cities, deltas and coastal zones.

The explosive growth of cities world-

wide has created enormous demand for safe groundwater supplies, raising concerns about their long-term sustainability at a time when aquifers are increasingly degraded by human activity. Cities less reliant on aquifers are equally obliged to monitor and manage underground water because leakage from pressurised water pipes and sewers can cause groundwater levels to rise, resulting in land instability, flooded basements, tunnels and electrical utilities. Such conditions can also trigger the release of polluted water into urban wetlands, springs and streams.

In India, more groundwater is used than in any other country, including the United States and China combined. It provides drinking water for about 85% of the rural population and irrigation for more than 60% of agricultural land. This dependence was once seen as a success story, freeing farmers from the uncertainty of monsoon rains. But questions remain about its long-term sustainability.

India is on the brink of a water crisis. By 2025, per capita freshwater availability fell below 1,000 cubic metres, the threshold signalling severe water stress, according to the recently released State of Environment Report 2026. Several river basins, including the Kaveri, Penna and Sabarmati, are already categorised as water-scarce, while others such as the Krishna are approaching similar status. The Himalayan glaciers, crucial for replenishing India's rivers, have retreated by 67% over the last decade. This threatens not only water availability but also the ecosystems and agriculture dependent on these rivers.

People in rural India depend on groundwater for survival, while urban residents often extract it for convenience and frequently beyond basic requirements. Groundwater plays a crucial role in supplying cities such as Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai. Even where municipal water is available, private borewells and tanker services flourish, creating an unregulated parallel water economy. Groundwater levels in Bengaluru, once known as the city of lakes, have fallen drastically. Chennai's “Day Zero” crisis

in 2019 exposed the city's vulnerability, but public concern faded once the rains returned.

Importantly, India's groundwater crisis is not caused solely by climate change, though climate impacts such as erratic rainfall, delayed monsoons and extreme weather have made surface water less reliable. In response, both farmers and urban centres are extracting groundwater more aggressively, accelerating the cycle of depletion.

Recognising this situation, programmes such as Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (2021) and the Atal Bhujal Yojana sought to scale up community-based water governance, but with limited success. Long-term progress will depend on expanding groundwater conservation efforts, improving water-use efficiency, strengthening community institutions and driving behavioural change in how water is valued. The path to a water-secure rural India is challenging but achievable. If India changes course, rural regions can become more productive, resilient and better prepared for the uncertainties of climate change. Water, when managed well, is not merely a resource; it is a catalyst for hope and a cornerstone of sustainable rural development.

The problem demands the highest level of seriousness. Although policy responses have focused on technological measures such as mandatory rainwater harvesting, watershed development programmes and micro-irrigation systems, these important initiatives alone no longer appear sufficient to tackle the impending water crisis.



DHURJATI
MUKHERJEE





Assam schools
nearing full
infrastructure
saturation: CM
Sarma
GUWAHATI, JULY 7

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday asserted that the transformation of the state's government schools is now visible across Assam, highlighting major improvements in basic infrastructure and digital learning facilities. In a post on social media platform X, the chief minister said the state government is now focusing on bridging the remaining infrastructure gaps to achieve complete saturation across all government schools. He wrote that facts matter, and the transformation of Assam's schools is already visible across the state. With almost every school now equipped with essential infrastructure, they are zeroing in on the remaining gaps to reach 100 per cent saturation.

Red alert in Delhi as rain batters capital, tree crushes vehicles

In Delhi's East of Kailash, a large tree crashed onto parked vehicles as the national capital was lashed by rain and gusty winds on Tuesday. The IMD also issued a red alert for heavy rainfall in Delhi.

Rain lashed several parts of Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) on Tuesday, bringing much-needed relief from hot and humid conditions that had gripped the region over the past few days. Showers accompanied by cloudy skies and gusty winds were reported from several areas of the capital as well as Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad. There were also reports of trees being uprooted in some areas in the capital. In East of Kailash, a large tree crashed onto parked vehicles. Fire and police teams were rushed to the spot, although no injuries were reported. The India Meteorological



Department (IMD) had earlier forecast light to moderate rainfall with thunderstorms and lightning over the coming hours. It later upgraded its warning, issuing a red alert for Delhi. Parts of Haryana such as Kaithal, Rohtak, and Sonapat, along with several districts in western Uttar Pradesh like Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, and Bulandshahr, are also expected to receive rain over the next few hours.

WHAT TO EXPECT?
The showers in Delhi-NCR resembled the typical monsoon weather that had been missing, with gentle to medium rain with occasional thunder and lightning flashes. A heavy downpour is not predicted this time, but light winds and sudden showers can still bring relief from the ongoing humid conditions in the region. This comes just a day after Delhi saw extremely humid conditions, with tem-

peratures hovering around 38°C. **MONSOON BRINGS RELIEF**
This fresh spell comes shortly after the southwest monsoon finally reached Delhi on July 2, five days later than its usual date of June 27. The late arrival ended weeks of intense heat and humidity, with rains bringing down temperatures and giving residents much-needed comfort. Earlier this week, heavy showers and thunderstorms lashed several NCR areas, dropping temperatures to around 30°C in some spots and bringing 10-30 mm of rain in places. The overall July 2026 outlook from IMD suggests below-normal rainfall for the country, which follows one of the driest June months the country has seen, with a major rainfall deficit recorded. The weather has now said that conditions are favourable for the further advance of the

monsoon into the remaining parts of the Arabian Sea, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab, eventually covering the entire country in the next 2-3 days. The southwest monsoon's progress this year has been slower than normal in north-west India. Delhi has seen intermittent rain since the onset, helping improve air quality and ease the summer heat that had pushed temperatures above 40°C in late June. IMD reports indicate fairly widespread rainfall is likely over Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi during July 7-9. This pattern aligns with broader monsoon behaviour where wind patterns, called convergence zones, pull moist air from the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, leading to cloud formation and rain over northern plains. Such systems often bring short, intense bursts followed by breaks, a common feature of Indian monsoons.

Enjoy the World of Video Games Platforms

(On the occasion of "World Video Game Day" on 08 July)

National Video Game Day is celebrated annually on 08 July to enjoy and appreciate this wonderful digital platform in all their forms, called Video Game. From the arcade classics of the 1980s to today's sprawling open worlds, and to recognise the artistry, skill and community that surround the medium. This is a day built for playing, so the best way to mark it is to pick up a controller.

National Video Game Day-2026:
The National Video Game Day can be celebrated in many ways like replay a childhood favourite video, host a game night, try a brand new title, visit a retro arcade, explore indie games, watch a stream, beat a game you never finished, and introduce someone new to gaming. Video games play a vital role in entertainment, culture and even sport. It honours the developers, artists who craft them, and players whose skill turns into a serious pursuit. It is enjoyed by casual mobile players and dedicated enthusiasts alike, and it is not tied to any single platform or genre.

History of Video Games:

Video game history traced back to 1940 when Dr Edward Uhler unveiled the first video gaming machine. Later Frank Cifaldi, who found that it is first appeared on 08 July 1991 in Chase's Calendar of Events. By 1997 they renamed to observe National Video Games Day on 13 September and also differently on 08 July as National Video Game Day. Beyond the fun, the day highlights how games have become a genuine culture force, shaping storytelling, music, art and competitive sport. On this day video games across globe celebrated by hosting gaming marathons, revisiting childhood classics, special promotions on gaming platforms. Because gaming has evolved into a massive digital community, fans can also discover and observe new titles together as they release throughout the year. Whether this be spending time on your own exploring the rich world of a single player game or chatting with friends while you have fun together, there is no wrong way to go about celebrating the day. Just make sure that you remember to take breaks for the sake of your eyes and back.



Maharashtra Legislative Council passes bill to empower women farmers

MUMBAI, JULY 7

The Maharashtra Legislative Council on Tuesday unanimously passed the 'Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Bill, 2026'. The path-breaking legislation aims to grant women farmers independent legal recognition, equal rights, and direct access to all government agricultural schemes. With the passage of this bill, Maharashtra is set to become the first state in the country to accord official legal recognition and status to women farmers. The bill was passed following an extensive and detailed debate in the Legislative Council spanning 3 hours and 33 minutes, during which members across party lines shared their insights and recommendations. Speaking on the passage of the bill, Agriculture Minister Dattatray Bharene stated that the decision to grant an independent legal status to women farmers was initially envisioned during a joint meeting organised to mark the International Year of Women Farmers. He said a woman farmer is not just an assistant to the family but an equal partner in agricultural development. Therefore, getting an independent legal identity, rights, and the benefits of all government schemes

is her rightful due, and this is a moment of immense pride for every citizen of Maharashtra. The legislation was drafted by the Department of Agriculture under the guidance of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and the leadership of Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Ajit Pawar. Highlighting the bill's core objective, Bharene noted that, despite millions of rural women working tirelessly shoulder-to-shoulder with men in farming and allied activities for generations, they lacked an independent legal identity. Because many government schemes mandated land ownership as a prerequisite, women who actually performed the gruelling farm work were consistently deprived of these benefits. He explained that this comprehensive bill has been designed to bridge this gap, offering them dignity, rights, and equal opportunities. According to the bill, eligible women will be issued a formal 'Women Farmer Certificate'. This certificate will serve as a single-window enabler to access government agricultural schemes, subsidies, hassle-free bank loans, crop insurance, agricultural extension services, market access, government procurement, and warehousing facilities.

LEEL Fraud: ED Attaches ₹112.9-Crore Assets

JAIPUR, JULY 7

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached movable and immovable assets worth around Rs 112.90 crore under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with an alleged Rs 376 crore bank fraud involving M/s LEEL Electricals Limited (formerly Lloyd Electric and Engineering Limited), its main promoter Bharat Raj Punj, and others. According to the ED's Jaipur Zonal Office, the attached properties include land, industrial plots, residential properties, bank balances, fixed deposits, and mutual fund investments spread across Delhi, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and a residential property in Texas's Houston in the US. Investigators said that these assets were beneficially owned and controlled by



the promoter's family and were allegedly held through related and shell entities to conceal the proceeds of crime. The money laundering investigation stems from an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in New Delhi under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act. The CBI's FIR and subsequent charge sheet alleged that the company's promoters and senior officials conspired to cheat a consortium of banks led by the State Bank of India (SBI) by submitting manipulated financial statements, causing a wrongful loss of around Rs 376 crore to the SBI and IDBI Bank.

