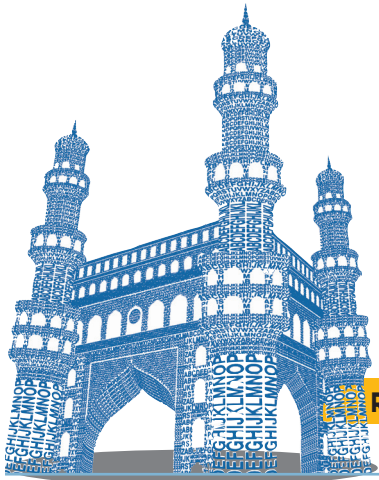




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**KASHMIR,
THE LAND OF
AMAZING BEAUTY**

SPECIAL

02

**Samyuktha
For #
RAPO23!**

BOX-OFFICE 12



Telangana Targets 10% Contribution to India's Growth Eyes \$3 Trillion Economy by 2047

**More investments required
for a robust economic growth**

**Instructs district Collector to
provide housing and devel-
op commercial complex for
farmers who lost their lands**

**CM Revanth inaugurated
India's next gen solar module
manufacturing facility of
Premier Energies at Seetara-
mpur , Shabad today**



HYDERABAD, JULY 9

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy asserted that politics should be restricted to election seasons and focus only on the development of the Telangana State.

Addressing a meeting after inaugurating India's next gen solar module manufacturing facility state-of-the-art 5.6 GW Solar Module Manufacturing Facility; and Groundbreaking ceremony for the proposed 12 GWh Battery Energy Storage System Manufacturing Facility

and the 36,000 MT per annum Aluminium Extrusion & Anodization Plant.

Today, the Chief Minister said that it is not the time for politics. We should do politics only during elections. The Opposition leaders pained for losing the power. However, let us work for a while and the development takes place in the state.

"Despite facing numerous political allegations, we are working with the goal of developing Telangana contributing a 10 per cent share to the national economy"

The CM reiterated that the government resolved to transform Telangana into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. The present flow of investment is insufficient to compete globally. The Chief Minister emphasized that we must improve the infrastructure to attract more investments for a robust economic growth in the future. "We are striving to transform Telangana into the number one state in the country".

CM Revanth Reddy expressed serious concern over increasing pollution in Delhi

which has become inhabitable. Cities like Bengaluru and Chennai are grappling with severe traffic issues.

Taking serious note of increasing challenges in the metropolitan cities in the country, the Chief Minister said that a slew of measures were already initiated to ensure pollution-free development in Hyderabad. As part of that, a 2,100 sq km area within the Outer Ring Road (CURE) was designed exclusively for the service sector.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

**HYD
EYES 2036
OLYMPICS
CM REVANTH
UNVEILS RADICAL
SPORTS UNIVERSITY
& POLICY**

PAGE 2 >

AIIMS Bibinagar to Redefine Healthcare in South India: JP Nadda



HYDERABAD, JULY 9

Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Thursday asserted that AIIMS Bibinagar is on course to become a pioneering healthcare institution in South India, with the remaining infrastructure expected to be completed by December 2026.

Reviewing the institute's progress, Nadda said AIIMS Bibinagar which was sanctioned in June 2022 with an outlay of Rs.1,110 crore, has become operational within four years. The institute now has 132 faculty members, nine specialties, a daily OPD footfall of 1,800 patients, emergency services, CT scan and MRI facilities, besides treating over 1.56 lakh patients through

telemedicine.

Highlighting the Centre's healthcare expansion, the Minister said the Narendra Modi government has transformed India's medical infrastructure by establishing 19 new AIIMS after 2014, taking the total planned AIIMS institutions to 23, of which 18 are operational. Further, the government has also expanded the country's healthcare ecosystem through 1.85 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and by increasing the number of medical colleges from 370 to 820. "The vision and thinking of our Prime Minister will be implemented here in letter and spirit. That is all I have to say", he noted.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

RYTHU BHAROSA FINAL INSTALMENT OUT TODAY: BHATTI

HYDERABAD, JULY 9

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka announced that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, along with Cabinet colleagues, on Friday would release the final instalment of ₹1,009 crore under the Rythu Bharosa Scheme directly into the bank accounts of farmers. After inspecting the arrangements for the "Rythu Ashirvada Sabha" to be held at Jagannadhapuram-Mathkepalli Cross Road in Chinthakani mandal, Bhatti Vikramarka addressed a media conference at the Lachagudem Rythu Vedika on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that under the Rythu

Bharosa Scheme, a record ₹8,759 crore has been released to farmers in just nine days.

"On Friday, during the 'Rythu Ashirvada Sabha', in the presence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Cabinet colleagues, another ₹1,009 crore will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of farmers. With this, a total of ₹9,000 crore will have been released completely for this season within just nine days," he announced.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the government's main objective is to make agriculture a festival by extending investment support to the farming community, which serves as the backbone of

the State's economy.

He said that while the previous BRS government spent ₹72,000 crore over ten years, the Congress government has released ₹35,839 crore under Rythu Bharosa in just two-and-a-half years.

Bhatti Vikramarka further explained that during the same period, the government has spent a total of ₹1,67,877 crore for farmers through Rythu Bharosa, farm loan waiver, crop bonus, crop insurance, crop loss compensation, agricultural power subsidy, farm mechanisation, Atmiya Bharosa, Indiramma schemes, irrigation projects and various other welfare programmes.

CS reviews progress of MUSI PROJECT



HYDERABAD, JULY 9

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Thursday visited the phase-I section of the Musi Riverfront Development Project to assess progress at important sites. The visit covered Osmansagar, Narsingi STP site, and the Gandhi Sarovar project lands, forming critical components of the State's integrated river rejuvenation and urban resilience programme. During the field inspection, the Chief Secretary held detailed discussions with the Managing Director, MRDCL, Joint Managing Director, MRDCL, Managing Director, HMWSSB, and senior officials from line departments. The review focused on flood mitigation measures, sewage treatment integration, land development readiness, and corridor-level infrastructure planning.

The Chief Secretary offered futuristic and strategic suggestions aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability, ecological balance, and transformative urban impact of the Musi Riverfront Development Project. He emphasised the need for coordinated execution, scientific planning, and adherence to environmental and technical standards to deliver enduring benefits for Hyderabad's citizens. MRDCL and HMDA are suggested to make a separate masterplan for the area falling between Musa and Eesa rivers till the confluence at Gandhi Sarovar for better connectivity and sustainable urban growth with riverfront. MRDCL will incorporate the guidance provided and continue to accelerate implementation across the Phase-I stretch.

CONGRESS HAS LOST PUBLIC SUPPORT IN TELANGANA: KTR



HYDERABAD, JULY 9

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president K. T. Rama Rao alleged that the Congress government in Telangana has lost public support and claimed that the party's political future in the state is nearing its end.

Speaking at a special review meeting with BRS leaders from Hyderabad on Thursday, KT Rama Rao said that even a survey reportedly commissioned

by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reflected growing public dissatisfaction with the government's performance and leadership after the completion of half of its term. According to KTR, the survey suggested that if elections were held immediately, the BRS would secure around 78 Assembly seats and return to power.

He further claimed that similar findings had emerged from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



**KCR names Vaddiraju Ravichandra as
BRS floor leader in Rajya Sabha**

02

CLEAR SINGARENI DUES: KAVITHA

KOTHAGUDEM, JULY 9

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday demanded that the State government immediately clear pending dues to Singareni company and ensure better welfare measures for its workers. Addressing workers after visiting the PVK-5 underground mine in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, she announced a hunger strike in

Godavarikhani from the 20th of this month, demanding the establishment of a medical board for Singareni employees. She also urged Kothagudem MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao to push for a resolution in the Assembly against the four labour codes.

Alleging that contract workers were being denied minimum wages, Kavitha said the HMS would continue to fight for workers' rights.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

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

3 TIMES BETTER

KCR names Vaddiraju Ravichandra as BRS floor leader in Rajya Sabha

HYDERABAD, JULY 9

Vaddiraju Ravichandra, a Rajya Sabha MP, has been appointed as the leader of the BRS Parliamentary Party and its floor leader in the Rajya Sabha, a role previously held by KR Suresh Reddy, whose term has concluded. The BRS president and former chief minister, K. Chandrashekar Rao, made the appointment on Thursday.

Ravichandra, who previously served as deputy floor leader, will now spearhead the party's efforts in the Upper House. This reappointment for his second term as a Rajya Sabha member by the BRS leadership ac-

knowledges his significant contributions to the party and his advocacy for the BC communities.

His current tenure in the Rajya Sabha is set to end in April 2030. He also holds positions on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Coal and Mines.

Expressing gratitude to Chandrashekar Rao and BRS working president KT Rama Rao for the bestowed responsibility, Ravichandra pledged to vigorously champion Telangana's concerns in Parliament and dedicate himself to further strengthening the party.

SUREKHA COMPLAINS AGAINST KADIYAM



HYDERABAD, JULY 9

Minister for Environment, Forest & Endowments Konda Surekha has formally complained to Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud concerning Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari. She is requesting disciplinary action against Srihari.

The Minister visited the residence of TPCC president at his residence in Narsingi, Hyderabad on Thursday. During their meeting, she detailed the challenges she is encountering in district politics due to Kadiyam Srihari's actions.

Surekha also highlighted a recent instance where Kadiyam Srihari convened a review meeting with offi-

cials from the Endowments department without her prior knowledge. This event has sparked political discussion, raising questions about whether the Minister is being intentionally marginalised by the government and senior figures within the Congress party.

Minister Konda Surekha stated that Kadiyam Srihari is deliberately targeting her and creating obstacles in district political affairs. She informed the TPCC chief that she had previously raised this issue with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

After hearing Surekha's account, Mahesh Kumar Goud assured that the matter would be examined thoroughly and he would strive for a fair resolution by discussing at the appropriate level.

HYD EYES 2036 OLYMPICS

CM REVANTH UNVEILS RADICAL SPORTS UNIVERSITY & POLICY



HYDERABAD, JULY 9

In a major bid to restore the city's past sporting glory, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday announced the state's strong aspiration to host the 2036 Olympic Games. Speaking at a high-profile event at the Gachibowli Stadium, the Chief Minister declared that the state government is aggressively upgrading infrastructure to position Hyderabad as a premier global sports hub.

Marking the dawn of a new era in the state's sports ecosystem, CM Revanth Reddy, alongside Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President P. T. Usha, officially inaugurated the Gachibowli Sports District and laid the foundation for the Young India Physical Education and Sports University (YIPESU).

The grand launch took place in the presence of Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari, Government Advisor (Sports) A. P. Jithender Reddy, public representatives, sports veterans,

and thousands of students. IOA Chief P. T. Usha lauded the state government's proactive stance, congratulating the Chief Minister for establishing a dedicated sports university aimed at nurturing grassroots talent.

World-Class Infrastructure & Autonomy Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Reddy detailed the government's vision to break the stagnation in the state's sporting arena. "For the past 20 years, Hyderabad—which successfully hosted the Afro-Asian Games and the World Military Games—has not seen any major sporting events. Stadiums built over two decades ago were reduced to venues for weddings and political rallies. We are changing that today," the Chief Minister stated.

The upcoming sports university will be developed across a sprawling 82-acre campus featuring state-of-the-art facilities and a world-class sports academy. The project is slated for completion and formal inauguration by December 2028.

Highlighting a radical shift

in governance, the Chief Minister revealed that the university would operate under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, completely free from government interference. A high-powered board comprising corporate leaders and sports icons—including Sanjiv Goenka, Abhinav Bindra, Kapil Dev, Kavya Maran, Upasana Konidela, and Ravikanth Reddy—has been granted full operational autonomy to run the institution. Cash Rewards and Job Assurances for Athletes In a major boost to the state's athletes, the Chief Minister distributed cash incentives worth ₹7.15 crores to six sportspersons who excelled on the international stage.

Prominent shooters Esha Singh and Dhanush Srikanth received ₹3.30 crores and ₹2.10 crores respectively, while world champion boxer Nikhat Zareen was awarded ₹60 lakhs. Para-athlete Deepthi Jeevanji, along with shooters Tanishq Muralidhar Naidu and Surabhi Bharadwaj, were also felicitated.

Stressing that youth are the nation's ultimate wealth, the Chief Minister announced a landmark policy shift: the Telangana government will guarantee secure government employment to athletes who bring national and international laurels to the country. Telangana's Packed Sports Calendar The Chief Minister concluded his address by unveiling an ambitious roster of upcoming national and international tournaments hosted by Telangana.

The state is locked in to host the 8th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games in 2026, alongside the National Inter-District Junior Athletics Meet (NIDIAM). Furthermore, Hyderabad will play host to upcoming editions of the Hockey India League, World Pickleball League, Archery Premier League, and Tennis Premier League. The event also marked the rollout of the "Telangana Sports Knowledge on Wheels" initiative, a mobile awareness program designed to promote sports literacy and identify talent across rural Telangana.

P.T. Usha inaugurates Telangana Olympic Bhavan



HYDERABAD, JULY 9

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President P. T. Usha on Thursday inaugurated the Telangana Olympic Association's new building at LB Stadium, describing it as a landmark in the state's sporting journey and a hub for nurturing future champions. The inauguration was attended by Telangana Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari, Government Advisor A. P. Jitender Reddy, Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy, Managing Director Soni Baladevi, sports officials and athletes.

Addressing the gathering, Usha lauded the Telangana government's focus on sports infrastructure and athlete development. She said the Olympic Bhavan would serve not just as an administrative office but as a centre to strengthen the Olympic movement and inspire aspiring sportspersons.