CM Yadav to Open LiuGong Unit in Pithampur

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal , July 7: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav will perform the bhoomi puja of the new manufacturing plant of Liugong India Private Limited in Pithampur Industrial Area of Dhar district on Wednesday, July 8. This expansion being done by the Indian unit of China's leading multinational construction equipment manufacturing company Guangxi Liugong Machinery Co., Ltd. will be an important step towards establishing Madhya Pradesh as a major center of construction equipment manufacturing. The new plant to be set up at Pithampur will be developed in an area of about 20 acres. About US\$2.8 million is being invested in this project. The plant will have the capacity to produce 6,500 pieces of construction equipment per year in the initial phase, mainly domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence on imports and will also create new employment opportunities in the region. Liugong is one of the world's leading construction equipment manufacturers and has a global reputation as a wheel loader manufacturer. The company manufactures wheel loaders, excavators, motor graders,



mining dump trucks, bulldozers, skid-steer loaders, forklifts, cold planers and other modern construction and mining equipment. The company has been operating its manufacturing unit at Pithampur since 2008. Established in an area of more than 44 acres, this plant has the capacity to manufacture 3 thousand wheel loaders and motor graders every year. In the year 2009, the first Made in India wheel loader was produced from this unit. The Pithampur facility also houses a Research and Development Center and a Training Centre, where more than 500 Indian young professionals are employed. This unit is also making an important contribution in strengthening the objectives of Make in India and Self-reliant India campaign. More than 4 thousand

construction equipment of the company are being used in various infrastructure works including road construction, mining, hydropower and pipeline projects across the country. The proposed new plant at Pithampur will meet this increasing demand and provide new impetus to the industrial development of Madhya Pradesh. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, the state government is continuously working to make Madhya Pradesh the leading industrial investment center of the country through favorable environment for industries, excellent industrial infrastructure, simple processes and investor-friendly policies. This expansion of Liugong India will be another great example of the growing global investor confidence in the state.

Uddhav Sena Rallies Against Fadnavis

The announcement was made during a crucial meeting of Shiv Sena (UBT) MLAs at Matoshree, where Thackeray outlined the party's political strategy and organisational roadmap ahead of key electoral battles.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday announced a major 'Ram Raksha' protest in Nagpur next week over the alleged Ram Temple donation scam, sharpening his attack on the BJP-led Maharashtra government and Chief Minister Devendra Fad-

navis. The protest will be held in Nagpur, home to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) headquarters, in what Thackeray described as a symbolic challenge on the BJP's ideological turf. The announcement was made during a crucial meeting of Shiv Sena (UBT) MLAs at Matoshree, where Thackeray outlined the party's political strategy and organisational roadmap ahead of key electoral battles. Addressing party legislators, Thackeray said the agitation against the alleged irregularities in Ram Mandir donations would begin with full force from Nagpur. Drawing a parallel with the Ram Mandir movement, he



said just as the movement had its spark from Matoshree, the public campaign against the alleged "theft" of devotees' money would also originate from there. Thackeray directed all MLAs to actively lead protests across Maharashtra and ensure that the issue reaches people at

the grassroots. He noted that several opposition parties, including the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP), have already been raising their voices over the alleged scam, and urged his legislators to intensify the campaign. Apart from

the protest programme, Thackeray also reviewed the party's preparedness for the upcoming electoral cycle. He instructed MLAs to closely monitor the ongoing Special Investment Region (SIR) process and remain prepared for elections despite the uncertainty surrounding the delimitation exercise. Emphasising the need to strengthen the organisation, the Shiv Sena (UBT) chief announced a restructuring of the party at the district level. He said new responsibilities would be assigned to local leaders to reinvigorate the organisation and improve coordination ahead of future political contests.

Thackeray also asked MLAs to immediately fill organisational vacancies created after several leaders and office-bearers defected from the party. He stressed that the vacant posts left behind by rebels and their associates should be filled without delay to ensure that the party machinery remains fully functional at every level. The meeting comes as Shiv Sena (UBT) steps up its political offensive against the Mahayuti government, with Thackeray seeking to rally party workers around issues that he believes could resonate with voters ahead of the next round of elections.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Marks Toy Train Day

MALIGAON, 7 JULY, 2026

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, celebrated "Toy Train Day" with a vibrant community outreach programme at the historic Sukna Railway Station, reaffirming its commitment to heritage conservation, cultural engagement and community participation. Organised in collaboration with the North Bengal Painters Association, the celebration featured a heritage-themed painting competition and an interactive art workshop for local children and young artists. The initiative aimed to inspire the younger generation

with Youth Engagement Programme



to appreciate and preserve the rich legacy of the iconic mountain railway through creative expression. The programme transformed the picturesque Sukna Railway Station into an open-air art studio, where experienced artists from the North Bengal Painters Association guided participants through hands-on painting sessions. Drawing inspiration from the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, the surrounding natural landscape and the region's rich cultural heritage, the young participants created artworks reflecting

their unique perspectives on the historic narrow-gauge railway. A major attraction of the event was the exhibition of a meticulously crafted miniature replica of the iconic DHR Heritage Steam Engine by renowned local artist Suman Roy. The detailed model served as an

educational exhibit as well as a source of artistic inspiration, showcasing the engineering excellence and timeless charm of the historic steam locomotive. The event concluded with the display and appreciation of the artworks created by the participants. Through such initiatives, Darjeeling Himalayan Railway continues to strengthen its bond with local communities while promoting awareness of the importance of preserving its unique heritage for future generations. In another significant achievement, the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway registered its highest-ever revenue for the month of June, earning Rs 3.98 crore during June 2026, compared

to Rs 3.25 crore during the corresponding period last year. This exceptional growth marks the highest consecutive June revenue in the history of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway since its inception and reflects the increasing popularity of the UNESCO World Heritage railway among tourists, along with the sustained efforts of the Northeast Frontier Railway in enhancing heritage tourism and passenger experience. The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway remains committed to preserving its rich legacy while embracing innovative initiatives that promote cultural engagement, community participation and sustainable heritage tourism.

attended by senior officers of the Odisha Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Railway Protection Force (RPF), Indian Coast Guard and other security agencies. The DGP reviewed the deployment strategy for the CAPFs, National Security Guard (NSG) teams and NSG Quick Response Teams (QRTs), while directing Odisha Police, the RPF and the Coast Guard to work in close coordination throughout the festival. According to an official statement, a security blueprint has been prepared that includes a three-tier security arrangement with surveillance across land, sea, and air.

Odisha Police reviews security arrangements for Puri Ratha Yatra

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 7

Ahead of the world-famous Puri Ratha Yatra of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra scheduled to be held on July 16, Odisha Police on Tuesday held a high-level coordination meeting and finalised a comprehensive multi-layered security plan involving Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), the Indian Coast Guard, and other security agencies to ensure the annual sacred festival is held peacefully and without any security lapses. The meeting, chaired by Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania at the State Police Headquarters in Cuttack, was

attended by senior officers of the Odisha Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Railway Protection Force (RPF), Indian Coast Guard and other security agencies. The DGP reviewed the deployment strategy for the CAPFs, National Security Guard (NSG) teams and NSG Quick Response Teams (QRTs), while directing Odisha Police, the RPF and the Coast Guard to work in close coordination throughout the festival. According to an official statement, a security blueprint has been prepared that includes a three-tier security arrangement with surveillance across land, sea, and air.

Trump signals F-35
rethink for Turkey



ANKARA, JULY 7

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday signalled that his administration is prepared to reconsider the sale of F-35 fighter jets to Turkey, saying it was "certainly something we will consider", as he underscored what he described as the strongest phase yet in relations between Washington and Ankara. At a joint media appearance alongside Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan before their bilateral meeting ahead of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Summit, Trump repeatedly praised Turkey as a key ally and credited his personal relationship with Erdogan for strengthening ties between the two countries.

NATO Secretary
General announces new
'major' defence projects

ANKARA, JULY 7

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Secretary General Mark Rutte has announced "new major projects" in defence at the Defence Industry Forum in the capital city of Turkey. "A year ago in The Hague," he said, opening the Defence Industry Forum in Ankara, "allies committed to investing 5 per cent in defence and security by 2035. And we agreed to increase production and innovation. Now, a year later, we are announcing results," Italian news agency Adnkronos reported. "We have a lot," he continued, "to show. Today and tomorrow, we will sign contracts worth billions of dollars, which will boost our economies, enhance our security, and create hundreds of thousands of jobs. These are NATO-made capabilities, achieved by working together, in close cooperation." Among the projects announced by the Secretary General is an "in-flight refuelling platform" and for moving equipment.

China floods kill at least 20;
escaped snakes add to disaster chaos

BEIJING, JULY 7

At least 20 people died and 331 others injured in one of China's worst floods, which also created a snake scare as around 900 slithering reptiles escaped from a farm which collapsed under the force of surging waters, authorities said on Tuesday.

The extreme weather in several places in China since Monday night caused havoc, they said. President Xi Jinping on Tuesday called for all-out efforts to organise flood emergency rescue, disaster relief and treatment of the injured, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

He stressed the need to strengthen monitoring, early warning, and emergency preparedness and response. He also urged solid efforts in disaster prevention and relief work to ensure the safety of people's lives and property.

The snakes escaped from a farm in Hengzhou, which experienced heavy thunderstorms and floods on Monday night. A viral video showed people standing in waist-deep water with bamboo sticks, try-



ing to capture the snakes, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

Village official, Wu Zhi, told Red Star News portal that most of the snakes were not venomous and a team of 10 had been organised to capture them with fish nets and stun guns.

He warned villagers not to try to catch snakes by hand if they found any in their homes. Heavy rainfall had caused 62 rivers across the country to rise above flood warning levels, central authorities said, with the Qingshui River in Guangxi

recording the biggest flood in its monitoring history.

Tornadoes, thunderstorms and high-velocity gales hit the eastern part of Hubei Province on Monday night, killing 11 people, with one reported missing, according to provincial emergency management authorities.

The severe weather also injured at least 331 people across three communities. Over 400 residents were evacuated to safe places. The severe weather destroyed 22 buildings and damaged another 4,855, ac-

cording to the report.