Stressing the need for transparency, accountability and fairness in sports administration, she said athletes' welfare must remain the top priority. She urged young athletes to pursue their dreams with discipline, dedication and hard work, saying every champion's journey begins with a dream. Every organization should strive to provide them with the best possible training, facilities and encouragement", she noted.

Minister Vakiti Srihari recalled the achievements of legends like Milkha Singh and P.T. Usha, urging the youth to spend more time on the field than on social media. He said Telangana, under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is committed to developing world-class sports infrastructure and producing international medal winners. He called upon youngsters to make full use of the opportunities provided by the government and strive to bring laurels to the country.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

AIIMS Bibinagar..

FROM PAGE 1

Praising AIIMS Bibinagar's academic achievements, Nadda said its faculty has produced 1,156 research publications, while the institute has conducted 547 medical camps, serving over 66,000 people in adopted villages. He also lauded the establishment of the country's first Community Radio Station at the institute.

Stressing that premier institutions require time to mature, Nadda said AIIMS typically take nearly a decade to achieve full academic and research excellence, expressing confidence that AIIMS Bibinagar will emerge as a centre of excellence in medical education, patient care and research.

Eyes \$3 Trillion Economy by 2047

FROM PAGE 1

The state has been divided into CURE, PURE, and RARE zones for a sustainable development.

Skills University alongside Advanced Training Centers (ATCs) were also established to upgrade the skills of the youth, the CM said that it is a delightful moment that the solar module manufacturing unit was inaugurated at Sitarampur today. The Chief Minister ordered the district Collector

to provide housing and construct commercial complexes to ensure livelihoods for the families who lost their lands in the village. CM Revanth Reddy extended heartfelt gratitude to the farmers of the Rangareddy district for making possible the establishment of the solar manufacturing unit. Special funds have already been allocated for the development of the Chevella constituency. A 100-meter-wide road is also being constructed from Budvel to Kodangal. He will visit the place again to the inauguration of the temple, the CM announced.

The programme was attended by Industries Minister Sri

Dudilla Sridhar Babu, Premier Energies Limited Chairman Surender Pal Singh Saluja, Managing Director Chiranjeevi Saluja, Executive Director Revathi Rohini Buragadda, and Director Sudheer Reddy.

Premier Energies Limited is one of India's leading integrated solar cell and module manufacturers, with a distinguished legacy of over three decades in the renewable-energy sector. Established in 1995 and headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana, the Company has grown into a technologically advanced and trusted renewable-energy enterprise serving customers across domestic and international markets.

Premier Energies manufactures high-efficiency solar photovoltaic cells and modules using advanced technologies and globally benchmarked manufacturing processes. The Company currently operates solar cell manufacturing facilities with a cumulative annual capacity of over 3.6 GW and solar module manufacturing facilities with a cumulative annual capacity of approximately 5.5 GW in E-City, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana.

Governor asks officials to ensure welfare schemes reach every beneficiary

DR SRINIVAS VOORADI

Hanumakonda, July 9: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Thursday directed officials to ensure that the benefits of Central and State government welfare and development schemes reach every eligible beneficiary through efficient implementation, transparency and inter-departmental coordination. Reviewing the implementation of various schemes in Hanumakonda and Warangal districts at the Hanumakonda Collectorate complex on Thursday, the Governor stressed the need to improve quality and efficiency across all sectors, describing development as a continuous process. He called for stronger efforts to eliminate tuberculosis through extensive screening and instructed officials to achieve 100 per cent coverage under the Pulse Polio programme.

The Governor also re-



viewed the implementation of the "TB Mukta Bharat" initiative, housing schemes, healthcare services, agriculture, infrastructure and law and order. Emphasising the importance of education, healthcare and agriculture, he suggested encouraging farmers in the cotton-growing region to adopt high-value and value-added crops to improve their incomes. Highlighting the growing role of Artificial Intelligence, Shukla said AI

should be effectively leveraged to improve governance and public service delivery while maintaining transparency in administration.

Social Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar, who attended the review meeting, directed officials to ensure the safety, health and hygiene of students staying in welfare hostels during the monsoon. He announced that up to ₹1 crore would be provided to each district for emergency

repairs and infrastructure works in hostels, including drinking water, sanitation, drainage, electrical safety and building maintenance. The Minister also instructed officials to conduct regular health check-ups, ensure the availability of medicines and emergency medical services, and utilise emergency funds transparently. He said the government attached the highest priority to the safety, health and educational progress of students in welfare hostels.

The meeting was attended by Legislative Council Deputy Chairman Dr Banda Prakash, State Finance Commission Chairman Sirisilla Rajaiah, MLAs Naini Rajender Reddy and K.R. Nagaraju, Hanumakonda district Collector Chahat Bajpai, Warangal district Collector Dr Satya Sharada, Commissioner of Police N. Shwetha Reddy and senior district officials.

HC GRANTS CONDITIONAL BAIL TO BANDI BHAGEERATH



HYDERABAD, JULY 9

In a relief to Bandi Bhageerath, son of Union minister Bandi Sanjay, the Telangana High Court on Thursday granted conditional bail to Bhageerath in a PCO case registered here at Petabesheerabad Police Station.

Bhageerath, who has been in judicial custody since his arrest on May 16, was directed to cooperate fully with the ongoing investigation.

During the hearing, Bhageerath's counsel T. Niranjan

Reddy argued that the case involved a consensual relationship and cited judicial precedents while seeking bail.

On the other hand, public prosecutor Palle Nageswara Rao opposed the plea, contending that his release could influence the witnesses as the investigation was nearing completion. After reserving its verdict earlier, Justice K. Sujana allowed the bail petition subject to conditions, bringing relief to Bhageerath after more than 45 days in custody.

CLEAR SINGARENI DUES: KAVITHA

the BRS", she asserted.

Kavitha also alleged that the BRS was attempting to get the name "Telangana Rakhana Sena" revoked. In fact, the name "Telangana Rakhana Sena" was among the names suggested by the Election Commission and was not chosen by her party. She alleged that the BRS was trying to have the name withdrawn but expressed confidence that justice would prevail. "The name is secondary; what

matters most is the support and blessings of the people", she added.

On this occasion, she demanded an inquiry into the BRS party's finances, alleging that its Rs.1,400 crore bank balance was amassed through quid pro quo arrangements. She also alleged that K.T. Rama Rao had recently purchased an English newspaper for Rs.188 crore, without presenting evidence to support the claim.



FROM PAGE 1

Launching a scathing attack on the BRS, she accused the party of trying to block media coverage of her political activities and dismissed speculation about her returning to the party. "As long as I am alive, I will never rejoin

SHORT
TAKES

Rahul Ramakrishna returns to classroom, joins Ambedkar open university



HYDERABAD: Film actor Rahul Ramakrishna, known for his role in Bharat Ane Nenu and RRR, has enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) programme at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, marking his return to formal education after discontinuing engineering studies. Rahul visited the University on Thursday to complete admission formalities and later met Vice-Chancellor Prof Ghanta Chakrapani, who congratulated him and presented him with the course books. Speaking on the occasion, Rahul said Open University provides a valuable opportunity for people who could not pursue higher education due to financial constraints or other personal circumstances. He said education gives an individual lasting respect and recognition, irrespective of wealth or fame. The actor also appreciated the university's inclusive initiatives, particularly its decision to provide free education to Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) and transgender persons, describing the measures as an example of equal educational opportunities for all. (NSS)

Cluster-A Telangana Police Games Conclude; Hyderabad Overall Champion



HYDERABAD

The Cluster-A competitions of the 5th Telangana Police Games & Sports Meet 2026 concluded successfully after two days of competition at the Saroornagar Indoor Stadium. A total of 831 police athletes from 21 police units across the state participated in 14 indoor sporting disciplines. The meet was inaugurated on July 8 by Telangana DGP C.V. Anand, who flagged off the event by handing over the sports torch. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Malkajgiri Police Commissioner B. Sumathi, Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, IG (P&L, Sports) Dr. Gajarao Bhupal, actor Naveen Polishetty, senior police officials and athletes. Speaking on the oc-

casation, Commissioner B. Sumathi said the cluster-based format, introduced for the first time under the leadership of the DGP, would provide wider opportunities for police personnel to showcase their sporting talent and help identify athletes for the All India Police Games and other national-level competitions. Competitions were held in 14 indoor disciplines, including wrestling, boxing, bodybuilding, arm wrestling, weightlifting, powerlifting, yoga, judo, wushu, taekwondo, karate, pencak silat, fencing and gymnastics. Of the 831 participants, 683 were men and 148 were women representing commissionerates, district police units, Telangana Special Police, Greyhounds, OCTOPUS, CID, Intelligence, Railway Police and other specialised wings.

Overall Results

Hyderabad Commissionerate emerged as the Overall Champion with 140 medals (64 gold, 44 silver and 32 bronze). TGSP-II finished Runner-up with 58 medals (19 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze). Malkajgiri Commissionerate secured Third Place with 58 medals (12 gold, 20 silver and 26 bronze). Officials said the Telangana Police Games are now being conducted in five clusters (A-E) in line with the All India Police Games calendar to ensure broader participation and better organisation. The remaining clusters will be held at the RBVRR Telangana Police Academy (Cluster-C) in September, Future City Commissionerate (Cluster-B) in November, Warangal Commissionerate (Cluster-D) and Nizamabad Commissionerate (Cluster-E), which will also host the closing ceremony. The Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate made elaborate arrangements through dedicated committees for accommodation, security, transport, medical support and technical management. Medals and certificates were presented to the winners by senior police officers, including DCP K. Suresh Kumar and DCP K. Shyam Sundar. Officials said the games promote physical fitness, discipline, teamwork and leadership, while preparing Telangana Police athletes for national-level competitions. Commissioner B. Sumathi congratulated all officers, staff and volunteers for the successful conduct of the event.

Dedicates Jankampet Goods Shed to the Nation: MP Arvind Dharmapuri

NIZAMBAD

Arvind Dharmapuri, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Nizamabad dedicated Jankampet Goods Shed in Telangana to the Nation today i.e., on 09th July, 2026. Shri D.S Rama Rao, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad Division; Shri A. Sridhar, Chief Public Relations Officer, South Central Railway; Shri Anirudh Pamar, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Hyderabad Division; Shri P.T.V Durga Prasad, Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination, Hyderabad Division and other senior Railway officials were also present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Shri Arvind Dharmapuri, Hon'ble MP stated that Rail network in Telangana State has witnessed major infrastructural and passenger centric developments under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister. He stated that the budget outlay in the State has increased by more than 20 times since 2014 to presently reach Rs. 5,454 crores in the current financial year 2026-27. He informed that in the last 12 years, 340 Kms of new track, 562 Kms of double line, third line and fourth line have been laid and the electrification of the entire Rail network in Telangana (except Manoharabad - Siddipet line) has been completed. The total cost of various on-going Railway projects in Telangana



is Rs. 42,000 crores, he added. Further, the Hon'ble MP expressed that the newly constructed goods shed at Jankampet station is a significant milestone for the region. He stated that the goods shed will facilitate the transportation of local goods to various parts of the Country and will be beneficial for farmers, traders, merchants and business communities. The Hon'ble MP stated the Jankampet goods shed has been developed with a cost of Rs. 9 crores to further expand the freight and goods handling facilities in the Nizamabad area. He stated that currently the main consignments being loaded at the goods shed are Rice, Mazie, Jowari while the unloading consists of Fertilizers and Cement. There is also potential for further increase of goods trains handling and commodities at this goods shed, he added. Shri Arvind Dharmapuri, Hon'ble MP detailed on various Rail developmental

projects undertaken in the region including redevelopment of Nizamabad Station with a cost of Rs. 58 crores as part of Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, implementation of Kavach 4.0, yard remodelling work at Nizamabad station, Construction of three Road Over Bridge in Nizamabad constituency etc., Earlier, Shri D.S Rama Rao, Additional DRM presented the welcome address. He stated that Hyderabad Division has been playing a vital role in the growth trajectory of the zone by contributing to various aspects like infrastructure development, Passenger services etc. He stated that the Jankampet goods shed will further improve the freight basket of the zone and will immensely benefit the local traders. He stated that the goods shed has been developed with a wide circulating area for easy movement of road vehicles and the approach roads are also developed with easy access to the main road.

Left-wing student bodies rally for statewide education bandh

HYDERABAD

Left-affiliated student organisations, including SFI, AIFS, PDSU, AIDSO, AIFDS, AISB and AIPSU, on Thursday held a rally from Y-Junction to Narayanaguda Crossroads, urging support for the statewide shutdown of educational institutions from KG to PG on Friday. Addressing the gathering, the student leaders who included Putta Lakshman (AIFS State Secretary), T. Nagaraju (SFI State Secretary), S. Anil (PDSU State Secretary), Podapangi Nagaraju and P. Mahesh (PDSU State President and Secretary), Palle Murali (AIFDS State President), and Nagaraju (AIDSO State Leader), alleged that the education sector has been neglected under the Congress government, citing the absence of an Education Minister, delays in fee reimbursements and scholarships, inadequate infrastructure in government schools, and poor regulation of private institutions. Con-

demning the reported closure of 23,000 government schools and implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the student leaders remarked that the Congress Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has been acting like the BJP by closing schools and implementing the NEP 2020. They demanded the provision of basic amenities and the construction of additional classrooms in government schools and timely release of pending student dues.