Also, four people died and eight others were missing in record-breaking rainfall and the ensuing floods in parts of Nanning, capital city of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Over 93,300 people were affected by the disaster and 54,460 evacuated, officials said. The regional hydrology centre warned that elevated water levels would persist in several river sections over the next 24 hours. The casualties and evacuations were caused

by torrential rains due to Typhoon Maysak, the report said.

Separately, a landslide struck a township in Tanchang County, Longnan City, in northwest China's Gansu Province early on Tuesday, in which five people died.

A total of 33 people were buried beneath the debris. Rescuers said 21 people had been pulled out, but five of them died despite treatment, the Xinhua report said. All-out search and rescue operations are underway for the other 12 missing people.

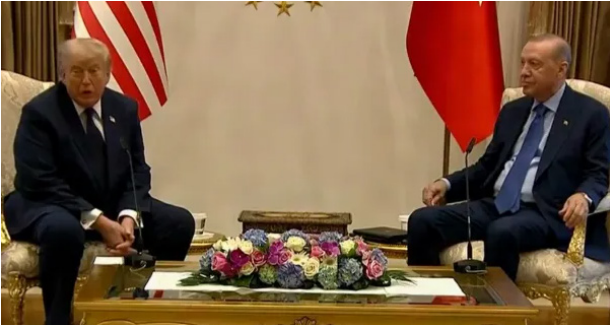
US President Trump sees Ukraine peace deal nearing

ANKARA, JULY 7

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday expressed optimism that Russia and Ukraine could be moving closer to a peace agreement, saying he believes both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky now want to end the war after his latest conversations with the two leaders.

Speaking alongside Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan before their bilateral meeting in Ankara ahead of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Summit, Trump said he had held lengthy discussions with both Putin and Zelensky and expected progress in the coming weeks.

"I do. I had a very good talk with President Putin, who, by the way, has a lot of respect



for President Erdogan, a lot of respect for him," Trump said when asked whether a breakthrough in the Ukraine peace process was possible.

"We had a long talk yesterday, lasted a long time. And, I also spoke with President Zelensky right after that."

"I think they both want to make a deal. It's too bad it took so long, but I think there's going to be -- something's going

to come out." Trump said Erdogan was also playing a constructive role in efforts to end the conflict. "And the president's also helping us with that, but I think there's something."

"You know, I settled eight wars and I think we're going to be settling a ninth."

Although he acknowledged that a settlement might not appear imminent, Trump said negotiations often advanced

when expectations were lowest. "It doesn't seem likely now, but sometimes with war, see, when it's least likely, that's when it happens."

"I had a very good talk with President Putin. I had a very good talk with -- I would say, as a combination."

"They both want to get it settled now... that's all I do in my life, is deals. I know deals. And I think they are going to -- I think we're going to get it settled, hopefully soon."

Trump again highlighted the human cost of the conflict, saying casualties continued to mount on both sides.

"Last month, 35,000, mostly soldiers, died. The month before that, it was 24,000. The month before that, it was 27,000. And the month before that, it was 29,000."

"But last month, it was 35,000 young soldiers, mostly

soldiers, died, and that's crazy."

Later, responding to another question, Trump said his objective was to stop the bloodshed rather than pursue a military solution. "I just don't want them killing people."

"I'd like to save lives."

"You have 25,000, 35,000, 30,000, one time it hit 41,000 a month, souls, they're dead. They leave their mother in Ukraine, they leave their mother and father in Russia... and a week later, they're dead." "It's crazy," Trump said the United States was no longer providing military assistance in the same manner as under the previous administration. "When Biden was here, he gave them hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of equipment. Now I sell the equipment... I sell it not to Ukraine; I sell it to the European Union. They pay us."

Over 200 terrorists neutralised in northern Mali, says Army

BAMAKO, JULY 7

The Malian army said on Tuesday that more than 200 terrorists were neutralised during coordinated air and ground operations carried out in Anefis in the country's northern Kidal region.

According to a statement issued by the General Staff of the Armed Forces, Monday's oper-

ations involved 35 airstrikes. The provisional toll also included five armoured vehicles, around 20 pickup trucks and about 100 motorcycles destroyed, Xinhua news agency reported.

The army said operations by the Malian Armed Forces and their partners were continuing in Anefis, reaffirming its determination to pursue actions

against armed terrorist groups until the set objectives are achieved.

The operations came after attacks on July 4 targeting several localities in Mali, including Aguelhok, Anefis, Gao, Sevare and Kenioroba. The Malian army said at the time that it had repelled the attacks.

Mali has faced a volatile security situation for years, with

attacks by armed groups occurring frequently, particularly in the northern and central parts of the country.

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

The African Union (AU) has condemned Saturday's coordi-

nated armed attacks that targeted several localities in Mali.

The AU, in a press statement issued Sunday, said that Chairperson of the AU Commission Mahmoud Ali Youssouf "strongly condemns the coordinated terrorist attacks carried out on Saturday against several localities in northern, central, and southern Mali."

"These attacks are a stark

reminder that terrorism and violent extremism continue to pose a serious threat to Mali, the Sahel, and the African continent as a whole," Youssouf said.

He stressed that the coordinated attacks underscore the need to strengthen collective efforts to advance peace, security, and stability while maintaining constant attention to the protection of civilians.

56 protestors killed or missing in Pakistan-occupied
Kashmir since June 9 as tensions escalate

ISLAMABAD, JULY 7

Amid escalating unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the number of protesters killed or reported missing following unprovoked firing by Pakistani security forces on peaceful demonstrators since June 9 has risen to 56, sources have revealed.

The protesters, meanwhile, continue to cite shortages of food and medicines apart from arbitrary detentions, police excesses, and repeated raids on private homes. The Pakistani authorities have adopted a "hard-line approach", imposing food and medicine blockades apart from completely shutting down media and internet services in the occupied territory. Nearly one month after the proscription of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), the crisis in PoK has worsened, with protestors continuing to press resolution of all outstanding demands, including the contentious issue of abolition of 12 refugee seats.

The protestors have now gathered around six permanent sit-in sites in the Rawalakot district, including Darek



Eidgah, Singola, Motialmara, Paniola, Mujahidabad, and Rawalakot Bus Terminal, marked by increased participation by women, elderly citizens, and children, underscoring the movement's resilience despite sustained pressure from the authorities, details have emerged.

The JAAC has also called for a boycott of Legislative Assembly elections in PoK. JAAC core committee member Umar Nazir Kashmiri announced on June 29 that activists and people associated with the Public Rights movement would boycott the upcoming elections scheduled for July 27, argu-

ing that meaningful elections could not take place under the prevailing circumstances.

Another JAAC leader, Sardar Aman, warned that if the government restrictions and blockades continued, the movement could explore opening alternative supply and communication routes through the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to sustain the protest camps.

During his recent public addresses, Aman has alleged that the Pakistani military has indoctrinated youth in PoK and encouraged them to start an armed rebellion against India in Jammu and Kashmir.

The situation in PoK has moved beyond a simple law and order problem, with JAAC successfully uniting the fragmented divisions under a single banner.

The Pakistani security establishment, by banning the JAAC, has inadvertently closed the door on negotiations, leaving the streets as the only venue for political discourse.

Experts noted that with Legislative Assembly elections in PoK slated to be held on July 27, the Pakistani authorities' refusal to address the fundamental issue of refugee seats is likely to make the security situation volatile in the region in

the coming days. The killing of innocent civilians by Pakistani security forces in PoK has also evoked a sharp reaction from the Kashmiri diaspora living in the UK and other countries, including Canada, Denmark, Australia, Germany, and the US.

People have been protesting outside the Pakistani missions in the cities of the UK, including London, Manchester, Bradford, and Birmingham, which has attracted significant international attention.

The British Kashmiris, including women, children and foreigners, on July 5 participated in the London Long March, which emanated from Parliament Square and culminated at Pakistan's High Commission in London.

Apart from members of the Kashmiri diaspora, leaders from other dissident groups, including Baloch nationalists, the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) UK chapter, and the World Sindhi Congress, also joined the solidarity long march and raised slogans against the Pakistani army. More than 10,000 people participated in the march.

Israeli FM says next round of talks
with Lebanon to be held in Rome

JERUSALEM, JULY 7

The next round of talks between Israel and Lebanon is expected to take place in Rome, Italy, next week, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said on Tuesday. The meeting will mark the sixth round of negotiations between the two countries, following five ambassador-level talks held in Washington since April.

Sa'ar did not specify the exact date. Several Israeli media outlets quoted Israel's ambassador to the United States, Yechiel Leiter, as saying that the talks are expected to begin next Tuesday in Rome, Xinhua news agency reported.

Speaking at a meeting in Jerusalem alongside his German counterpart Johann Wadephul, Sa'ar said Israel seeks peace with its neighbours, but any agreement must be based on "security."

The previous round, held in late June, ended with a framework agreement covering the withdrawal of Israeli forces from two areas in southern Lebanon, where Israeli forces are still conducting operations against Hezbollah.



EAM Jaishankar
arrives in Kuwait, looks
forward to engagements

KUWAIT, JULY 7

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived in Kuwait on Tuesday as part of his official visit to the Arab nation. Jaishankar wrote on X that he thanked Deputy Foreign Minister Hamad Suleiman Mashaan Al-Mashaan for the warm reception on his arrival in Kuwait and looked forward to his engagements.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar met with Bahrain's Deputy Prime Minister Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation across various sectors. He posted on X after the meeting that it was a pleasure to meet the deputy prime minister, and that they discussed taking forward bilateral cooperation across various sectors and exchanged views on the regional situation.

On Monday, Jaishankar called on Bahrain King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and conveyed personal greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He expressed gratitude to the King for ensuring the safety and well-being of the Indian community in Bahrain. Jaishankar posted on X that he was honoured

to have an audience with the King of Bahrain 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 Murmu and PM 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, hearing their experiences and suggestions for deepening bilateral ties. He wrote on X that he was pleased to interact with members of the Indian community in Bahrain, who have made deep contributions to Bahraini society and have served as a living bridge between India and Bahrain.

He listened to their experiences and suggestions for deepening the India-Bahrain partnership. Jaishankar arrived in Kuwait after concluding his engagements in Bahrain and Qatar. This is the third stop of his six-nation visit. After concluding his engagements in Bahrain, he is scheduled to travel to Oman, the US and Brussels.

India's UN Mission building
evacuated after parts of
nearby tower begin to buckle

NEW YORK, JULY 7

India's UN Mission building was evacuated on Tuesday after part of a tower across the street buckled, threatening nearby structures. A source said everyone at the 27-storey mission building was safe and that they left the building when they were informed that a city evacuation order was coming.

The building, with a red sandstone facade, includes housing for the families of mission staff, as well as offices and conference facilities.

The mission building itself was safe as of noon local time on Tuesday, and the evacuation order for the mission building was only a precautionary measure. The problem arose at Pfizer's former world headquarters, which is now being converted into a residential building.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani said many tall buildings in the area are also being evacuated. He added that luckily there have been no injuries to report at this time, and all workers are accounted for.

Officials said beams on the 21st and 22nd floors of the Pfizer building began to buckle on Tuesday morning, endangering the safety of the upper floors up to the 26th, which started to sag, raising fears of a major collapse. Bricks and other building material fell on 42nd Street, on which Times Square and Grand Central Terminal are located, but further west.

Vast swathes of 42nd Street and 43rd Street, where the mission is located, have been barricaded by police. Closures also extended to other streets in the area, a prime area for hotels and offices.



Meanwhile, Antonino Tajani, Foreign Minister of Italy, has welcomed the choice of Rome as the next venue for US-facilitated direct peace negotiations between Lebanon and Israel, calling the Italian capital "a crossroads of peace and dialogue".

Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani has welcomed the choice of Rome as the next venue for US-facilitated direct peace negotiations between Lebanon and Israel, calling the Italian capital "a crossroads of peace and dialogue", Italian news agency Adnkronos reported.

"Rome, crossroads of peace

and dialogue. We warmly welcome the announcement that the next round of talks between Israel and Lebanon, facilitated by the United States, will be held in Rome," Tajani wrote on X.

"Last April, I had communicated to the Lebanese and Israeli Governments Italy's willingness to support the dialogue for peace in the region and to serve as the venue for the negotiations.

A choice stemming from the strong diplomatic commitment of our Government, its authoritative and credible role on the international political scene," he added.





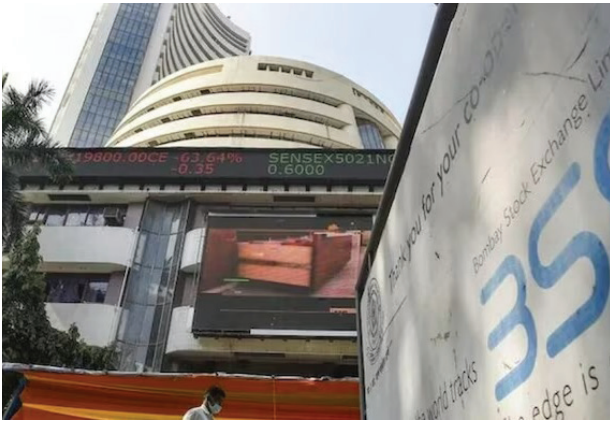
Karnataka govt to boost tier 2, 3 cities to stop urban migration: CM Shivakumar

KALABURAGI (KARNATAKA): (JUL 7)

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday said his government has decided to promote industries in tier 2 and 3 cities with an aim to generate local employment and prevent rural migration to urban centers. He said the government is also giving priority to setting up CSR-funded schools in rural areas to provide quality education. "Our objective is to encourage industries in tier 2 and 3 cities to create employment opportunities. We want people in rural areas to find jobs where they live instead of migrating to cities. To achieve this, we have taken several initiatives," Shivakumar said.

Sensex, Nifty snap 4-day rally as profit booking offsets IT surge; Trent down 12%

Benchmark indices ended slightly lower on Tuesday as profit booking offset strong gains in IT shares. Caution ahead of the US Fed minutes and the earnings season kept sentiment measured, even as the rupee strengthened.



ward market triggered short covering.

IT STOCKS BUCK THE TREND

Information technology stocks continued their rebound for the second straight session ahead of the Q1 earnings season, emerging as the biggest support for the market. The Nifty IT index gained 2.43%. Among Sensex constituents, HCLTech surged 3.08%, while Tech Mahindra and Infosys gained 2.81% each. TCS rose 1.82%, helping cushion losses in the benchmark indices.

The rally comes after the sector witnessed a sharp correction last week, with investors turning optimistic on easing concerns around US interest rates and attractive valuations ahead of earnings. Retail major Trent was the biggest laggard of the day, plunging 12.42% after its June quarter business update fell short of Street expectations, triggering heavy profit booking. Other notable losers included Adani Ports, which declined 1.63%, BEL, down 1.54%, LT, which lost 1.19%, Reliance Industries, down 1.12%, ICICI Bank, which slipped 0.81%, Asian Paints,

down 0.76%, NTPC, which fell 0.65%, and Tata Steel, which declined 0.58%. The broader market also witnessed selling pressure. The Nifty 100 fell 0.22%, Nifty 200 declined 0.23%, Nifty 500 lost 0.28%, Nifty Midcap 100 slipped 0.30%, and Nifty Smallcap 100 dropped 0.55%. The Nifty Midcap 50 ended flat, while India VIX eased 1.43%.

SECTORAL PERFORMANCE REMAINED MIXED

Sectoral indices presented a mixed picture. Apart from IT, gains were seen in Nifty Consumer Durables, which rose 0.89%, Nifty MidSmall IT & Telecom, up 1.05%, Nifty Financial Services, which gained 0.14%, Nifty Healthcare, up 0.28%, Nifty Pharma, which advanced 0.73%, Nifty PSU Bank, up 0.43%, and Nifty FMCG, which edged up 0.06%. On the losing side, Nifty Realty fell 1.58%, Nifty Metal declined 1.10%, Nifty Chemicals lost 0.91%, Nifty Healthcare 500 slipped 0.79%, Nifty MidSmall Healthcare declined 0.78%, Nifty Media

lost 0.74%, Nifty Healthcare Index fell 0.83%, Nifty Oil & Gas slipped 0.11%, Nifty Auto edged down 0.04%, Nifty Financial Services 25/50 declined 0.06%, Nifty Private Bank fell 0.15%, Nifty Consumer Durables Ex-Bank lost 0.29%, while Nifty MidSmall Financial Services declined 0.38%. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Profit booking emerged in the latter half of the session as weakness across Asian markets and investor caution ahead of the US Fed minutes weighed on sentiment. However, IT stocks continued to lend support, extending gains ahead of the June-quarter earnings season as the sector recovered from recent corrections." "With concerns around the US-Iran conflict and trade tariffs easing, market focus is shifting towards Q1FY27 earnings and the progress of the monsoon. Meanwhile, improving FII inflows and a stable rupee are expected to provide near-term support to overall market sentiment," he added.

Reliance's Strand Life Sciences Secures Landmark Indian Patent

for Blood-based Early Cancer Detection Technology
The patent covers a cell-free DNA analysis platform that enables early cancer detection from a blood test

BENGALURU, 7 JULY 2026

Strand Life Sciences, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, today announced the grant of an Indian patent covering its integrated platform for early cancer detection using cell-free DNA (cfDNA) analysis. The patented platform brings together high-quality sequencing, rigorous quality control, biologically informed methylation and fragmentomic feature extraction, and machine learning to enable cancer detection and tissue-of-origin prediction from just a blood sample. Widespread methylation pattern changes across the genome are a hallmark of cancer. A key innovation in the patent, among others, is obtaining these methylation patterns using genome sequencing with minimal loss or failure, thus enabling sensitive early cancer detection.

More than 1.5 million new cancer cases are estimated to occur annually, and unfortunately a large number of patients are still diagnosed at advanced stages, when treatment options are limited and outcomes are significantly poorer. Early detection has the potential to shift diagnoses to earlier stages. Current guideline-recommended screening covers only a small fraction of cancers and is not easy to scale. With decreasing costs of sequencing, the patented platform can potentially enable early detection at scale without expanding local infrastructure. "Early detection is an increasingly relevant topic as cancer is becoming one of India's greatest public health challenges. This patent reflects our commitment to developing scientifically rigorous, AI-enabled liquid biopsy technologies that can help detect cancer earlier from a simple blood sample. We believe this innovation represents an important step towards making precision cancer screening more accurate, scalable, and accessible," said Ramesh Hariharan, CEO, Strand Life Sciences.

Rasna Targets ₹1,000-Crore Premium

RTD Market with Nationwide Launch of Jumpin 1-Litre Family Pack
MUMBAI, JULY 6, 2026

Rasna Pvt. Ltd., the world's largest manufacturer of instant beverages, has strengthened its presence in India's fast-growing ready-to-drink (RTD) beverage segment with the nationwide launch of the Jumpin 1-litre Tetra Pak family pack. Through this expansion, the company is targeting the estimated ₹1,000-crore premium RTD fruit nectar market, driven by increasing consumer demand for high-fruit-content, vitamin-fortified beverages. The new 1-litre family pack complements Rasna's existing 125 ml and 200 ml Jumpin portfolio and has been developed to meet the evolving preferences of Indian families seeking nutritious, convenient and premium beverage options. The product contains high fruit content and is fortified with 10 essential vitamins and minerals, including Vitamin C. The Jumpin 1-litre family pack is priced at ₹110 and is now available across modern retail outlets, e-commerce platforms, quick-commerce channels and other retail formats nationwide. Rasna also offers 125 ml single-serve packs in Mango, Litchi and Orange flavours at ₹10, while 200 ml Tetra Pak cartons in Mango and Mixed Fruit variants are priced at ₹20. The beverages are packed in internationally acclaimed Tetra Pak cartons manufactured in India



under the Government's 'Make in India' initiative, reinforcing Rasna's commitment to indigenous sourcing and manufacturing. Speaking on the launch, Mr. Piruz Khambatta, Group Chairman, Rasna Pvt. Ltd., said, "Jumpin represents our vision of bringing international-quality fruit beverages to Indian consumers at an affordable price while staying true to our 'Make in India' philosophy. All the fruits used in Jumpin are sourced and processed in India, and the product is packed in safe, high-quality Tetra Pak packaging manufactured in India. We have focused on delivering superior taste, real fruit goodness and essential nutrition, creating a beverage that appeals to modern families while supporting Indian farmers, processors and manufacturing ecosystems. Our specially developed Orange variant, crafted to suit children's taste preferences, reflects our continued commitment to innovation and consumer-centric product development." Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Cassio Simões, Managing Director, Tetra Pak South Asia, said, "Indian consumers are increasingly seeking safe, convenient and high-quality beverage options that fit seamlessly into their daily lives. The launch of Jumpin in the 1-litre Tetra Pak carton reflects this evolving demand, combining all these qualities in a package designed for modern households. We are proud to partner with Rasna in bringing this new range to consumers across India while supporting the country's growing food and beverage ecosystem through packaging solutions manufactured in India."