Hyd police conduct "Operation Thunderbolt" against crime

HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad City Police carried out a large-scale cordon-and-search operation, "Operation Thunderbolt", in Manganri Basti under the Habeeb Nagar Police Station limits to curb narcotics trafficking and other criminal activities. The operation began at 3:30 am under the supervision of senior officers, including Additional Commissioners of Police Tafsir Iqbal (Law & Order) and S.M. Srinivas (Crimes & SIT), while DCP Task Force Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath directly supervised field operations. Around 1,100 police personnel from the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement



Wing (H-NEW), Task Force, H-FAST, Central Crime Station (CCS), CAR Armed Forces, and local police participated in the operation. During the raids, police seized 150 sachets of ganja, 1 kg of dry ganja, 32 bottles of

cough syrup and Liquor bottles. Besides, the police also detained 15 drug offenders and 50 suspected property offenders, including chain snatchers, habitual offenders, and persons with pending non-bailable warrants.

GEARS UP FOR RATH YATRA



Puri: Sacred chariots are being given their final decorative touches as preparations gather pace ahead of the annual Rath Yatra in Puri, Odisha, on Thursday.

Uttam orders statewide El Niño contingency plans

HYDERABAD

With forecasts indicating the possibility of El Niño influencing the current monsoon, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to be ready with comprehensive contingency plans to effectively tackle any challenges arising from the weather phenomenon. Stating that Telangana could not remain immune if El Niño affected the country, the Minister called for seamless coordination among the Irrigation, Agriculture, and Meteorological departments to minimise risks to agriculture and protect farmers' livelihoods.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on El Niño preparedness at the Secretariat on Thursday, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government is continuously monitoring weather developments and it has put the department and the official agencies concerned on alert. He stressed that there was no reason for farmers to

panic, as comprehensive contingency measures were being put in place to respond swiftly to any emerging situation. The Minister instructed officials to prepare detailed contingency plans at both the State and district levels, taking into account rainfall projections, groundwater availability, reservoir storage, irrigation potential and local cropping patterns. He said every district should be equipped with a clear response strategy to address any adverse impact

arising from deficient rainfall or prolonged dry spells. Following the review meeting, Uttam Kumar Reddy held a video conference with District Collectors and senior officials of the Irrigation, Agriculture and Horticulture departments, directing them to immediately initiate district-specific preparedness measures and maintain constant coordination at the field level. He said the India Meteorological department's forecasts, advisories and warnings

should be closely monitored and promptly translated into actionable guidance for farmers. Scientific information, he said, must reach cultivators without delay through coordinated efforts of the Meteorology, Agriculture, Horticulture and Irrigation departments. Emphasising scientific crop planning, the Minister advised farmers not to depend exclusively on traditional water-intensive crops wherever water availability was uncertain.

FTCCI launches 8-day GST certification course in Hyd

HYDERABAD

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) on Thursday inaugurated an eight-day Certificate Course on Goods and Services Tax (GST) at Federation House here, with Telangana State GST Additional Commissioner S. Jaya Kameswari calling for continuous learning amid the evolving tax landscape. The course, organised by FTCCI's Indirect Taxes Committee, has drawn over 60 participants from industry, finance, taxation and compliance sectors. It will be held



over eight sessions on Fridays and Saturdays until July 31. Inaugurating the programme, Jaya Kameswari said GST laws are constantly evolving, making continuous upskilling essential for both tax

officials and professionals. She stressed that the role of GST authorities extends beyond tax collection to ensuring ease of compliance and smooth implementation of the law. She suggested incorporating Artificial

Intelligence (AI) into future training programmes, noting that an increasing number of GST officers are using AI tools to improve efficiency and productivity. "Today, the situation has changed. GST law is evolving continuously, and all of us must keep abreast of the latest developments to discharge our responsibilities effectively", she observed. FTCCI President Ravi Kumar said GST has transformed India's indirect tax system over the past nine years and underscored the importance of lifelong learning to keep pace with changing regulations. Irshad Ahmad, Chair-

man of FTCCI's Indirect Taxes Committee, described the programme as one of the most comprehensive GST certification courses offered by an industry chamber in Telangana. Senior Vice President K.K. Maheshwari proposed the vote of thanks, highlighting that GST collections have grown to levels comparable with direct tax revenues, reflecting the growing importance of the indirect tax regime. The certificate course concludes on July 31, with sessions led by industry experts covering GST law, compliance, procedures and emerging developments.

MP Vamsi targets Kishan Reddy over 'delayed' grain procurement

HYDERABAD

Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, accusing the Centre for delayed response on increasing grain procurement through Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Telangana despite repeated requests over the past six months. Vamsi Krishna, in a press statement, alleged that the BJP-led Union government ignored farmers' concerns for two years and acted only after sustained pressure from the Congress.



He questioned Kishan Reddy's "contradictory stand" of blaming the Telangana government for poor procurement while simultaneously writing to Union Minister Pralhad Joshi seeking an increase in procurement to 35 lakh metric tonnes. "For the

last two years, the farmers of Telangana suffered losses due to the BJP government's stance. It is highly shameful that you are responding only after two years", he remarked. The Congress MP also criticised the functioning of Ramagundam Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL), alleging mismanagement and poor production levels under the BJP administration. Demanding immediate procurement without causing inconvenience to farmers, Vamsi Krishna said he would continue to raise the issue strongly.

Akhilesh Seeks
Details on
64,000 Acres of
Recovered Land

LUCKNOW: (JUL 9)

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav challenged Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday to release the district-wise details of the "64,000 acres" of land that he has claimed has been freed from illegal encroachments after the BJP came to power in the state. In a post in Hindi on X, Yadav said, "To establish the credibility of your statement, please also release the district-wise list showing the area and land records of the so-called 64,000 acres of land that you claim to have got vacated." Stepping up his attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister questioned the credibility of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by it to look into allegations of embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

VCK has not officially left DMK alliance, says Thol Thirumavalavan amid row

Thol Thirumavalavan said the VCK has not officially ended its alliance with the DMK and defended maintaining ties across camps. He argued that Tamil Nadu needs greater political maturity and a broader opposition front to counter the BJP.

VCK president Thol Thirumavalavan on Thursday said his party had not "officially" severed its alliance with the DMK, even as he launched a sharp attack on what he called political hypocrisy and double standards in the media. He said the media repeatedly questions the VCK over its political ties, while not putting similar questions to rival leaders. His remarks came amid a political row over his July 7 statement that VCK taking part in a TVK-led Cabinet would not amount to joining that party's alliance. Thirumavalavan has since said his focus is on building a broad anti-BJP front and that political relationships should not be seen only in rigid terms.

Addressing party workers at an event in Chennai to induct 500 members from other parties, Thirumavalavan said the media should ask TVK leader and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay questions as well. "Shouldn't the media ask our Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay: You called them an evil force. The people voted for you to oppose it. Then on what basis did you go to his (DMK chief M K Stalin's) house and receive his greetings," he asked. He said people were ready to question how the VCK could align with someone it had criticised earlier, but were unwilling to question Vijay. "Why does no one ask Vijay how he can openly seek support from someone who called him a child born of the RSS," Thirumavalavan asked. While TVK downplayed the controversy as the "beauty of democracy", MDMK chief Vaiko, who recently extended support to TVK, mocked Thirumavalavan by saying he deserved a "Nobel Prize" for his stand. Thirumavalavan also said the VCK had played an im-



portant role in the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance's performance and that its contribution had been a major factor in the DMK winning 59 seats. "The role of the Chiruthaigal (VCK cadres) in retaining these numbers is immense, but critics refuse to acknowledge it because they cannot digest the political weight given to our party," he said. He added that the party had acted with political decorum and transparency. "We acted out of comradeship and civilised approach, not because we needed permission. Just because a new political position is attained, it does not mean old relationships should be immediately cast

aside," he said. Speaking to reporters in Ariyalur on July 8, the Lok Sabha MP said a united front was needed to counter the BJP's "communal politics", regardless of local ideological differences. "Even if the TVK and DMK hold opposing stances locally, my national perspective is that both parties must be part of the INDIA bloc to defeat the BJP," he said. He also said the VCK's ties with different parties should be seen through a prism of political maturity and healthy democratic relationships rather than hostility. "Why should it be always interpreted that an alliance has broken? Can we not maintain friendships or relationships with others while being in a particular alliance? Why is there such an uncultured form of politics only in Tamil Nadu? In other states, parties allied with the BJP maintain friendly ties with the Congress, and vice versa. Leaders who fight inside Parliament shake hands, sit together for coffee in the lobby, and even embrace in the Central Hall. Why shouldn't

that political decency come to Tamil Nadu," he asked. Later, speaking to reporters in Tenkasi on Thursday, Vaiko apologised for making fun of Thirumavalavan's position. Saying he was "deeply shocked" by Thirumavalavan's near-impossible suggestion that TVK, DMK and the national front should come together in a single alliance, and confused by how one could be part of a Cabinet while remaining in the DMK alliance, Vaiko said that was why he had suggested a "Nobel Prize" for the VCK chief. "I have no intention of hurting him. There is no anger or regret whatsoever. I do not have even a tiny bit of bitterness or resentment. If my words have hurt his feelings, I take those words back. I withdraw my words," Vaiko said. Thirumavalavan's remarks, and Vaiko's later apology, kept the focus on the VCK's stand on its alliance with the DMK, his call for political maturity in Tamil Nadu, and his argument that opposition parties should work together nationally to take on the BJP.



Andhra man dies of Covid after four days of failed antibiotic treatment

A 46-year-old man from Kadapa's Masapeta area died after a CT scan confirmed Covid-19 infection. Officials said containment steps, including sanitisation and contact tracing, were launched after his death.

A 46-year-old man died of Covid-19 here four days after treatment with antibiotics failed to control his symptoms, an official said on Thursday. Kadapa District Medical & Health Officer Ravi Babu said the deceased was addicted to alcohol and had been admitted to a local hospital for severe breathlessness and cough. "A 46-year-old man from Masapeta area in Kadapa succumbed to Covid-19. He was

an alcoholic. He was suffering from severe breathlessness and cough," Babu told PTI. An X-ray examination showed that both lungs of the deceased were completely damaged, resulting in pneumonia, the DM&HO said. The disease did not subside even after four days of high-dose antibiotic treatment, prompting doctors to suspect a coronavirus infection, he said. A subsequent CT scan of the chest confirmed the Covid-19 infection, Babu said, adding that containment measures - including sanitisation and the tracing of primary and secondary contacts of the deceased - had been undertaken.

MP to introduce single annual crop loan for farmers, says CM Mohan Yadav

SHAJAPUR/BHOPAL, JULY 9

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on Thursday that farmers in Madhya Pradesh will no longer have to take separate loans for Kharif and Rabi crops, saying the state government will introduce a single crop loan for the entire year to make credit more accessible.

Addressing the 'Kisan Samridhdi Sankalp Sammelan' at Kalapipal in Shajapur district, the Chief Minister added that the state government was taking continuous steps to reduce the financial burden on farmers and improve their income. "Farmers will no longer have to take separate loans for Kharif and Rabi crops. A single crop loan for the entire year will be made available. Our government is continuously working to reduce farming costs, increase production and ensure farmers get remunerative prices for their produce," Chief Minister Yadav said. He reiterated that the agriculture and farmers remain the state's top

priority and added that the irrigated area in Madhya Pradesh has expanded to more than 55 lakh hectares, resulting in higher agricultural production. The Chief Minister also announced that the state government would provide incentives to encourage natural farming and extend special assistance to cattle rearers to increase milk production.

Highlighting irrigation projects, Chief Minister Yadav said that work on major river-linking schemes, including the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) project, would benefit farmers by expanding irrigation facilities.

He added that the state government was committed to bringing Narmada water to every village in Shajapur district.

"Our (Bharatiya Janata Party) government is committed to bringing Narmada water to every village in Shajapur district. We are also working in a phased manner to provide electricity for irrigation during the daytime so that farmers do not have to visit their fields at night," he said.

Gadkari, CM Patel Review Gujarat Highway Projects

GANDHINAGAR, JULY 9

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Thursday reviewed the progress of various National Highway projects under implementation across the state during a meeting in Gandhinagar.



The meeting was held on the sidelines of Gadkari's visit to Gujarat, where he inaugurated 'Prawas 5.0', the multimodal transport show organised by the Bus and Car Operators Confederation of India (BOCI).

Sharing details of the meeting on social media platform X, Chief Minister Patel said: "Reviewed the progress of various National Highway projects being implemented in Gujarat during a meeting with the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, in Gandhinagar."

While no further details

of the projects discussed were officially disclosed, the review focused on the implementation and progress of National Highway works being undertaken across Gujarat.

The meeting comes as the Centre continues to expand road infrastructure in the state through new highway construction, widening of existing corridors, expressway connectivity and improvements aimed at enhancing freight movement and reducing travel time.

Gujarat is home to several strategically important National Highway corridors that connect major industrial centres, ports and

border districts.

Earlier in the day, Gadkari inaugurated Prawas 5.0 and reiterated the Centre's focus on developing a cleaner, safer and technologically advanced transport system.

"Infrastructure development remained central to India's economic growth, linking improved transport networks with industrial expansion, trade, employment generation and poverty reduction," he said.

The Union minister also highlighted the government's emphasis on reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels by promoting alternative fuels such as

ethanol, methanol, bio-diesel, LNG, electricity and hydrogen.

He announced that the ministry is conducting hydrogen mobility pilot projects on 10 routes across the country, including the Ahmedabad-Vadodara-Surat corridor in Gujarat.

Speaking at the event, Gadkari said: "Road safety remained the government's highest priority, noting that around five lakh road accidents occur annually in India, resulting in approximately 1.8 lakh deaths."