R|Elan Circular Design Challenge Unites Global Fashion in Paris

PARIS, FRANCE, 7 JULY 2026

R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge (CDC), the flagship circular fashion initiative by R|Elan™, the United Nations in India and Lakmé Fashion Week, successfully convened its European Jury on 5 July 2026 with an exclusive cocktail evening at Le Meurice, Paris, on the eve of Paris Haute Couture Week. The event marked a significant milestone under the India–France Year of Innovation 2026 and was hosted in collaboration with the Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode (FHCM) and the Embassy of France in India. Bringing together leading voices from global fashion, sustainability and creative industries, the European Jury evaluated six outstanding semi-finalists advancing design innovation in circular fashion. Against the backdrop of Le Meurice, the celebration featured keynote addresses by Pascal Morand, Executive President, Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode (FHCM) and Jaspreet Chandok, Group Vice President, Reliance Brands Limited, each reflecting on the growing partnership between France and India in advancing circular fashion and recognising the opportunities created for emerging talent by R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge. The distinguished European Jury comprised of Pascale Mussard (Vice-President, The Fondation Hermès; President,



Villa Noailles), Sara Sozzani Maino (Creative Director, Fondazione Sozzani), Serge Carreira (Director, Emerging Brands Initiative, Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode), Diane Pernet (Founder & Director, ASVOF), Anne-Gaëlle Lamort (Sustainability Innovation Lead, Kering) and Katell Pouliquen (Editorial Director, Marie Claire France). Representing some of Europe's most promising emerging voices, the six semi-finalists who presented to the jury showcased diverse approaches to responsible design, material innovation and craftsmanship. Coccellato (France), founded by Iman Coccellato, reimagines contemporary eveningwear through timeless silhouettes crafted exclusively from deadstock luxury fabrics, elevating existing materials through exceptional artisanal craftsmanship. Yoshita 1967 (France), founded by Anil Padia, presented a people-first approach to circularity, combining artisan-led production, handmade techniques and cross-cultural collaboration across Nairobi, Paris and Delhi to preserve traditional craft while creating meaningful social impact. Representing Germany and Ukraine, PLNGNS, founded by Dmytro Hontarenko, showcased an experimental circular ecosystem that transforms discarded sneakers and fashion waste into innovative genderless streetwear, demonstrating how waste can become the foundation for an entirely new design language. Paris-based designer Matthieu Ruiz explored the intersection of natural dyeing, deadstock textiles and artisanal craftsmanship, creating garments that reconnect people with materials, place and heritage while embracing longevity as a design principle. Portugal's BÉHEN, founded by Joana Duarte, celebrated the enduring relevance of traditional craftsmanship through the thoughtful transformation of antique textiles, regional embroidery and deadstock materials into contemporary womenswear. Meanwhile, Italian label FLO-RANIA, founded by Flora Rabbiti, showcased a regenerative

approach to design, combining discarded garments, innovative fibres and material research to redefine contemporary Made in Italy through circular systems and social innovation. A defining moment of the evening came with the announcement of Yoshita 1967, founded by Anil Padia as the European Finalist, as the designer joined the jury, programme partners and stakeholders on stage celebrating the programme's continued global journey. Mr. Rakesh Bali, Sr. Vice President - PetChem, Reliance Industries Limited said, "Congratulations to Yoshita 1967 by Anil Padia on being named the European Finalist. His work reflects the spirit of the R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge — proof that circularity can be a powerful engine for creativity. At Reliance, through R|Elan™, we are proud to nurture emerging talent across the fashion value chain, from the fibres we engineer to the global platforms we create for the designers shaping fashion's more sustainable future."

Anil Padia, Founder of Yoshita 1967, added, "I am honoured to be selected as the European Finalist for the R|Elan™ Circular Design Challenge 2026. France has played a defining role in my creative journey since I moved to Paris in 2013 to study at the École de la Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture Parisienne (now Institut Français de la Mode). Over the past five years, I have built my practice between France and Nairobi, inspired by diverse cultures and a shared commitment to responsible craftsmanship. This recognition reinforces our belief in the power of circularity to shape the future of fashion. I am grateful to the distinguished jury and look forward to representing Europe at the Grand Jury in India later this year." The evening witnessed the presence of established voices from India & France like Rahul Mishra, Gaurav Gupta, Manish Malhotra, Hema Bose, Christoph Rumpf and representatives from leading French fashion houses, academia and media showcasing their support not only for this pivotal partnership but also to emerging talent. Pascal Morand, Executive President, Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode (FHCM) added, "We are very proud to be a partner with this program because of the incredible work it is doing. It was a great jury, and selecting the winner was very difficult given the high caliber of participants. As we look at fashion and couture, we see so much creativity and art, but also new changes with emerging business models and materials. It is essential not only to celebrate creativity but also to identify true innovation. I am also very happy to see the growing relationship between France and India becoming stronger and more developed."

KAARV Invests \$4M After 30-Day Pitch

Dubai, UAE : In a remarkable milestone for cross-border innovation and entrepreneurship, KAARV IT Consultancy FZ-LLC, a healthcare technology company incorporated in the Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ), UAE, unveiled KAARV Milestone 1.0 at the exclusive ICIE (International Council for Innovators & Entrepreneurs) Deal Room held in Dubai. The event brought together international investors, representatives from the Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ), Emirati business leaders, entrepreneurs, innovation ecosystem leaders, and global dignitaries for an exclusive closed-door engagement focused on innovation, strategic partnerships, and global growth opportunities. For Raghunath Rapeen (Raghu), Founder of KAARV, the occasion marked the beginning of a new chapter after nearly two years of relentless perseverance. Having returned from the United Kingdom with a patented healthcare innovation, Raghu spent years refining his



vision and searching for the right opportunities to take his innovation to the global stage. The turning point came when he became part of the global ecosystem led by Sundee Makthala. Through the Explore to Expand international business missions, Raghu travelled with Sundee to Singapore and later to the United Arab Emirates, where he gained access to leading innovation ecosystems, government agencies, investors, and business leaders. During the Singapore mission, Raghu participated in strategic engagements with the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), interacted with senior officials from the



High Commission of India, attended one of Singapore's premier AI and technology events, and connected with global innovation leaders. The journey continued in the UAE, where he visited leading innovation hubs, engaged with senior representatives from RAKEZ, met Emirati business leaders, participated in high-level business discussions, and presented KAARV before international investors. Within a span of just 30 days, the journey culminated in an international investment commitment valued at USD 4 million, marking a significant milestone in KAARV's global growth journey and reflecting strong confidence in the company's vision and future potential.

Speaking on the occasion, Raghunath Rappin said: "Two years ago, I had a dream and a belief in my innovation, but I was searching for the right direction. Meeting Sundee Makthala changed my journey. Over the last 30 days, he personally mentored me, refined my approach, strengthened my pitch, introduced me to global ecosystems, governments, investors, and business leaders, and stood beside me throughout the journey. This milestone is not just about investment—it is about belief, trust, preparation, and the opportunities that come when the right ecosystem supports an entrepreneur." Addressing the gathering, Sundee Makthala, Chairman of ICIE – International Council for Innovators & Entrepreneurs, said: "Every entrepreneur deserves an opportunity to be seen on the global stage. Our mission is to identify promising innovators, prepare them for international markets, connect them with the right ecosystem, and create opportunities that can transform their journey. KAARV's milestone reflects what becomes possible when vision, perseverance, and global collaboration come together." The unveiling of KAARV Milestone 1.0 symbolized more than a corporate achievement—it celebrated the journey of an entrepreneur who transformed years of determination into global opportunity through mentorship, preparation, and international collaboration. The ICIE Deal Room, hosted in Dubai as A Makthala Initiative, concluded with strategic networking sessions between founders, investors, government representatives, and business leaders, further

strengthening ICIE's vision of building a global platform that connects innovation with capital, partnerships, and international markets. As ICIE continues to expand its global footprint, the organization reaffirmed its commitment to supporting innovators and entrepreneurs through mentorship, international exposure, strategic partnerships, investor engagement, and market access, enabling more visionary founders to transform their ideas into globally impactful enterprises. About ICIE ICIE – International Council for Innovators & Entrepreneurs is a global platform dedicated to transforming innovators into entrepreneurs by fostering international collaborations, mentorship, strategic partnerships, investment opportunities, and global market access. Under the leadership of Sundee Makthala, ICIE continues to connect innovators, governments, investors, and industry leaders to build a thriving global innovation ecosystem.

Government denies reports of E25 petrol rollout, says no decision taken yet

Government sources have categorically denied reports suggesting that E25 petrol is set to be introduced in India, clarifying that no policy decision has been taken and that testing is still in progress. Officials stressed that there is "absolutely no need to worry" about the existing E20 petrol programme, which has been rolled out across the country after extensive scientific testing and validation. They said the transition to ethanol-blended fuel has followed a phased, evidence-based approach rather than a sudden policy change. According to the sources, compatibility tests for E25 fuel are currently being conducted across various automobile manufacturers and vehicle models. The government is yet to receive the final test reports, and any decision to increase ethanol blending beyond the current level will depend entirely on scientific findings related to engine safety, vehicle performance and long-term durability. Officials noted that India's ethanol blending

programme has been implemented gradually, with E15 introduced in April 2023, E19 in April 2024 and E20 in April 2025. Each phase was rolled out only after consultations with automobile manufacturers, oil marketing companies and technical experts. The government also highlighted the widespread adoption of ethanol-blended petrol, stating that nearly 20 crore petrol-powered two-wheelers and around 20 lakh petrol-powered four-wheelers are already using the fuel without major technical concerns. Urging the public not to believe speculative reports, officials reiterated that any future move toward E25 would be based solely on scientific evidence and regulatory approvals. They also alleged that misinformation surrounding ethanol blending appears to be an attempt to create unnecessary panic and undermine India's long-term strategy of reducing dependence on imported crude oil by increasing the use of domestically produced ethanol.



India's Rural Jobs Overhaul

The VB-G RAM G Act replaces MGNREGA with a new rural employment framework, increasing guaranteed workdays to 125 while introducing allocation-based funding, greater digital oversight and a revised Centre-State funding model that has sparked a nationwide debate over workers' rights and federalism.

India's rural employment landscape is witnessing one of its biggest policy shifts in more than two decades. On July 1, 2026, the Government of India officially implemented the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, commonly referred to as the VB-G RAM G Act. The new legislation replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which had served as the country's flagship rural employment programme since 2005.

The transition represents far more than a change in name. It introduces a new philosophy of rural development that places greater emphasis on productivity, infrastructure creation, digital governance and performance-based funding. According to the Union government,

the Act aligns rural employment with the broader vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047," seeking to transform wage employment into a catalyst for long-term economic development.

However, the rollout has triggered intense political debate. Several opposition parties, state governments, civil society organisations and labour rights activists argue that the new law fundamentally alters the legal guarantee that made MGNREGA unique. They contend that the legislation centralises decision-making, shifts financial burdens to states and weakens local self-governance.

As India begins implementing the new framework, the VB-G RAM G Act has become a major test of cooperative federalism, fiscal management and the future of social welfare.

Why the Government Replaced MGNREGA

- When MGNREGA was introduced in 2005, it was hailed as one of the world's largest employment guarantee programmes. Every rural household willing to perform unskilled manual labour had a legal right to receive up to 100 days of work annually. If employment was not provided within 15 days of demand, workers became eligible for unemployment allowance.
- For over two decades, the scheme played an important role in providing livelihood security, especially during droughts, economic downturns and the COVID-19 pandemic. It also created millions of

public assets ranging from ponds and roads to irrigation canals and water conservation structures.

- The Centre argues that while the programme achieved its social objectives, it also faced persistent challenges including delayed payments, duplication of beneficiaries, leakages, weak planning and uneven quality of assets. According to the government, the VB-G RAM G Act is designed to modernise rural employment by combining wage generation with infrastructure development, technology-driven monitoring and better financial discipline.



Key Features of the VB-G RAM G Act

Employment Guarantee Increased to 125 Days The most visible change under the new law is the increase in the statutory employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days per financial year for every eligible rural household. The government believes the additional 25 days of guaranteed employment will increase household income, strengthen purchasing power and reduce distress migration from villages to cities. Officials also argue that the longer employment period will allow workers to participate in larger infrastructure projects that require sustained labour over extended periods.

Introduction of a 60-Day Agricultural Pause

Another significant provision is the introduction of a combined 60-day no-work period during peak agricultural seasons. State governments have been empowered to suspend employment works during crucial sowing and harvesting periods when farmers often face acute labour shortages. The objective is to prevent government employment programmes from competing with agricultural operations for workers. Although employment may be paused during these periods, the full 125-day guarantee must still be provided during the remaining part of the year.

Supporters say the measure will strengthen agricultural productivity, while critics argue that rural workers may lose an important source of income precisely when seasonal farm work is unavailable in some regions.

A Shift from Demand-Driven Employment

Perhaps the most fundamental transformation introduced by the Act is the replacement of the demand-driven funding model. Under MGNREGA, every eligible rural worker possessed a legal right to demand employment. Once work was requested, the government was obligated to provide it within 15 days regardless of budgetary considerations. The VB-G RAM G Act replaces this open-ended commitment with a normative allocation model. Instead of funding every demand for work, the Centre now allocates funds to states based on socio-economic indicators, development priorities and performance metrics. Employment generation is therefore linked to approved annual allocations rather than unlimited statutory demand. The government argues that this approach introduces fiscal discipline

and allows more efficient use of public resources. Opponents, however, argue that it fundamentally changes the nature of the programme by making employment dependent on budget availability instead of legal entitlement.

Technology-Driven Governance

Technology occupies a central place in the new framework. The Act mandates the use of multiple digital platforms for planning, implementation and monitoring.

These include:

- Spatial planning through the Yukt-dhara portal
- Integration with PM Gati Shakti infrastructure planning
- Digital attendance using the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS)
- Facial recognition-based worker verification
- Aadhaar-enabled wage payments
- Geo-tagging of completed assets

The Centre says these measures will reduce corruption, eliminate fake beneficiaries and improve transparency.

The emphasis reflects a broader shift towards digital governance across government welfare programmes.

Why States and Opposition Parties Are Objecting

Despite the government's claims, implementation has been met with sharp resistance from several opposition-led states including West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Jharkhand.

Their objections extend beyond administrative concerns and touch upon larger constitutional questions regarding federalism, fiscal autonomy and the legal rights of rural workers.

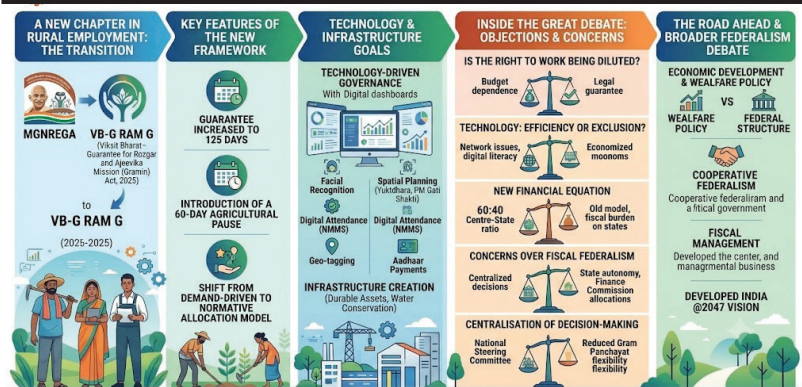
Is the Right to Work Being Diluted?

The biggest criticism concerns the removal of the demand-driven guarantee. Under the earlier framework, rural workers could legally demand employment whenever required. If work was unavailable, they could seek unemployment allowance. The new allocation-based system changes that relationship. Critics argue that if a state's annual allocation is exhausted due to drought, floods, economic distress or unexpectedly high demand, additional employment may not be available unless the state finances it independently. Civil society groups including the NREGA Sangharsh Morcha argue that this transforms employment from a legally enforceable right into a programme dependent on budget ceilings.

The Road Ahead

The implementation of the VB-G RAM G Act marks a defining moment in India's rural development policy. States have been given a six-month transition period to align their administrative systems, financial structures and implementation mechanisms with the new legislation.

How effectively they adapt will determine whether the programme achieves its stated objectives or deepens existing Centre-State tensions. The coming years will test whether technology-driven governance can coexist with inclusiveness, whether fiscal discipline can be balanced with employment guarantees, and whether national planning can complement rather than replace local decision-making.



barriers disproportionately affect elderly workers, tribal communities and people living in remote villages. According to them, digital verification should complement rather than replace traditional verification mechanisms.

Technology: Efficiency or Exclusion?

Another major concern relates to digital implementation. The Act relies heavily on smartphones, internet connectivity, biometric authentication and facial recognition technologies. While officials argue that digital monitoring prevents fraud and improves accountability, critics say the system overlooks ground realities. Large parts of rural and tribal India continue to face poor mobile connectivity, unreliable electricity and limited digital literacy. Workers whose biometric authentication fails or whose attendance cannot be uploaded because of network failures risk losing wages despite physically reporting for work. Labour rights organisations argue that technological

For the government, the Act is intended to transform rural employment into a foundation for building modern infrastructure and supporting the vision of a developed India by 2047. For critics, it raises fundamental concerns about workers' rights, fiscal federalism and democratic decentralisation.

Ultimately, the success of the VB-G RAM G Mission will depend not only on the number of workdays generated or assets created, but also on whether it can preserve the spirit of social protection while embracing administrative reform. The debate over the Act is therefore not merely about a rural employment scheme—it is about the evolving relationship between economic development, welfare policy and the federal structure of the Indian Union

argue that the additional expenditure comes at a time when they already face mounting commitments towards healthcare, education, irrigation, welfare schemes and infrastructure development.

Concerns Over Fiscal Federalism

The controversy extends beyond cost-sharing. The Centre's allocation formula incorporates recommendations linked to the 16th Finance Commission, with considerable weight assigned to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) Distance, which seeks to direct more resources towards economically weaker states. While poorer states may receive relatively larger allocations, several industrialised and middle-income states argue that the formula fails to adequately account for their large migrant populations and substantial rural labour force. Another provision has generated even greater concern. If employment demand exceeds the Centre's approved normative allocation, the additional expenditure must be financed entirely by the state government. Finance ministers from several states argue that this provision may force them to divert resources from other critical sectors to sustain rural employment. Given borrowing restrictions under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, many states say their fiscal flexibility is already limited.

Centralisation of Decision-Making

Another major debate revolves around governance. MGNREGA was built on the principle of decentralisation established under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. Gram Sabhas played the primary role in identifying local priorities and preparing annual work plans. Village communities could decide whether they needed ponds, village roads, irrigation channels, check dams or other public assets. The VB-G RAM G framework significantly increases central oversight. A 16-member National Steering Committee headed by the Union Rural Development Secretary now exercises broad authority over policy formulation, fund allocation, implementation guidelines and performance monitoring. Only five positions on the committee are reserved for rotating state representatives, leading several states to argue that they have inadequate participation in decision-making.

Changing Nature of Rural Works

The Act also narrows the range of permissible activities by prioritising nationally

identified development objectives. Water conservation, climate resilience and rural infrastructure receive significant emphasis. More than 100 approved activities focus on water security alone. Supporters argue that concentrating resources on scientifically planned infrastructure will produce durable public assets with measurable economic benefits. Critics counter that villages have diverse local needs which cannot always be captured through centrally designed templates. Gram Panchayats now have reduced flexibility because proposed projects must align with spatial planning platforms and central approval mechanisms.

Performance-Based Funding

The Act introduces performance-linked incentives and penalties.