He added, "Efforts were being made to improve road engineering, enhance the quality of highways and eliminate accident-prone black spots in coordination with state governments."

The review meeting between Gadkari and Patel follows continued cooperation between the Union and Gujarat governments on highway expansion and transport infrastructure projects, with periodic assessments conducted to monitor progress and facilitate timely execution.



Rajasthan woman delivers quadruplets at Jhalawar government hospital

A 25-year-old woman gave birth to quadruplets — three girls and a boy — at a government hospital in Rajasthan's Jhalawar, doctors said on Thursday. The babies were delivered on Wednesday evening, and doctors said all four premature newborns were stable, though three remained in a serious condition.

The mother, identified as Jyoti, is stable and recovering well, doctors said. The babies were born with low birth weight and have been admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit for close monitoring and treatment. News of the birth spread quickly across Jhalawar, with relatives and well-wishers reaching the hospital to congratulate Jyoti and her husband, Arun Kashyap. Arun said it was 'god's will'. He said, "I was expecting only one daughter,

but god has blessed me with three daughters and a son. Whatever he has given us is a matter of happiness". The couple already have a five-year-old son.

Paediatrician Dr Rajendra Gupta described the delivery as very rare and said it was the first quadruplet birth he had witnessed at the Jhalawar Government Women's Hospital. Doctors at the Government Women's Hospital attached to SRG Hospital and Jhalawar Medical College said examinations carried out on Thursday morning found both the babies and the mother to be stable. Dr Vishal Nagar said one of the four babies had shown slight improvement, while the condition of the other three remained serious in the NICU. Doctors said the coming days would be crucial as the premature, low-birth-weight infants continue to receive intensive neonatal care under constant observation.



HC Questions Appointment of Village Heads as Administrators

LUCKNOW: (JUL 9)

The Allahabad High Court has raised significant constitutional questions over the appointment of elected village heads as administrators after the expiry of the tenures of gram panchayats.

The court has observed that the constitutional validity of section 12(3A) of the Uttar Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act requires examination and directed the additional chief secretary of the Panchayati Raj department to appear before it through video-conferencing on July 10 to explain the state government's stand on the matter. The Lucknow bench of the court made the observations on Wednesday while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) matter filed by Sanjay Kumar Sharma.

Tamil Nadu Tops Key School Education Indicators

The latest UDISE report shows Tamil Nadu outperforming national averages across major school indicators. The findings underline stronger student retention, better infrastructure and wider progression to higher secondary education.

The state has 57,566 schools, 1,24,02,872 students and 5,69,909 teachers, with an overall pupil-teacher ratio of 22, compared with the national average of 24.

Tamil Nadu performs significantly better than the national average on almost every major school education indicator, including student participation, retention, teacher availability, infrastructure and educational progression, according to the latest Unified District Information System for Ed-



ucation report.

The Tamil Nadu School Education Department said on Thursday that the state has built a school education system that has ensured access and is providing multiple high-quality pathways for students to continue their education. It said the report shows that children in Tamil Nadu stay in education for longer than in most parts of the country. According to the department, Tamil Nadu educates five per cent

of the country's school-going children while accounting for only 3.9 per cent of the country's schools. It said this shows that schools in the state are larger and better used, and are able to serve more students without affecting teacher availability or access. The state has 57,566 schools, 1,24,02,872 students and 5,69,909 teachers, with an overall pupil-teacher ratio of 22, compared with the national average of 24. Each school has,

on average, 215 students and 10 teachers, against the national average of 169 students per school. The report recorded Gross Enrolment Ratios of 92 per cent at the primary stage, 95 per cent at upper primary, 97 per cent at secondary and 85 per cent at higher secondary. The corresponding national averages are 89 per cent, 90 per cent, 82 per cent and 62 per cent. Tamil Nadu also recorded zero dropout at both the primary and upper primary levels, while the secondary dropout rate stood at 6.2 per cent, lower than the national average of 9.5 per cent. The department said the report highlights that students in Tamil Nadu have multiple opportunities to continue their education after Class X. It added that Higher GER is defined as the enrolment of students in Classes XI and XII in recognised schools as a percent-

age of the population aged 16 to 17 years. Quoting the report, the department said Tamil Nadu's higher secondary GER stands at 85 per cent, one of the highest among large states. On infrastructure, the report said access to basic facilities such as electricity, drinking water and toilets is almost universal in the state. It added that digital infrastructure, including computers, internet connectivity and rainwater harvesting, is better than the national average. At the same time, it identified the expansion of digital libraries, tinkering laboratories, ICT-enabled learning facilities and solar energy in schools as the next priorities. verall, the findings suggest that Tamil Nadu has achieved access to education and is now focused on strengthening a system that supports continued learning and future-ready schooling.

Assam govt working to safeguard rights of indigenous people: CM Sarma

GUWAHATI, JULY 9

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said the state government is further strengthening its land laws, based on recommendations of the Central government, to safeguard the rights of indigenous communities living around heritage sites and preserve the original identity of such areas.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister said the proposed measures are aimed at preventing changes to the demographic and cultural character of historically significant locations while ensuring greater legal protection for local communities.

"We are further strengthening our land laws, based on recommendations from the Central Government, to protect the rights of our indigenous communities near heritage sites and preserve

the original identity of these areas," Sarma said.

Earlier, the Chief Minister announced that the Assam Cabinet has approved amendments to the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation to introduce stricter restrictions on the transfer and registration of land around notified heritage sites. According to Sarma, the move seeks to curb indiscriminate land transactions in ecologically and culturally sensitive areas and ensure that the interests of indigenous residents remain protected.

The amendments are expected to create a stronger legal framework for regulating land ownership and transfer in the vicinity of heritage locations. The Chief Minister said preserving the unique historical, cultural and social identity of these areas is a priority for the government.



EDITORIAL

The Illusion of Abundance:
Imported Inflation and
the GST Mirage

Month after month, headlines trumpet the spectacular health of India's fiscal ledger. Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections consistently breach record thresholds, celebrated as definitive proof of a roaring domestic economy and bulletproof consumer demand. However, a deeper look into these soaring numbers reveals a more unsettling narrative. The current buoyancy in GST collections is not merely a reflection of robust economic health; it is being significantly inflated by a stealthy, external force: imported inflation. To understand this phenomenon, one must look at how GST is structured. Because it is an ad valorem tax—calculated as a percentage of the value of the goods sold—the absolute revenue collected rises automatically whenever prices go up, even if the actual volume of goods bought remains flat or shrinks. Over the past couple of years, global supply chain fractures, geopolitical conflicts, and volatile commodity markets have forced India to pay substantially more for essential imports like crude oil, electronic components, fertilizers, and edible oils. When these high-priced inputs cross India's borders, they carry inflated global prices with them. Under the GST framework, Integrated GST (IGST) is levied on these imports. As the landed cost of these items spikes, the IGST collections at the ports spike right along with them. This is the first point of inflation injection. The secondary impact occurs as these costly imports filter down into the domestic supply chain. Manufacturers facing higher raw material bills have no choice but to pass those costs onto the final consumer. A consumer buying a car, a smartphone, or packaged food is paying a higher absolute amount of GST not because they are consuming more, but because they are paying more per item. The apparent “buoyancy” is, in reality, a tax on higher prices.

This distinction matters immensely for macroeconomic policy. True tax buoyancy occurs when revenue grows faster than nominal GDP because of better tax compliance, an expanding taxpayer base, or genuine economic growth. When growth is driven largely by inflation, it masks underlying structural vulnerabilities. High inflation acts as a regressive tax, disproportionately hitting lower- and middle-income households. As these families spend a larger share of their earnings on higher-priced essentials, their discretionary spending power is squeezed. The danger is a looming consumption cliff. If inflation continues to drive up prices, volume growth will inevitably taper off as consumers begin to ration their purchases. When volume drops, the current tax buoyancy will rapidly evaporate, leaving fiscal authorities with a stark shortfall.

Relying on inflation-induced revenues to fund long-term fiscal commitments is a risky strategy. While the immediate influx of cash helps the government meet its fiscal deficit targets, it builds a false sense of security. Policymakers must look beyond the dazzling monthly press releases and focus on the volume of economic transactions rather than just the value. True economic resilience will not be built on the back of expensive global oil or costly imported microchips. Lasting fiscal strength requires structural reforms that lower domestic production costs, broaden the tax base permanently, and boost the purchasing power of the average citizen. Until then, the glittering GST numbers should be viewed for what they frequently are: a glittering reflection of a more expensive world.



RISE AGAIN

When shadows gather, thick and deep,
And silence rocks the dreams you keep,
Remember this—no night can stay,
Forever hiding down away.

Mountains rise to test your climb,
Not to steal your precious time.
Every stumble, every scar,
Shows you just how strong you are.

The wind may bend the tallest tree,
Yet roots hold firm with quiet dignity.
Like rivers carving ancient stone,
Greatness grows through grit alone.

Do not fear the road unknown;
The finest seeds are never sown
In fields untouched by storm or rain—
They bloom because they dared the pain.

Believe in every step you take,
In every choice your heart will make.
The world belongs to those who try,
Who fall, stand up, and reach the sky.

So lift your head, embrace the light,
Turn every setback into flight.
For every ending marks the start
Of a stronger mind, a fearless heart.

| (Global Energy Independence Day on July 10th)

Energy Self-Reliance is the
Only Path to Zero Imports

Energy resources play a vital role in India's development. By providing power for industries, agriculture, transportation, and households, they form a strong foundation for the country's economic growth. At present, India's total installed power generation capacity is approximately 510 gigawatts (GW), making it one of the largest power systems in the world. Of this, non-fossil fuel energy sources account for about 51.5% (262.7 GW). The country's total renewable energy capacity has reached around 254 GW, including 132.9 GW of solar power and 54 GW of wind power. Due to a reliable electricity supply, India's power shortage has declined significantly from 4.2% in 2013–14 to just 0.1% in 2024–25. In addition, electricity has been provided to more than 28 million (2.8 crore) households, leading to substantial improvements in education, healthcare, and overall living standards. India is currently the third-largest energy consumer in the world, reflecting both its rapid economic growth and rising energy demand. Expanding energy resources not only strengthens the country's energy security but also creates employment opportunities and attracts investments. Furthermore, it will provide strong support for achieving the vision of a Developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.

Impact of Crises in West Asia on India's Energy Self-Reliance
Crises in West Asia have a significant impact on India's energy self-reliance because the country still depends heavily on imports of crude oil and natural gas. India meets approximately 88–90% of its crude oil requirements through imports, making it one of the world's largest importers of crude oil. Although India has recently increased its crude oil imports from Russia, nearly 45–50% of its crude oil imports still come from West Asian countries. In addition, about 68% of India's LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) imports and around 47% of its LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) imports originate from West Asia. Whenever tensions or conflicts arise around the Strait of Hormuz, oil production and transportation are disrupted. As a result, international crude oil prices and maritime shipping costs rise sharply. Nearly one-fifth of the world's total oil supply passes through the Strait of Hormuz, so any disruption in this strategic waterway has a direct impact on India's energy security. To meet its



growing energy needs while strengthening energy security, India is rapidly increasing investments in renewable energy, nuclear power, and green hydrogen. In addition, one of the country's key goals is to achieve 500 gigawatts (GW) of non-fossil fuel electricity generation capacity by 2030, supporting long-term energy self-reliance and sustainable development. Rising oil prices increase India's import bill, widen the trade deficit, fuel inflation, and put pressure on the value of the Indian rupee. During 2023–24, India spent approximately US\$178.7 billion on imports of crude oil and petroleum products. This clearly illustrates the economic impact of the country's heavy dependence on energy imports. To reduce these risks, India has diversified its crude oil imports by increasing purchases from Russia, the United States, Brazil, and African countries. At the same time, it has expanded its strategic petroleum reserves and accelerated investments in clean energy sectors such as solar power, wind energy, biofuels, and green hydrogen. However, until domestic energy production and renewable energy sources are able to meet a much larger share of the country's energy demand, geopolitical crises in West Asia will continue to affect India's energy self-reliance whenever they occur.