Future funding depends on compliance with various administrative indicators including:

- Timely social audits
- Geo-tagging of completed assets
- Digital attendance compliance
- Project completion rates
- Financial reporting standards

States or local bodies failing to meet prescribed benchmarks risk delays or reductions in subsequent funding releases. Supporters say this promotes accountability. Opponents argue that financially weaker states may face a vicious cycle in which administrative constraints further reduce available resources.

The Broader Federalism Debate

The controversy surrounding the VB-G RAM G Act reflects competing visions of governance. The Centre views the legislation as an essential reform that modernises rural employment by linking wage generation with productive infrastructure, digital transparency and long-term development goals. From this perspective, increasing employment guarantees to 125 days while investing in water conservation, climate resilience and rural infrastructure represents a transition from short-term relief towards sustainable rural growth. Opposition parties and many state governments see the reforms differently. They argue that replacing demand-driven funding with budget-based allocations weakens workers' legal rights, shifts substantial financial burdens onto states and concentrates decision-making within central institutions at the expense of local governments. The debate therefore extends beyond employment policy to larger questions about India's constitutional balance between the Union and the states.



TG20 Season 1

Tanmay's second ton confirms playoff spot for Karimnagar Diamonds



HYDERABAD: Skipper Tanmay Agarwal led the way with a sensational century to guide EIPL & eleve Karimnagar Diamonds into the playoffs with a commanding 73-run victory over Palamuru Strikers in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's TG20's first match in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Tanmay scored his second ton of the tournament, registering a brilliant 109 off 58 balls to help Diamonds post 216/5 with support from Satvik Reddy (32 off 22) and Narayana Teja (23* off 8). Shubham Sharma (3/16) and Rathlavah Dinesh (3/27) starred in the bowling department to help Diamonds secure their playoff spot. With this result, three teams for the TG20 playoffs have been confirmed. Ranga Reddy Fishers, who are scheduled to play against Warangal Warriors in the second game of the day, will need a miracle to leapfrog Anurag Nalgonda Knights, who are currently in fourth place.

IPL 2026

Fatima Sana to miss Sri Lanka T20Is for Women's Hundred



LAHORE: Pakistan women's captain Fatima Sana has received permission from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to skip the T20I leg of the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka in order to fulfil her commitments with Birmingham Phoenix in the Women's Hundred. However, the 24-year-old all-rounder will remain with the national team for the three-match ODI series in Sri Lanka, which is part of the ICC Women's Championship. After the final ODI on July 28, she will travel directly from Hambantota to England to link up with Birmingham Phoenix for the remainder of the tournament. Sana created history last month by becoming the first Pakistani woman cricketer to earn a contract in the Women's Hundred after Birmingham Phoenix signed her through the competition's wildcard draft. She was brought in as a replacement for Australian player Lucy Hamilton.

La Liga president slams FIFA over Balogun ban reversal

MADRID, JULY 7

La Liga president Javier Tebas has become the latest football administrator to criticise FIFA over its decision to suspend the one-match World Cup ban imposed on United States striker Folarin Balogun, describing the episode as "the tip of the iceberg" of what he called a governance model that has steadily eroded the credibility of world football. Balogun was shown a straight red card after a VAR review for a challenge on Bosnia and Herzegovina defender Tarik Muharemovic during the United States' Round of 32 victory, resulting in an automatic one-match suspension. However, FIFA later suspended the sanction for a one-year probationary period, allowing the Arsenal forward to feature in the co-hosts' Round of 16 clash against Belgium on Tuesday. Despite Balogun's availability, the United States suffered a 4-1 defeat to Belgium, ending their FIFA World Cup

campaign. In a strongly worded statement, Tebas said the controversy reflected deeper structural issues within FIFA rather than being an isolated disciplinary decision. "The waiver of the sanction on U.S. player Balogun is neither an anecdote nor an isolated error. It is, quite simply, the tip of the iceberg of a governance model that has been eroding the credibility of FIFA and football in general for many years," Tebas wrote on X. He argued that football's governing body had increasingly interpreted or altered rules for convenience while failing to engage with domestic leagues, which he said form the backbone of professional football throughout the year. "When rules can be interpreted or modified as convenient; when the most consequential decisions are made without genuine dialogue and agreement with national and domestic leagues... the problem stops being a specific resolution and becomes the system itself.

England crush India by 125 runs to take commanding 2-0 lead



NOTTINGHAM, JULY 7

England produced a clinical all-round performance to thrash Team India by 125 runs in the third T20I at Trent Bridge, taking a commanding 2-0 lead in the five-match series after the opening game was washed out. With two more matches to go, England can't lose this series against the reigning T20 World Cup winner. Asked to bat first, England piled up an imposing 201/7 in their 20 overs, riding on a fluent 70 off 44 balls from Phil Salt. The opener struck aggressively at the top before Sam Curran's late cameo of 41 off just 24 deliveries ensured the hosts crossed the 200-run mark. Jos Buttler chipped in with 36, while England recovered well despite losing a couple of quick wickets in the middle overs. For India, debutant Prince Yadav was the standout bowler, claiming 2-30 and making an immediate impact by dismissing Harry Brook and later removing the dangerous Salt. The visitors also effected three run-outs but failed to contain England's scoring rate in the death overs. In reply, India's batting crumbled under sustained pressure from En-

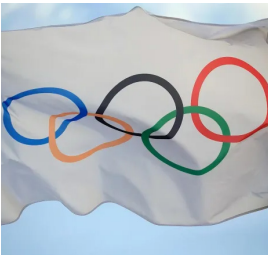
gland's pace attack. Chasing 202, the visitors were bundled out for just 76 in 11.4 overs, suffering one of their heaviest defeats in T20I cricket. England's bowlers struck regularly, leaving India with no opportunity to build partnerships as wickets fell in clusters throughout the innings. The comprehensive victory gives England complete control of the series, while India must win the remaining two matches to avoid a series defeat. Prince Yadav and Harshit Rana claimed two wickets each, but England rode on a 43-ball 70 by opener Phil Salt and some late hitting by Sam Curran (41*) to post a challenging 201/7 in 20 overs in the crucial third T20I of the five-match series at Trent Bridge in Nottingham on Tuesday. Yadav, who was brought in place of Ravi Bishnoi for his first match against England, claimed his first two international wickets in claiming 2-30 while Rana bagged two in two balls in the middle overs for 2-40 as India fought back after Salt and Jos Buttler (38) had given the hosts a slow but good start in what is a must-win match for the visitors who have lost the second match in Manchester after the first

game was abandoned without a result because of heavy rains. They reached 49/1 in the Power-play with Buttler back in the den after being castled by him with a yorker, which deflected off the batter's toes onto the leg stump, for his first wicket. The pacer from Uttar Pradesh then got England captain Harry Brook, getting him to offer a catch to Abhishek Sharma for 16 off 12 balls. Rana then got into the act, taking the wickets of dangerman Jacob Bethell (13) and Tom Banton off successive balls as England slipped to 111/4 at the 12th end of the 12th over. Salt, who had kept going from the other end, raised 47 runs for the fifth wicket with Curran, going on to reach his fifty in 36 balls, hitting six boundaries and one six. He was eventually out for 70 off 43 balls, caught by Arshdeep Singh off Axar Patel. He slammed seven fours and three sixes, claiming 18 runs in one over before Axar had the last laugh. Curran then took over the mantle of scoring quick runs for England, hammering four fours in his 24-ball 41 not out. Will Jacks struck a couple of sixes in his 14 off seven balls to help propel England past 200.

IOC provisionally lifts suspension of Russian Olympic Committee

LAUSANNE, JULY 7

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has provisionally lifted the suspension of the Russian Olympic Committee that had been in effect since October 2023. However, the Russian athletes returning to international competition must be part of a national (RUSADA/ROC) anti-doping programme (including risk assessment, test distribution plan, and results management) that is delegated to the International Testing Agency (ITA), the IOC decided. "The decision was taken following a thorough analysis by the IOC's Legal Affairs Commission, considering that the ROC no longer includes as its members any regional sports organisations in territories falling



under the jurisdiction of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine," the IOC said in a statement. "IOC will take a decision in relation to the display of the Russian flag, anthem, colours or any identifications for the Olympic Games at the appropriate time," the statement added. The IOC said it will continue to "not organise IOC events in Russia or invite Russian government or state officials to its events." With the qualification period for both the LA28

Olympic Games and the Dohomi Valtellina 2028 Winter Youth Olympic Games having started, and the need to offer equal access to these competitions to all athletes, the IOC EB decided that its recommendation to International Federations (IFs) and international sports event organisers, first issued on February 28, 2022 and repeated on March 28, 2023, related to Russian athletes and teams, including the protective measures, are no longer applicable. In accordance with the Olympic Charter, and as applicable to all NOCs in general when selecting the athletes participating in the Olympic Games, the ROC must ensure that Russian athletes' "selection [for the Olympic Games] shall be based not only on their sports performance.

Wimbledon: Coco Gauff recovers to beat Pegula, reaches maiden Grand Slam semis

LONDON, JULY 7

American star Coco Gauff recovered from a set deficit to overcome Jessica Pegula for the fourth match in succession at Wimbledon as she reached her maiden Grand Slam semifinals at the All-England Lawn Tennis Club in London on Tuesday. With Pegula consistent on the court as she usually is, the first set brought to the fore all Coco Gauff's vulnerabilities on grass. But the No.7 seed defied all of her opponent's attempts and secured a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory. The interesting fact about Gauff's superb run to the last-four stage is that she came into the 2026 edition having not won a single match at Wimbledon in two years. The 1-hour-and-48-minute victory makes the two-time major champion Gauff the seventh active player to reach the



semifinals or better at all four Grand Slam tournaments in her career, joining Venus Williams, Serena Williams, Karolina Pliskova, Aryna Sabalenka and Iga Swiatek. Gauff, who has now played four consecutive three-setters in five rounds, called the run at the All England Club "pretty insane." She entered Wimbledon on a four-match losing streak on the surface, and also came from a set down to beat Belinda Bencic in the Round of 16. "Considering I hadn't won a match on grass in two years before this tournament ... I'm definitely just really happy with how I played today," she said.

"Jess is an incredible opponent and person; playing against her is never easy. I'm just happy to get through this one today." Pegula, the perpetually unnoticed contender in plain sight, was making her Centre Court debut at the age of 32, with the intention of earning a return visit at the earliest opportunity – in Friday's last four. Instead, her good friend and erstwhile doubles partner Gauff overcame all her own longstanding grass-court frailties, playing with increasing confidence to emerge the winner. Just days ago, the 22-year-old American was still being reminded from all sides that she had yet to exceed the fourth round she reached on her dazzling debut seven years ago. But now that she has crossed that hurdle, Gauff will be hoping to go all the way and add to her 2023 US Open and 2025 French Open crowns.

Wimbledon: Sinner remains on course, safely through to semis with win over Struff

LONDON, JULY 7

Defending champion Jannik Sinner remained on course for a second successive Wimbledon title by storming into the semifinals with a straight-sets victory over Jan-Lennard Struff at the All-England Lawn Tennis Club in London on Tuesday. World No.1 Sinner suppressed the dangerous challenge of Struff 7-5, 7-6(4), 6-3 to reach the 10th Grand Slam semifinal of his career. Struff, the 36-year-old German, is ranked No.74, but his ranking belies his abilities on a grass court. He possesses a huge serve and is endowed with the willingness to come forward with a positive and aggressive approach to every point. He had reached his first major quarterfinal at the age of 36, the oldest man to do so, and gave his best in Tuesday's match. But on Tuesday, there was no stopping Sinner, who may not have produced his most dazzling tennis against Struff but still proved too strong for the German and cruised into his third semifinal at Wimbledon. Sinner will next face seven-time



champion Novak Djokovic or third seed Felix Auger-Aliassime in Friday's last-four clash. Barring a spell in the second set when the champion appeared a little hesitant, Sinner never looked to be in any trouble. Not even the mid-afternoon heat could bother him. It had been a good day. After dropping the opening set and falling an early break behind in the second, Struff raised his aggression

deliveries: two unreturned serves, either side of an ace. From there, the top seed continued to back up his outstanding serving with relentless baseline consistency, firing his way through the second-set tie-break before maintaining his control for the remainder of the two-hour, 35-minute match. "The second set could have ended in a different way," Sinner said in his on-court interview. "Tie-breaks are always 50/50. If you are one set all or two sets up, it's a big [difference]. So in the third set, I was a little bit more relaxed, for sure. "His percentage of first serves dropped a little bit, which helped me feel slightly more comfortable. I'm very happy to finish in three sets, but he's a very tough player to play against. So I'm pleased." Sinner had been a 30-match winning streak – a run that included completing the Career Golden Masters – before his shock second-round defeat to Juan Manuel Cerundolo at Roland Garros, but he has responded impressively upon his return to action at Wimbledon.

India's CWG 2026 contingent given grand send-off

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Tuesday accorded a grand send-off to India's contingent for the Commonwealth Games 2026 while unveiling the official ceremonial and competition kit that Team India will wear during the 23rd edition of the Games to be held at Glasgow from July 23 to August 2. The ceremony brought together athletes, coaches, support staff, dignitaries, and partners as Team India embarks on its journey to Scotland with hopes of another successful Commonwealth Games (CWG) campaign. The event was attended by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports; Dr. PT Usha, President, Indian Olympic Association; Her Excellency Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner to India; Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Textiles; Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary, Department of Sports; Rohit Rajpal, Chef de Mission.



What's Next for Fauzi Girl Imanvi?

Post the debacle of Raja Saab, all eyes are now on Prabhas's next Fauzi, which is being directed by Hanu Raghavapudi. Imanvi Ismail makes her Telugu debut with the Prabhas starrer, and there was a lot of hype around her during the launch of the film. But with the film getting delayed time and again, the buzz around the young heroine has also died down. Post the launch of the film, everyone thought that she would get multiple offers after sharing screen space with Prabhas. Sadly, nothing of that sort has happened, as Imanvi is yet to sign any Telugu film to date. On the other hand, industry gossip suggests that she has signed a bond with the makers of Fauzi which states that until the

film releases, she is not allowed to sign any other film. So, this clause has also prevented Imanvi from signing any other project. There is also no update about her signing or being in discussions with any other banner. Apart from the launch day of Fauzi, Imanvi was nowhere to be seen, and this has created even more curiosity among the audience as to what she is up to. Coming to Fauzi, a few key portions of the shoot are still pending, and if reports are to be believed, Prabhas is expected to join the team in August. Meanwhile, the makers are also working on content for the film's release date announcement. If everything goes as planned, fans may also get a glimpse from the film along with the big update.



OG2 Blast On Pawan's BIRTHDAY?

Music director Thaman has teased a major OG update during a recent event, sparking excitement among fans. Reports suggest the film's glimpse will be unveiled on Pawan Kalyan's birthday in September. Interestingly, the OG part 1 glimpse was also released on September 2, creating massive hype and taking the internet by storm.



Kriti Egg Freezing Story!

Kriti Sanon is one of the talented actors who debuted in Telugu first and later went on to make a wonderful career in Bollywood. The actress even won a National Film Award for her performance in the film Mimi. During the film's shoot, the actor had to gain weight, and around the same time, she decided to freeze her eggs. Kriti Sanon decided to do this to cope with the physical changes that come with egg freezing. "I froze my eggs very smartly, and I did it during that time when I had to gain weight for Mimi. It makes you bloat, and I was anyway gaining weight. I spoke to someone who told me this is the best thing you can do for yourself if you can. It's the best gift that you can give yourself. It stayed on my mind. Then, when I was told to gain weight, I thought this was the right time to do it," she said in a recent interview. Egg freezing is a medical procedure in which a woman's eggs are collected, frozen, and stored for future use, allowing her the option of trying for pregnancy later in life. The process generally involves hormonal injections to stimulate egg production, which can cause temporary bloating and other physical changes. Many women, including actors, choose to undergo the procedure for personal or medical reasons, though it continues to spark debates with both supporters and critics expressing different views. On the work front, Kriti Sanon was last seen in Cocktail 2 and will next be seen in Don 3.

Nikhil Distributes School Kits To 1000 Students



Hero Nikhil took part in a heartwarming social initiative by distributing school kits to 1000 students studying in government schools in Bhimavaram. The distribution drive was organized under the leadership of Rakshadal Mahender, reaffirming the importance of supporting education and encouraging students to pursue their dreams. The school kits included books, notebooks, and other essential learning materials. The initiative received an overwhelming response from students, teachers, and parents alike. Addressing the gathering, Nikhil emphasized

that education is the most powerful tool to transform one's future. He encouraged students to study with dedication, work hard towards achieving their goals, and strive to excel in every sphere of life. He also urged them to always respect their parents and teachers, describing them as the guiding forces behind every student's success. The actor appreciated the efforts of the Rakshadal organization for consistently serving society through meaningful welfare activities. On the professional front, Nikhil is awaiting the release of Swayambhu which is in the final phase of post-production.

Suriya's Remuneration Set To Touch 100 Crore?

According to Tamil media reports, Suriya is set to command a remuneration of 100 crore following the blockbuster success of Karuppu. The reports claim this will become his standard salary starting with Suriya49, marking a significant milestone in the actor's career.



Vijay's Strict Rule For Jana Nayagan Release

Tamil Nadu has found its new chief minister in the form of Thalapathy Vijay, and he is doing a pretty strong job as the head of the state. While his political career has started to witness a remarkable upswing, his cinema career has been going up and down. His upcoming film Jana Nayagan is set for release this month and the stage is being prepared for the same. As much as fans are waiting for this film, Vijay's political opponents are also looking for the opportunity to attack him with the same. If this film has any case of black ticketing or elevated ticket prices, Vijay will immediately face allegations of power abuse, and corruption. It appears that he has understood the situation already and is preparing the policing for the same. It is being said that the government have instructed authorities to conduct raids on theatres and if anyone is found selling tickets above the permitted price, the licence could be cancelled. Vijay's antipatans and also his political opponents including the DMK supporters will be patiently waiting for his slip up and pounce on any opportunity. If we set aside the film prospect, any kind of ticket prices issue can directly haunt the political image of Vijay and he needs to be extremely cautious of the same. The responsibility will fall on the production house, KVN productions to oversee the entire release aspect and ensure that Vijay does not get any blame or negative attention in this passage.



Nupur Mukherjee Sets Her Sights on Tollywood

BY DR. SUNEELKUMAR YANDRA

Young actress Nupur Mukherjee is all set to make a mark in Tollywood with her passion for acting and a determination to take on performance-oriented roles. Rather than being confined to glamorous appearances, the actress says she is keen on portraying diverse characters that leave a lasting impression on audiences. Having already gained experience across television, short films, web series, music videos and modelling, Nupur believes the Telugu film industry offers the perfect platform for talented newcomers. She hopes to earn recognition through content-driven

films and meaningful performances.

Nupur has appeared in several ETV programmes and has built an impressive portfolio through short films including Athma-bhimanam, Rare Love, Neethi Charithra, Beeramalli, Mythri BPO, Kiladitho Abbayilu, Village Lo Baby, Manasu Mamakaram, Deeyantho Sarasaalu, Mordopu Pellamanni Chesukunte Muthimidu Tannindi, Amma Prema, Mechanic Love Story and Condom Kashtalu. Her television credits include Gharana Mogudu, Paluke Bangaram and the Hindi serial Shahazaadi. She has also featured in the web series Ladies Club and Moguds-Pellams. In addition, Nupur has appeared in popular private music videos such as Yellamma DJ 1, Yellamma DJ 2, Pelli Sambaram, Gurthunda Bava, Black and

White, Sathigaadiki Rank Vacchey and Nuvvu Naku Prema Isthe. She also performed a special song, Gummani Nenu, in the film Danger Devil. The actress is now looking forward to the release of her upcoming films Gali Bangla and Sarkar Bai, which she hopes will further establish her in Tollywood. Apart from acting, Nupur has worked as a model for leading brands including Kalyan Jewellers, H&M, Fastrack and Parachute. "The Telugu film industry is a wonderful platform. I want to be remembered for my performances and by playing versatile roles that connect with the audience," says Nupur Mukherjee. With a growing body of work and an eye on challenging roles, Nupur Mukherjee is steadily moving towards becoming one of the promising young faces in Tollywood.