Measures to Create Public
Awareness for the Sustainable
Use of Energy Resources

Public awareness and active participation are essential for the sustainable use of energy resources. To achieve this, the Government of India should organize National Energy Conservation Day every year on December 14 on a large scale and conduct extensive awareness campaigns on energy conservation through television, radio, newspapers, and social media platforms across the country. Topics such as energy conservation and climate change should be incorporated into school and college curricula so that students develop awareness about energy efficiency and conservation from an early age. People should also be encouraged to use LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulbs, as they consume about 75% less electricity than traditional incandescent bulbs. In addition, awareness campaigns should promote the adoption of rooftop solar power systems, electric vehicles (EVs), and energy-efficient appliances with Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) Star Ratings. Training programs and workshops should be organized for farmers, industries, and household consumers on methods to reduce energy wastage and improve energy

efficiency. Digital platforms and mobile applications should be used to help people monitor their electricity consumption and encourage them to adopt energy-saving habits. Furthermore, local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and village- and urban-level community organizations should conduct awareness programs on renewable energy and sustainable lifestyles in both rural and urban areas. These initiatives will help reduce energy wastage, lower electricity bills, and decrease dependence on imported fuels. They will also play a crucial role in supporting India's goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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KASHMIR, THE LAND OF AMAZING BEAUTY

- DR. KANDEPI RANI PRASAD

With its breathtaking mountain ranges on the slopes of the Himalayas, Dal and Anchar lakes that freeze in winter, Chinara, Deodar and Pine trees that reach as high as the sky, lush green meadows, colorful flowers that show their beauty, and waterfalls that flow like milk from the hills, we went to Kashmir on the 8th of this month to see it, which is known as heaven on earth. After spending five days exploring the beauties of Kashmir, we returned to our home state on the 12th. We had a great experience visiting Switzerland, which is known as the heaven on earth in 2009. While admiring the magnificent beauty of the Alps, a doctor in our group said, “Kashmir is even more magnificent.” Since then, I have had a great desire to see Kashmir. When I read Nayani Krishnakumari's poetically written ‘Kashmir Deepakalika’, which I saw in 1967, as a lesson and told it to my children, I firmly thought, ‘I too must see it someday.’ However, when I saw Kashmir in the jawan's pahara in the movies ‘Raja’, it seemed like a rose among thorns. Although I am a little sad that I have been able to see the beauty of Kashmir in ‘Kashmir Deepakalika’, which was written before I was born, I am extremely happy that I still have the opportunity. Since a conference called ‘Neon’ is being held at SKICC in Srinagar, we, along with our friends, rushed out to see Kashmir. We are looking at Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, due to the Pediatric Doctors’ Conference. The G20 Summit was held at this SKICC. When I was studying in college, I remembered the big discussion about the beauty of Kashmiri girls when I was asked to dress up as a ‘Kashmiri Girl’ in a ‘fashion show’. When buying soft ‘Pashmina’ shawls, when buying a box of red-stamen saffron flowers, when biting and eating Kashmiri apples with red cheeks, when eating expensively bought dry fruits as strength, we remember Kashmir many times. Jammu and Kashmir is also one of the Union Territories of India. Jammu and Kashmir, which was once a state that experienced a lot of turmoil, became a Union Territory from August 2019. Srinagar, which was always chaotic with firing and curfews, is now leading a peaceful life. Srinagar is the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. Muslims live in the majority

of the population of 17 lakhs here. Hindus live in the majority in Jammu. Jammu is the winter capital. We did not go to Jammu, but we visited Kashmir in the summer and saw Dal Lake as a normal lake with moving water. We took a boat trip in it. This time we should see Kashmir in the winter. We wanted to see the frozen Dal Lake. We also saw Switzerland in the summer. When we went there, we wanted to visit it again in the winter. I have not been there so far. I wonder when the time will come to see the Kashmiri beauties wearing white snow caps! Kashmiri beauties came to mind. During our five-day trip, women were not seen much anywhere. The few women who were seen here and there may have been adults. There were no women working in shops, in garment factories, or in hotels. There were no children riding bicycles or scooters. Women were not even allowed to wash dishes or cook food in hotels. When we went to see Jama Masjid, I was not allowed to enter the prayer hall. Women are not allowed to come here. “There is a better prayer hall for women, go there,” they politely told us. When I asked, “Can I take a picture?”, he said, “You should take a picture from outside and not inside.” My parents went and prayed and came back with a picture. Jama Masjid is located in the Souhatta area of the old basti in Srinagar. It was built in 1394. There is a stone plaque at the main gate with details of when it was started and when it was completed, so I took a picture of it. It is beautifully decorated with four minarets on all four sides. It was completed in 1402. There are structures with a height of 384 feet in the north, south and 381 feet in the east and west. The cedar trees used in these structures are of the same length and the trunk of a single tree is used without any joints. Hari Parbat Fort is also visible from here. The Indus, Chenab and Jhelum rivers flow mainly in Kashmir. The Jhelum river is visible as you enter the city of Srinagar. It is a tributary of the Indus. It occupies the entire city of Srinagar. The Indus River originates in Tibet and flows through the states of Kashmir and Punjab before entering Pakistan and joining the Arabian Sea. The national river Indus has Chenab, Beas, Sutlej and Ravi as its tributaries along with Jhelum. The Indus River is spread over a length of 2880 km. The Indus River Valley was home to the Indus Civilization for about 500 years, and civilization also

flourished in Harappa and Mohenjodaro. The lesson we read in our childhood books about the Indus Valley Civilization is vividly seen here. Sonamarg is 85 km away from Srinagar. It took a full day to see it. It took almost five hours to reach the 85 km distance. There was a lot of delay due to the heavy traffic jam. This is an important hill station in Ganderbal district. Sonamarg means “golden pasture land”. At the top of it is the ‘Dhajiwas Glacier’. To reach there, we take the help of ponies. The journey over the hills is on horseback. As soon as I got on the pony, it moved here and there, and I got off in fear. The rest of the family members got on horses and climbed the hills. They reached the Thajiwas Glacier. I, on the other hand, walked as far as I could and climbed the hill and enjoyed the greenery around. Even from Srinagar to Sonamarg, we forgot to blink our eyes while looking at nature. The waterfalls cascading from the Himalayan mountain ranges are a treat to the eyes from a distance. We are confused whether to enjoy it with our eyes or take photos and videos with our camera. If we keep the phone on, we get into trouble. Before we can take a picture of the wonderful scenery, the car moves forward. Our mind struggles harder than a Supreme Court judge to decide what is wonderful, what is unusual, and what is the most wonderful. We reached Srinagar at ten o'clock at night. We are taking a boat ride on the Dal Lake, which flows through the heart of the village. There are more than twenty points, namely Ghat No. 1, 2, and 3. We sit on beautifully decorated boats with soft mattresses and cruise on the Dal Lake for an hour or two, with the Himalayas looming behind the surrounding Jabbar Wan hills watching our cruise. Houseboats that stay in the water all night are available for travelers. Some of the boats have shops selling clothes and fancy goods. You can also do shopping during the boat ride. I have seen something like this before, but I can't remember where. They sell tea, coffee, chillies, samosas in boats. We had coffee. It was a funny experience. If we go to Kashmir, how can we not tell you about the Mughal Gardens - the roses are blooming in the Mughal Gardens in the size of two palms. When I was a child, I was mesmerized by the rose garden in Araku Valley. It seemed that no poet could describe the beauty of the roses in the Kash-

mir Valley. The variety of flowers, their elegance, beauty, and colors are beyond the description of a king's pleasure. My hands ached while taking photos. We were delighted to see the cherry tree here. Mughal Emperor Jahangir built these gardens for his wife Nur Jahan. It is overlooking the Dal Lake. There are three gardens, Shalimar Bagh, Nishat Bagh, and Chashme Shahi. The gardens are in Mughal Gardens, where they are decorated with Kashmiri vernaculars and songs are sung. While wandering in Kashmir, I was amazed to see Chinara, pine, willow, apple, and walnut trees and took photos of them. I picked leaves and stems and brought them home. I brought pine nuts from Switzerland, painted them, made figurines, and put them in our Milky Museum. I brought dry fruits, saffron, pashmina shawls, and sweaters from Kashmir. Cricket bats are made from the trunks of willow trees. Wood carving is very common. Windows, doors, and roofs are made in temples related to God with the wood of cedar trees. Wherever you look in the city, you can see sculptures, artists, and shops. The Shankaracharya Temple, which is said to have been built by Adi Shankaracharya, is a major tourist attraction in Srinagar. This temple is located on a high octagonal platform on a hill. You cannot see Lord Shiva without climbing the hill in a car and then climbing 243 steps. It dates back to 200 BC. This temple is also known as King Solomon's Garden. The next morning we left for Doodh Patri. It did not look like a ghat road but more like a plain. Pine and willow trees were abundant here. There are ponies and bikes to go from the hill to the waterfall. We took bikes. These are called ATV bikes. They can be driven on four wheels even on rocks. This valley is amazing. The water here is as white as milk, hence the name ‘Doodh Patri’. The rays of the sun falling through the tall trees, the waterfalls cascading from the hills, the horses grazing on the grass on the meadows, the milky water gushing from between the big rocks, it is impossible to see the beauty of nature without having all your eyes open like Devendra. It seems that language is not enough to describe these beauties, it is only by seeing them that you can feel them in your mind. The beauty of Kashmir is a mesmerizing beauty that you should see and enjoy at least once in your life.



India to Build Smart Borders: Amit Shah

Amit Shah said the Centre is building smart borders and a coordinated security grid to curb infiltration. He said the strategy links technology, development and local participation to tackle emerging threats.

The Centre is preparing a technology-driven overhaul of India's border security, with a focus on smart surveillance, a coordinated security grid and tougher action against illegal infiltration. Addressing the Border District Superintendents of Police Conference 2026 in New Delhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said securing the country's frontiers would no longer remain the sole responsibility of border guarding forces but would require close coordination between the Centre, states, district administrations and local communities. Shah said the government was building a "quadrilateral security grid" to make India's borders more secure while ensuring the

development and prosperity of people living in border areas. The conference was attended by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, Union Home Secretary, the Intelligence Bureau Director, Directors General of Police from border states and other senior officials.

SMART BORDER TO DRIVE SECURITY TRANSFORMATION
Shah said the Border District SP Conference was not merely a platform for discussions but an institutional mechanism to develop a comprehensive border security framework. He added that a similar approach would also be adopted to strengthen coastal security. According to the Home Minister, the government's Smart Border vision aims to make India's border management among the most advanced in the world by deploying artificial intelligence, digital surveillance, anti-drone systems, smart sensors and integrated command and control centres. "Border security cannot remain confined to border



posts and security personnel alone. It requires seamless coordination among security forces, state governments, district administrations, central agencies and local citizens," he said. **'SECURE BORDERS, PROSPEROUS FRONTIERS, AWARE SOCIETY'**
Shah said the government's border security policy rests on three pillars - "Secure Borders, Prosperous Frontiers and an Aware Society." He said national security was not ensured by weapons alone and that the development of border regions and participation of local communities were equally

important. The government, he said, was expanding education, healthcare, roads, communication networks, employment opportunities and basic infrastructure in border areas to reduce migration and encourage local communities to become active stakeholders in national security. **FOCUS ON TERROR, NAXALISM AND ORGANISED CRIME**
Referring to the Modi government's internal security record, Shah said terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast had been effectively brought under control, while

anti-Naxal operations had also achieved significant success. He credited these achievements to coordinated efforts by the Centre, state governments, security forces and local administrations. "The next major objective is decisive action against organised crime, narcotics and illegal infiltration," he said. **TARGET TO WEAKEN NARCOTICS NETWORKS**
Shah said the government had prepared a comprehensive strategy to inflict a major blow on drug trafficking networks over the next three years. He described cross-border narcotics smuggling as a serious threat to national security and said stronger border management, better coordination among states and greater use of technology would help dismantle these networks. **TOUGHER ACTION ON ILLEGAL INFILTRATION**
The Home Minister said the government's objective was not merely to identify illegal infiltrators but to build systems that prevent infiltration altogether.

He said robust surveillance, modern technology and closer coordination among agencies would form the backbone of this strategy. "Earlier, problems remained permanent while solutions were temporary. Our government is working to address problems at their roots and provide permanent solutions," Shah said. **400% RISE IN BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE**
Shah said investment in border infrastructure had increased by nearly 400 per cent under the Modi government. He said roads, bridges, tunnels, communication facilities, border outposts and other critical infrastructure had significantly improved, enhancing troop deployment, logistics and emergency response capabilities while also benefiting people living in border areas.

VIBRANT VILLAGES TO STRENGTHEN BORDER AREAS
Referring to the Vibrant Villages Programme, Shah said the government had adopted the philosophy of treating India's last village as its first. The initiative aims to create employment opportunities, reduce migration, improve basic services and ensure that government welfare schemes reach every household in border villages. "When border villages become stronger, border security also becomes stronger," he said.



Rani Kamalapati-Agartala Express Gets LHB Coaches

MALIGAON, 9 JULY, 2026

In a significant step towards enhancing passenger comfort, safety and overall travel experience, Indian Railway is introducing modern Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches in place of the existing conventional ICF coaches for Train No. 01665/01666 (Rani Kamalapati - Agartala - Rani Kamalapati) Special Express. Train No. 01665 (Rani Kamalapati - Agartala) Special Express will commence operation with the new LHB rake from 9 th July, 2026, departing from Rani Kamalapati. Similarly, Train No. 01666 (Agartala - Rani Kamalapati) Special Express will operate with the new LHB rake from 12 th July, 2026, departing from Agartala. The introduction of modern LHB coaches marks another milestone in the modernization initiatives of Indian Railways. Designed with advanced technology, these coaches offer

enhanced safety through their anti-telescopic design, which significantly reduces the risk of coaches climbing over one another during collisions. Passengers will also enjoy a more comfortable journey due to superior suspension systems that provide a smoother and more stable ride. In addition, the coaches are capable of operating at higher speeds and feature improved interiors, ensuring a safer, more efficient and pleasant travel experience. The newly introduced LHB rake will consist of 22 coaches, providing adequate accommodation across various travel classes to meet the diverse needs of passengers. Indian Railway remains committed to continuously upgrading its passenger services through the adoption of modern technology, improved amenities and enhanced operational efficiency, in line with the vision to provide a safe, comfortable and passenger-centric railway network.



CJI Surya Kant Bench to Hear Ram Temple Donation Plea

The Supreme Court will hear petitions seeking a probe into alleged irregularities in Ram Temple trust donations on July 13. The pleas seek a court-monitored CBI-led inquiry, record preservation and stronger financial oversight.

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, is scheduled to hear on July 13 a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking an inquiry into alleged irregularities in the donation funds received by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya. The bench, which also comprises Justices Joymalya Bagchi and VS Mohan, will hear the petition filed by advocates Ajay Kumar Rai and Dinesh Kumar Yadav. A separate plea filed by Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP Sudhakar Singh on the same issue has also been listed for hearing. The petition seeks a comprehensive probe into allegations of irregularities and alleged embezzlement involving donations and offerings made to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. It calls for a court-monitored investigation to ascertain whether any financial misappropriation or corruption took place in the handling of funds received by the trust. According to the plea, an FIR has already been registered in the matter, and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Uttar Pradesh Police has submitted an interim report. However, the petitioners have argued that an independent investigation

led by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) through a specially constituted SIT is necessary to ensure a fair, impartial and time-bound probe. The petition also seeks directions to the Uttar Pradesh government and the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Trust to establish a robust audit and oversight mechanism for the trust's finances and assets to prevent similar allegations in the future. **DONATION RECORDS TO BE PRE-SERVED**
Additionally, the petitioners have requested the apex court to direct the state government and the trust to preserve all records related to donations until the investigation is completed. These include bank account details, donation registers, audit reports, CCTV footage, computer records and other relevant documents. The plea further seeks an order restraining any destruction, alteration or tampering with evidence during the course of the investigation. The matter had earlier been mentioned before the Supreme Court during the summer vacation, with the petitioners seeking an urgent hearing. However, the vacation bench declined the request, observing that the matter would be listed only after the prescribed procedural requirements were completed and that there was no immediate urgency warranting an expedited hearing. The case is now set to come up before the Chief Justice-led bench on Monday, when the court is expected to consider the maintainability of the petitions and the reliefs sought by the petitioners.

4 Gangsters Killed in Gurugram Encounter

Four suspected shooters linked to foreign-based gangster Deepak Nandal were killed and one was injured in a fierce encounter with the Gurugram Police Crime Branch after they allegedly opened fire at a businessman's residence in Sushant Lok Phase-2.

Four criminals were killed and three Gurugram Police Crime Branch personnel sustained bullet injuries during a high-voltage encounter with armed gangsters in Gurugram's Sushant Lok Phase-2 on Wednesday. According to the Gurugram Police Commissioner,

the criminals were shooters linked to gangster Deepak Nandal, who is currently operating from abroad. Police also recovered five automatic weapons from the accused. The encounter took place after the shooters allegedly opened fire at the residence of a prominent businessman in the Sushant Lok area before attempting to flee. The businessman had reportedly been receiving repeated extortion messages from the foreign-based gangster. According to Gurugram Police, Crime Branch teams received information through the police control room about armed criminals



nals travelling in a suspicious Scorpio SUV. When the teams reached the Sushant Lok area, the accused had already started firing at the businessman's house using sophisticated automatic weapons. Police said

Crime Branch personnel warned the accused to surrender, but the shooters instead opened fire on the police team and attempted to escape. The Crime Branch then retaliated in self-defence and to apprehend the

accused, during which all five shooters sustained bullet injuries. Police shifted all five injured suspects to a private super-specialty hospital. Doctors declared four of them dead, while one injured accused remains under treatment. During the exchange of fire, three Gurugram Police Crime Branch personnel also suffered gunshot injuries. Authorities rushed all three injured policemen to a hospital, where they are undergoing treatment under continuous medical supervision. Following the encounter, DCP Crime and DCP East reached the spot. Teams from the Scene of Crime

unit, the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and other police units conducted a scientific and technical examination of the scene and collected evidence. Gurugram Police said the identities of the deceased and injured accused, their criminal records, details of the recovered weapons and other important findings will be shared separately after verification and investigation. Police added that legal proceedings are underway and reiterated that Gurugram Police remains committed to public safety and will take strict action against criminals attempting to spread fear among the public.

4 chargesheeted by CBI in RHFL bank 'fraud' case

NEW DELHI: (JUL 9)

The CBI on Thursday filed its first chargesheet related to alleged loss of over Rs 3,500 crore caused to banks by the Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) by diverting funds, officials said. In its chargesheet filed before the Special Court, Mumbai, the agency has named four accused, including RHFL, two former senior executives of RHFL, Ravindra Sudhalkar (Executive Director & CEO) and Krishanan Gopalakrishnan Iyer (Chief Risk Officer), and former senior executive of Reliance Capital Ltd, Dhnanjay Bhagwanprasad Tiwari (Chief Credit & Risk Officer) for offences of criminal conspiracy and cheating with intent to cause huge losses to public sector banks, the agency said.

4 Deepak Nandal Gang Members Killed in Gurugram Encounter

GURUGRAM: (Jul 9) Four associates of notorious criminal Deepak Nandal were killed, while one was injured in an encounter with the Gurugram Police on Thursday, a senior officer of the force said. Three police personnel were also injured in the exchange of fire, he added. According to police, the encounter took place in A Block, Sushant Lok, late in the evening. Five members of the Deepak Nandal gang had allegedly held Vishal Berry, the son of the founder of the SGT University in Gurugram, hostage in his Sushant Lok residence

Energy Independence for Economic Stability and Environmental Sustainability

(On the occasion of "Global Energy Independence Day" on 10 July)

In 2006, Michael D. Antonovich proclaimed 10 July as "Global Energy Independence Day" as a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. This day coincides with the birthday of Nikola Tesla, who was born in 1856. The day highlights the critical transition to sustainable alternatives like solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal power to reduce global reliance on fossil fuels. Tesla has made many breakthroughs in the area of electric power which helped pave the way to discover other forms of energy. On this day, companies that produce renewable energy host workshops, seminars, conferences to disseminate information on energy independence to the general public. People around the world also

celebrate the famous engineer, physicist, and futurist Nikola Tesla. **Energy Independence means...**
Energy independence means having control over energy supply, reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels, and minimising the impact of global energy market fluctuations. Achieving this independence is crucial for both economic stability and environmental sustainability. This day promotes awareness for alternative forms of energy like sun, wind, and geothermal. Automobiles, coffee makers, home kitchens, heating or cooling systems, wood-burning require one or the other form of energy. Each human being in

this world consumes about 78 Btu (British Thermal Units) of energy annually and hence world population requires around 575 quadrillion Btu of energy every year. The most common energy sources people use are oil, coal, gas which are classified as fossil fuels. The use of fossil fuels have the danger of air/water pollution, land degradation, and global warming, in addition to the problem of eventually running out of these energy sources. Hence, these serious problems are motivating scientists to discover newer, renewable forms of energy such as solar, wind, nuclear, geothermal, hydroelectric energy forms that will slowly substitute the age old fossil fuels. The only

alternative before mankind is the production of renewable energy to achieve energy independence. **Aim of Global Energy Independence Day:**
The production of renewable energy is not that much easy and also higher cost of production results may also be a great burden on consumer. The Global Energy Independence Day emphasises that achieving energy independence is a vital necessity for ensuring economic stability, protecting the environment, and enhancing national security. The key goals and focus areas of the day include scaling up renewable energy, modernising the grid, electrifying transportation, and promoting energy

efficiency. The final aim of this day is to foster a global movement towards a more sustainable and self-sufficient energy future. This day is not just a celebration, but it's about recognising the work still needed to secure a green and sustainable future for all of us. To promote energy independence we need to comprehensively train youth for green jobs, foster inclusive employment, partnership with industry leaders, encourage innovation, build a sustainable future, and bring measurable impact on global population. Let's raise awareness of alternate energy forms and encourage learning more about renewable energy forms, such as solar, wind, and geothermal.

Free Dialysis Services to be introduced soon

CHANDIGARH, JULY 9

16 more sub-divisional hospitals across Haryana: Health Minister Arti Singh Rao

Haryana Health Minister, Ms. Arti Singh Rao, said that under the leadership of Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, the state government is bringing about transformative changes in healthcare services. Free dialysis services have already been launched across the state, and the scheme will now be expanded to 16 additional sub-divisional hospitals, including the one at Kanina in Mahendragarh district. She said that the state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Medanta Hospital to strengthen maternal and

child healthcare. Under this initiative, specialist doctors from Medanta will provide regular health monitoring and consultation to pregnant women and newborn babies. The Health Minister was addressing a programme on Thursday organised during a dhanyawadi daura in the Ateli Assembly constituency of Mahendragarh district. During the visit, she inaugurated development works worth approximately Rs. 3.13 crore in the gram panchayats of Bocharia, Hassanpur, and Salimpur. Reviewing the ongoing development works in these villages, Ms. Rao said

the state government is committed to ensuring comprehensive rural development and improving healthcare facilities across Haryana. She also announced an additional Rs.11 lakh each for the gram panchayats of Bocharia and Hassanpur to undertake further development works. The minister said the government has placed the highest priority on development and public welfare, adding that no village in the Ateli Assembly constituency would be left behind. Basic infrastructure and essential public services, she said, would be extended to every

village. She said that development works worth approximately Rs. 1.50 crore have been completed in Bocharia and Hassanpur under various government schemes. These include the construction of link roads, phirnis, chaupals, boundary walls, entrance gates, streets in BPL colonies, CCTV cameras, drinking water pipelines, welcome gates, and a farm road built at a cost of Rs. 53.44 lakh. In Salimpur, development projects worth around Rs. 1.67 crore have also been completed. These include road construction, BC and SC chaupals, library furni-

ture, a boundary wall around the playground, tin sheds, a drinking water tank, and an additional 2-kilometre road constructed at a cost of Rs. 56.84 lakh, along with several other civic infrastructure works. The Health Minister also chaired a public grievance redressal programme at her office in Ateli, where she heard the problems of local residents and directed officers to ensure prompt, transparent, and time-bound resolution of issues related to public welfare. Ateli MLA, Sh. Om Prakash Yadav and senior District officers were also present.

Why Australia, once reluctant, is now ready to export uranium to India

NEW DELHI

In a significant shift from the past, Canberra and New Delhi have operationalised a long-pending agreement, with Australia now agreeing to export uranium to India for peaceful civilian use.

The finalisation of an administrative arrangement for the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement took place during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, the second leg of his three-nation tour.

At the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne on Thursday, PM Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese finalised the administrative arrangement needed to implement the Agreement signed in 2014.

While the 2008 Nuclear Suppliers Group waiver allowed India to buy uranium from member countries, the agreement with Australia had set the legal framework. But Canberra refused to sell uranium to India because New



Delhi is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Australia, as one of the signatories, had maintained that uranium exports would be restricted to treaty parties. Its position remained unchanged despite growing strategic ties with India even under the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government. Observers point out several factors that contributed to Canberra's growing confidence towards New Delhi of late. Among the principal reasons cited is India's consistent effort to project itself as a responsible nuclear power committed to the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Successive India-Australia engagements further strengthened strategic trust, while the Narendra Modi government's emphasis on responsible global conduct further reinforced this perception. India's foreign policy and PM Modi's diplomatic outreach helped reassure Canberra that uranium imported from Australia would be used solely for civilian purposes under international safeguards, analysts

observed. Additionally, India's repeated emphasis on dialogue and peaceful resolution of international conflicts, including its calls for peace in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Middle East, was viewed by many as reinforcing its image as a responsible global stakeholder. Meanwhile, India's participation in the Quad grouping with Australia, the United States, and Japan also played an important role in deepening mutual confidence. During Quad engagements, India consistently presented its strategic vision as one focused on maintaining peace, ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific, and avoiding armed confrontation.

Sources familiar with the diplomatic engagement cite such interactions as having helped Australian leaders better understand India's security outlook and long-term strategic priorities. Canberra also closely monitored India's record of adherence to international commitments regarding civilian nuclear cooperation.

India's compliance with IAEA safeguards and its continued separation of civilian and military nuclear facilities contributed to building confidence that Australian uranium would be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Another important consideration was India's rapidly growing energy demand. As India pursues its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 under the "Viksit Bharat" roadmap, clean and reliable energy sources have become increasingly important. Nuclear power is expected to play a larger role in India's future energy mix, making access to uranium essential for expanding civilian nuclear power generation. Australia's vast uranium reserves made it a natural partner in meeting this requirement. Australia reportedly has around 28 per cent of the world's uranium resources, and exports all of it. Canberra does not operate nuclear power plants, nor does it possess nuclear weapons.

Global economy resilient despite war: IMF

WASHINGTON

The global economy has remained resilient despite the economic shock triggered by the Middle East conflict, with artificial intelligence-led investment and productivity gains helping offset the impact of higher energy and commodity prices, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Thursday, while cautioning that uncertainty remains exceptionally high.

Speaking at the IMF's regular press briefing, Julie Kozack, Director of the IMF's Communications Department, said the world economy has successfully weathered multiple shocks over recent years, including the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. "The global economy has been resilient. It's faced many shocks over the last several years. It has weathered the shock of the Middle East war, as well," Kozack said. She said the resilience reflects two opposing forces acting on the global economy.

"We have the negative supply shock from the war, which has pushed up commodity prices, particularly energy, fertiliser and food prices."

Ebola death toll exceeds 600 as Africa CDC urges sustained efforts

ADDIS ABABA

Experts from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) on Thursday urged sustained international solidarity, as the death toll of the ongoing Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak has surpassed 600 in Congo and Uganda. The two affected countries have recorded a cumulative 1,779 confirmed cases and 602 deaths, with a case fatality rate of about 34 per cent, while some 302 patients have recovered from the disease so far, according to the latest data from the African Union's continental public health agency.

During an online press briefing, Wessam Mankoula, operations manager for the Ebola response at Africa CDC, noted that Congo recorded some 353 confirmed cases during the past week, which marked a 25 per cent increase in the country's caseload. Xinhua news agency reported.

"We continue facing the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak ever on the continent," Mankoula said. "The outbreak is still growing and evolving. Unfortunately, the virus is still

ahead of our response." Africa CDC data showed that as the outbreak expands in Congo, for every 10 infected individuals, the virus is transmitted to nearly 14 new people.

The experts further noted critical gaps related to financing, inadequate safe burial capacity, and healthcare worker infections and deaths.

Some 112 healthcare workers have been infected with the virus, and 35 have lost their lives so far in Congo.

On a positive note, they highlighted commendable improvements, including progress in lab testing capacity, currently reaching more than 2,000 tests per day.

The recent commencement of clinical trials of therapeutics on the Bundibugyo Ebola strain is considered a major breakthrough given the lack of licensed vaccines or targeted medical countermeasures to the particular strain.

Meanwhile, the agency acknowledged Uganda's outbreak containment efforts, with only one admitted case, and the last confirmed case was reported back on June 21. "Uganda is demonstrating that Ebola can be controlled."

Iran condemns US strikes on maritime infrastructure at IMO meeting

LONDON

Iran on Thursday strongly condemned US "military aggression" against Iranian ports, coastal areas and maritime infrastructure over the past two nights, saying the strikes had endangered maritime safety and security. Speaking at the 137th session of the Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in London, an Iranian representative said the targets of the US strikes included the maritime traffic control tower at Chabahar Port, civilian fishing vessels and equipment specifically dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of navigation.

"These attacks constitute a manifestly unlawful use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran and have directly endangered civilian lives, seafarers, commercial shipping and the marine environment," he said. The representative criticised the United States for invoking freedom of navigation while attacking maritime traffic control facilities and safety equipment established to protect vessels and seafarers, Xinhua news agency reported. "A state cannot credibly claim to defend maritime security while destroying the very infrastructure upon which safe navigation depends," he said.

Trump seems not to rule out building US military ships in South Korea: Official

ULAANBAATAR

US President Donald Trump does not appear to rule out the possibility of having US military ships he asked South Korea to build constructed in the Northeast Asian country, a presidential official said on Thursday.

The presidential official made the remarks at a press conference in Ulaanbaatar, where he was accompanying President Lee Jae Myung on a three-day state visit to Mongolia, in response to a reporter's question about Trump's recent request that South Korea build military vessels.

Trump requested Lee during their encounter at the recent Group of Seven summit in Evian-les-Bains, France, last month. The issue came up again when the two leaders met again at a dinner of the North Atlantic Treaty Organi-



sation (NATO) summit in Ankara earlier this week.

"I have the impression that (Trump) does not rule out the possibility of having (them) built in South Korea," the presidential official said on condition of anonymity, Yonhap news agency reported.

The official, however, said it

remains unclear exactly how Trump wants the ships to be built, adding that working-level discussions would be needed to flesh out the details.

Meanwhile, South Korea's major shipbuilders are turning their attention to the US naval market as Washington shows growing interest in their naval

shipbuilding capabilities, raising expectations that Seoul's Make American Shipbuilding Great Again (MASGA) initiative could gain momentum.

The shift comes as Trump has repeatedly emphasised rebuilding America's shipbuilding industry while seeking trusted allies capable of sup-

plementing domestic capacity, with Washington taking steps to assess Korean shipbuilders' capabilities. The Pentagon and the US Navy recently sent requests for information (RFIs) to South Korean companies on their ability to design and build destroyers, while a separate request was sent covering medium-sized fleet replenishment ships, according to industry sources.

It marks the first such request since last year's bilateral agreement to allocate USD 150 billion for shipbuilding cooperation under the MASGA proposal as part of South Korea's broader USD 350 billion investment package in the US.

The development was revealed just days after South Korea failed to secure Canada's submarine replacement program to build up to 12 submarines, valued at up to 60 trillion won.

EAM Jaishankar arrives in Oman on fourth leg of six-nation visit

MUSCAT

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar arrived in Oman on Thursday after concluding his latest visit to Kuwait. "Glad to arrive in Oman today. Appreciate the warm reception by Sheikh Ahmed Al Maskari, Director General of Oman's Foreign Ministry," EAM Jaishankar wrote on social media platform X.

On Wednesday, the EAM called on Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah

Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, thanking him for supporting the Indian community's welfare and well-being while welcoming his vision for stronger and mutually beneficial India-Kuwait cooperation. EAM Jaishankar also held a meeting with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. "A pleasure to meet Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Discussed the impact of Gulf conflict on the region and beyond. Conveyed appreciation



for ensuring the well-being of Indian community. We jointly assessed our cooperation focusing on energy, trade, investments, defence, technology, food security and health domains. Confident that our Stra-

tegic Partnership will continue to strengthen in times to come," the EAM posted on X after the meeting.

Issues of defence industry cooperation and maritime security dominated EAM Jaishankar's meeting with Kuwait's Defence Minister Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. EAM Jaishankar also interacted with members of the Indian community in Kuwait. "External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar interacted with members of the Indian community in

Kuwait, sharing India's transformational journey and its growing global aspirations, while appreciating the community's invaluable contribution to strengthening the enduring bonds of friendship between India and Kuwait," the Embassy of India in Kuwait wrote on X. "Appreciated meeting members of the Indian community in Kuwait. Their role in strengthening India-Kuwait friendship is well recognised. Value their experiences and suggestions."

India, Vietnam agree to deepen parliamentary friendship

HANOI

India's Ambassador to Vietnam, Tshering W Sherpa on Thursday, called on Phan Chi Hieu, Chairman of the Vietnam-India Parliamentary Friendship Group (VIPFG) and briefed him on the ongoing initiatives under the India-Vietnam partnership.

"Today, the Ambassador called on Mr. Phan Chi Hieu, Chairman of the Viet Nam-India Parliamentary Friendship Group (VIPFG) and Chairman of the Committee for Law and Justice of the National Assembly. Ambassador congratulated Chairman Hieu on his appointment as Chairman of the VIPFG and briefed him on the progressive and forward-looking India-Vietnam partnership," the Embassy of India in Hanoi wrote on X.

"They agreed to deepen the existing parliamentary friendship, share legislative best practices, and enhance bilateral cooperation between the two Parliaments," it added.

According to the Embassy, the two Parliamentary Friend-



ship Groups have an important role to play in further strengthening the India-Viet Nam Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

On Wednesday, Ambassador Sherpa met Nguyen Thi Anh Thi, Vice Chairwoman of the People's Committee of Da Nang to discuss the next steps towards establishment of the Site Interpretation Center (SIC) at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Site at My Son.

"Working towards implementation of the India - Vietnam Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership! Ambassador Tshering W Sher-

pa held a meeting today with Mdm. Nguyen Thi Anh Thi, Vice Chairwoman of the People's Committee of Da Nang and other key stakeholders to discuss the next steps towards establishment of the Site Interpretation Center (SIC) at My Son. They also discussed the forthcoming activities between the Embassy and Da Nang City," the Embassy wrote on X.

Ambassador also reviewed the ongoing progress of the restoration work by the Indian Archaeological Survey Team at My Son. The Cham culture is a civilisational bond between India and Vietnam.

Rights groups flag widespread corruption in Pak's judiciary

PARIS/ISLAMABAD

A leading international human rights organisation has highlighted widespread and systemic corruption at all levels of the Pakistani justice system, warning that it carries grave consequences for human rights.

France-based International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and one of its member organisations, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), released a 32-page report, titled 'Under the Bench: Mapping corruption risks in Pakistan's justice system'. The report detailed the multi-faceted ways in which corruption, "endemic" throughout Pakistan's judicial system, has impacted the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary, while weakening its ability to uphold fair trial rights and protect other fundamental freedoms.

As per the findings, there are indications that judicial corruption in Pakistan has reached a systemic scale and may amount to grand corruption. "This report shows the extent to which corruption



has become entrenched in all aspects of the judiciary and the insidious impacts it has on the enjoyment of human rights. Far from being a victimless crime, corruption in the judiciary has demonstrably curtailed the right to fair trial, particularly for the most vulnerable, such as minorities," said FIDH Secretary General Shahindha Ismail.

The report noted how the recent 26th and 27th Constitutional Amendments in Pakistan have heavily diluted the limited independence previously enjoyed by the judiciary by altering judicial ap-

pointments and expanding the grounds for judicial removal.

"These developments mark a regressive shift in Pakistan's legal and constitutional order by completely stripping the limited independence previously enjoyed by the judiciary. Judicial appointments, bench formation and high-level case management are now subject to political influence in ways that contradict international standards for judicial independence," the report stated.

"Moreover, these structural distortions at the top impact the lower judiciary, where judges are influenced by high-

er courts regarding their own conduct and decision-making, and where the potential to be influenced by external pressures is greater," it added.

The report documented the failure of existing anti-corruption mechanisms to ensure accountability and deter future acts of corruption, while highlighting human rights consequences of corruption in the judiciary.

These included "violations of the rights to due process, equality before the law, which are particularly acute for low-income communities and minorities; the link between

corruption and the incidence of torture and the application of capital punishment; and the impact of corruption on gender equality within the legal profession and judiciary."

"Eradicating the risks of corruption in the judiciary at all levels will require much more than just increasing judges' emoluments and perks or installing CCTV cameras in the courtroom – it needs to start with a comprehensive approach to restoring judicial independence and addressing the underlying factors that contribute to inappropriate practices and compromised judicial decisions," said HRCP Secretary-General Harris Khalique. The organisations called on the Pakistani authorities to protect the independence of the judiciary and ensure accountability of the judiciary, including by repealing the 26th and 27th Constitutional Amendments. It also urged the authorities to ensure accountability in cases of corruption within the judiciary, including by prioritising the investigation and prosecution of allegations of corruption by judicial actors.



MSME
Minister Seeks
Easier Bank
Credit

NEW DELHI: (JUL 9)

Union MSME Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi urged banks to facilitate greater access to institutional credit for micro, small and medium enterprises and called upon all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of government initiatives for the sector growth. The minister visited Puducherry on July 8-9 to review the implementation of flagship schemes of the MSME Ministry and directed stakeholders to facilitate MSME access to technology, credit and finance, skill development, market access and quality support infrastructure. During the visit, he chaired a comprehensive review meeting attended by officials of the ministry, Puducherry government, Development & Facilitation Office, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Coir Board, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), SIDBI, members of the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), MSME associations and other stakeholders.

Giriraj Singh
Reviews Textile
Sector Initiatives

NEW DELHI: JULY 9

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh on Thursday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress of key initiatives aimed at strengthening India's textile ecosystem through technology upgradation, institutional reforms and enhanced industry support. The minister reviewed the transformation of the erstwhile Powerloom Service Centres into Integrated Textile and Apparel Development Centres (ITADCs), which are being repositioned as integrated growth hubs for the textile sector. The revamped ITADCs are envisioned as one-stop facilitation centres providing skill development, testing, design support, technology adoption, entrepreneurship development, credit facilitation, export promotion and market linkages to textile entrepreneurs, MSMEs and other stakeholders across the textile value chain.

India Inc Q1
Revenue Growth
Hits Two-Year
High: Report

MUMBAI: (JUL 9)

India Inc's revenues are expected to grow at a two-year high of up to 11.5 per cent in the June quarter, despite the prevailing tensions in West Asia, which have had a wide-ranging impact, starting with supply chain disruptions and stoking domestic inflation, a report said on Thursday. Corporate India will be able to show the handsome revenue growth because domestic demand has held up "reasonably well" in response to the events in West Asia since late February, an arm of domestic rating agency Crisil said after an analysis of 400 companies from 47 sectors, excluding banking, financial services, and oil and gas. "For much of the past two years, revenue growth was powered largely by volume. But this time around, pricing was the primary driver, contributing more to revenue growth than volume in sectors such as aluminium, steel, cement, airlines, fertilisers and gems and jewellery," Sehul Bhatt, director of Crisil Intelligence, said.



MONEY MATTERS

Sensex, Nifty close higher despite US-Iran tensions; TCS results in focus

Benchmark indices closed higher on Thursday as investors returned to beaten-down stocks after Wednesday's sharp sell-off. The rebound was led by midcaps and realty shares, while Middle East tensions, crude prices and earnings remained in focus.

Benchmark indices closed higher on Thursday, recovering a part of Wednesday's steep losses as investors returned to beaten-down stocks despite lingering concerns over the conflict in the Middle East and the upcoming June-quarter earnings season. The BSE Sensex gained 238.22 points, or 0.31%, to close at 76,741.82, while the NSE Nifty50 advanced 80.75 points, or 0.34%, to settle at 23,962.80. The gains came a day after both benchmark indices recorded their biggest single-day decline in three months.

MIDCAPS, REALTY LEAD MARKET RECOVERY

The recovery was broader than the benchmark indices, with mid- and small-cap



stocks outperforming large caps. Among the broader market indices, the Nifty Smallcap 100 gained 1.03%, Nifty Midcap 50 rose 0.97%, Nifty Midcap 100 advanced 0.95%, Nifty MidSmall Financial Services climbed 0.95%, Nifty 500 gained 0.68%, Nifty 200 rose 0.64% and Nifty 100 added 0.57%. India VIX, the market's fear gauge, declined 7.11%, indicating easing volatility after Wednesday's sharp spike. Sectorally, Nifty Consumer Durables emerged as the top performer, rising 1.91%, followed by Nifty Realty, which gained 1.34%. Nifty Private Bank advanced 0.90%, Nifty MidSmall Healthcare climbed 0.90%, Nifty Chemicals gained 0.83%, Nifty PSU Bank rose 0.77%, Nifty Media advanced 0.75%, Nifty Pharma gained 0.69%, Nifty Financial Services 25/50 rose 0.68%, Nifty Healthcare Index added 0.66%, Nifty FMCG and Nifty500 Healthcare both gained 0.62%, while Nifty Financial Services Ex-Bank rose 0.59% and Nifty Auto added 0.55%. The Nifty IT index was the biggest laggard, falling 1.46% as investors remained cautious ahead of Tata Consultancy Services' June-quarter earnings due after market hours. Nifty MidSmall IT & Telecom also ended marginally lower. Among Sensex stocks, Sun Pharma was the top gainer, rising 2.70%, fol-

lowed by Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv, IndiGo, Eternal, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and HDFC Bank. On the losing side, Infosys fell 1.80%, while HCLTech, TCS and Tech Mahindra dragged the IT index lower.

INVESTORS LOOK PAST GEOPOLITICAL RISKS

Markets recovered despite fresh geopolitical uncertainty after the US launched strikes on Iran earlier this week, keeping investors focused on developments in the Middle East. Crude oil prices, however, eased from Wednesday's highs, offering some relief. Brent crude was trading around \$78.16 a barrel, while WTI crude stood at \$73.57. The moderation in oil prices helped calm concerns over inflation and India's import bill, although prices remained elevated. Investors are now shifting their attention to the June-quarter earnings season, with Tata Consultancy Services set to kick off the reporting season for large-cap companies.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Indian equity

markets staged a moderate rebound, aided by supportive global cues, though investors remained watchful of the geopolitical developments that had triggered the last trading day's sell-off." "The recovery was led by mid- and small-cap stocks, with reality and PSU banks bouncing back strongly after their recent correction. Domestically, sentiment remains relatively resilient, underpinned by an improved outlook for the second half of the year, a recovery in rainfall conditions, and better valuation levels." That said, the latest US Fed minutes flagged renewed inflation concerns, which could weigh on global markets," he added. The Indian rupee also strengthened during the session, rising 0.2% against the US dollar to 95.3875, supported by likely dollar-selling intervention by the Reserve Bank of India and softer crude oil prices. While Thursday's rebound helped markets recover a part of Wednesday's losses, analysts said investors will continue to track developments in the Middle East, movements in crude oil prices and corporate earnings for further direction.



TCS Q1 results: Revenue jumps 14%; IT major declares Rs 12 interim dividend

The company posted double-digit growth in both revenue and profit, helped by steady demand from clients, especially in the banking and financial services sector. It also announced an interim dividend of Rs 12 per share for its shareholders.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's biggest software services company, reported a strong set of earnings for the first quarter of FY27 on Thursday. The company posted double-digit growth in both revenue and profit, helped by steady demand from clients, especially in the banking and financial services sector. It also announced an interim dividend of Rs 12 per share for its shareholders.

REVENUE AND PROFIT GROW

TCS reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 13,349 crore for the quarter ended June 2026. Its consolidated revenue rose 14% year-on-year to Rs 72,275 crore, beating market expectations. The company said

higher technology spending by banking clients supported growth during the quarter, even as businesses across sectors continue to invest in digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI). TCS reported an order book of \$9.5 billion for the June quarter, reflecting healthy demand for its services. One of the key wins during the quarter was an AI-led business deal worth \$800 million with SKF.

The company also said its annualised AI-related revenue reached \$2.6 billion in the first quarter, highlighting the growing contribution of AI to its business.

WORKFORCE AND DIVIDEND

TCS ended the quarter with a workforce of 593,798 employees, while its last twelve months (LTM) attrition rate in IT services stood at 13.6%. The company also rolled out its annual wage hikes during the quarter. Along with its quarterly results, TCS announced an interim dividend of Rs 12 per share, offering another payout to shareholders as the company began the new financial year on a positive note.

EIL Energy Recognized Among India's 'Best Workplaces' in the Energy, Oil & Gas Sector

NELLORE, 9 JULY 2026

SEIL Energy India Limited, one of the largest independent power producers (IPPs) in India, today announced that it has been recognized among India's Best Workplaces in the Energy, Oil & Gas sector by Great Place To Work, India, reaffirming the Company's unwavering commitment to creating an exceptional workplace culture built on trust, respect, collaboration and excellence.

This prestigious recognition places SEIL Energy among the Top 8 organizations in the Energy, Oil & Gas sector to receive this honour. The achievement follows the Company's Great Place To Work Certification for two consecutive years, underscoring its sustained focus on fostering a people-centric workplace where employees are empowered to grow, innovate and perform at their best.

Expressing his delight on the occasion, Mr. Janmejaya Mahapatra, CEO – SEIL Energy India Limited, said: "This recognition belongs to



every member of the SEIL family. Our people have built a culture rooted in trust, mutual respect and a shared pursuit of excellence. Being recognized among India's Best Workplaces in the Energy, Oil & Gas sector reflects our collective commitment to creating an environment where people can grow, contribute and thrive. We will continue to invest in our people and strengthen a workplace that inspires innovation, collaboration and long-term success."

SEIL Energy believes that its people are the driving force behind its continued growth and operational excellence. The Company has consistently focused on nurturing an inclusive, safe and high-performance work environment through employee engagement, leadership development, learning opportunities, wellness initiatives and a strong culture of recognition.

The recognition further strengthens SEIL Energy's position as an employer of

choice in the Indian energy sector and reflects its commitment to building a workplace where employees are encouraged to realise their full potential while contributing to the nation's energy security.

SEIL Energy extends its heartfelt gratitude to every member of the SEIL family whose passion, dedication and unwavering commitment have made this achievement possible. As the Company continues its growth journey, it remains committed to

creating a workplace where people feel valued, inspired and empowered to shape a sustainable future.

About SEIL:

SEIL Energy India Limited – SEIL Energy– is a leading Independent Power Producer (IPP) committed to contributing towards India's energy security. The company has a successful track record of developing and operating thermal power generation assets in the country. It has a 2,640 MW supercritical thermal power generation complex located in SPSR Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Led by its strong leadership team, SEIL is a committed and long-term partner in the region's progress. It provides reliable and sustainable power to consumers across the sub-continent. SEIL partners with the government and industry towards supporting India's energy security and developmental goals. With 4X660MW operational units, SEIL is well-positioned to offer best-in-class energy solutions to meet the region's energy needs.

India's insurance industry is seeing a Gen Z takeover, but there's a twist

A report says Gen Z advisors are selling more insurance policies than older peers. Experienced advisors still dominate higher-value life cover and long-term protection sales.

For decades, the face of insurance in India was the middle-aged advisor who knew every family in the neighbourhood and sold policies through personal relationships. Now, Gen Z is beginning to rewrite that story. A new report by Probus has found that younger advisors are selling significantly more insurance policies than their older peers. However, when it comes to helping customers buy higher-value life insurance and long-term protection products, experienced advisors continue to lead the way.

The findings point to a changing insurance landscape where digital-first, younger advisors are expanding insurance access at scale, while seasoned professionals continue to handle more com-



GEN Z IS SELLING MORE POLICIES

According to the report, newly onboarded Point of Sales Persons (PoSPs) below the age of 30 sold nearly 68% more policies per advisor than those aged 30 and above during FY26. They also made up 41% of all new advisors joining the Probus platform, underlining the growing role of digitally savvy youngsters in India's insurance distribution network. During the year, these young advisors issued 1.95 lakh policies out of the nearly 23 lakh policies sold

by Probus. Their business was largely driven by retail insurance products. Motor insurance accounted for 78% of the policies they sold, followed by life insurance (15%) and SME insurance (4%). Overall, Gen Z advisors sold 18.3% more policies than their older peers, helping insurers reach more first-time customers.

BUT EXPERIENCE STILL WINS BIG TICKETS

While younger advisors excelled in policy volumes, the report found that experienced advisors generated far greater business value. Advisors aged 30 and above accounted for nearly 64% of the total

premium collected, reflecting stronger participation in higher-value insurance products. They also recorded 270% higher life insurance premium volumes than younger advisors, highlighting their strength in products that require detailed financial discussions and long-term planning. Their portfolio was also more diversified, with motor insurance contributing 53%, life insurance 31%, and SME commercial insurance 10% of the policies they sold.

A DIGITAL-FIRST SHIFT

The report suggests that technology is reshaping how insurance is sold in India.

Younger advisors, who are generally more comfortable with digital tools and online customer acquisition, are helping insurers expand their reach and sell standardised retail products quickly. Experienced advisors, meanwhile, continue to play a crucial role in guiding customers through more complex decisions such as life insurance, family protection and business insurance, where trust and

personalised advice remain important. Commenting on the findings, Rakesh Goyal, Director at Probus, said insurance continues to be built on trust even as technology transforms distribution. "While our younger advisors are bringing digital-first thinking, speed and entrepreneurial energy to the profession, experienced advisors continue to build confidence through deeper financial conversations and long-term customer relationships. Together, they represent a complementary workforce that is making insurance more accessible, relevant and inclusive across the country," he said.

He added that it is encouraging to see insurance emerging as a preferred career choice for younger Indians. "As technology continues to transform distribution, the future of the industry will lie in empowering advisors with the right digital tools while strengthening the human connections that remain at the heart of every insurance decision," Goyal said.



Sudha Reddy Commands The Front Row

**At Paris Haute Couture Fashion Week, Attends Giorgio Armani Privé, Manish Malhotra And Elie Saab And Sparkles In A \$30 Million Personal Jewellery Vault
PARIS/HYDERABAD, JULY 09, 2026**

Three days. Three couture houses. One unstoppable force. After making an appearance in 2022, Sudha Reddy arrived at Paris Haute Couture Week not merely as an attendee but as a fashion architect, commanding the season's most coveted front-row real estate with a jewellery vault worth \$30 million USD and an editorial eye that rivals the industry's most discerning tastemakers. Following her headline-grabbing Met Gala appearance earlier this year, the Hyderabad-based billionaire philanthropist orchestrated a haute couture trifecta that proved, definitively, that true luxury is not a whisper but a carefully orchestrated symphony. At Giorgio Armani Privé, she embodied Italian minimalism in Look 74, an iridescent blue jacket of liquid fluidity that rippled with deep violets and forest greens. The deceptively simple silhouette, defined at the waist with decades of Armani's architectural expertise, became a meditation on what happens when technical brilliance meets restraint. An ultra-exclusive Louis Vuitton Capucines handbag, custom-embedded with shimmering Swarovski crystals, provided a whisper of opulence, but it was the jewelry that made the statement: a 30-carat panther-motif ear piece fully pavé-set with hundreds of brilliant diamonds, paired with the same 23-carat yellow diamond and 30-carat rose-cut polki diamond rings that dominated Met Gala headlines weeks prior.

These were not new pieces. They were, however, unforgettable. A day later, Elie Saab's Capsule Citrus & Salt collection found Reddy in an entirely different register, Mediterranean romance rendered in delicate floral embroidery and luminous citrus tones. The strapless couture gown embodied what Saab does better than perhaps anyone working today: making luxury feel effortless. A custom-made turquoise Elie Saab ear cuff, a rare house gesture, sat at her ear, while the seashell-inspired Cult Gaia Sirena Clutch grounded the ethereal silhouette in something tactile and immediate. A 21-carat pigeon red ruby ring and an exceptional 25-carat emerald ring spoke to decades of connoisseurship. These were historic statements rendered in the rarest materials available. As the Paris evening deepened, Reddy made her final and most dramatic statement: Manish Malhotra's architectural Indian haute couture debut. A structured corseted gown paired with a bold, cropped jacket featuring sharp architectural puff sleeves in rich chocolate brown created a silhouette of pure sculptural intent. Hand-embroidered with intricate floral motifs and three-dimensional embellishments that created topographical texture and visual dimension, the piece showcased Indian craftsmanship at its most ambitious. Here, Reddy deployed her most precious jewellery statement: a custom-designed, 75-carat diamond-encrusted bow necklace inspired by timeless Persian antiquity, draped across her chest like a benediction.





1. Kladdkaka - Sweden's Goopy Chocolate Favourite

Topping the TasteAtlas rankings is Sweden's beloved 'Kladdkaka', a dessert celebrated for its simplicity and irresistible texture. The name literally translates to "sticky cake," perfectly describing its rich, fudgy centre.

Unlike traditional sponge cakes, Kladdkaka is intentionally underbaked. The outer layer develops a delicate, slightly crisp crust while the inside remains soft, moist and almost molten. It is made using just a handful of ingredients including eggs, butter, cocoa powder or melted chocolate, sugar and flour.

One of the reasons for its popularity is how easy it is to prepare. Swedish families often bake it at home because it requires minimal effort yet delivers maximum flavour.

Kladdkaka is usually served warm or at room temperature with whipped cream, vanilla ice cream or fresh berries, making it a comforting dessert throughout the year.

2. Torta Caprese - Italy's Legendary Flourless Chocolate Cake

Coming from the picturesque island of Capri, 'Torta Caprese' is one of Italy's most celebrated chocolate desserts.

This flourless cake combines dark chocolate, butter, sugar, eggs and finely ground almonds to create a dense yet incredibly moist texture. The absence of flour gives the cake a rich, almost truffle-like consistency while allowing the chocolate flavour to take centre stage.

According to culinary legend, the cake was created accidentally when a baker forgot to add flour while preparing a dessert for visiting guests. The result turned out so delicious that it became one of Italy's signature cakes.

A generous dusting of icing sugar gives Torta Caprese its elegant appearance. It is often enjoyed with espresso or dessert wine and remains a favourite among chocolate lovers visiting southern Italy.

3. Chocotorta - Argentina's No-Bake Classic

Argentina's 'Chocotorta' proves that extraordinary desserts do not always require an oven.

Created in the 1980s as part of an advertising campaign, Chocotorta has since become one of Argentina's most loved desserts. Inspired by the Italian tiramisu, it is assembled by layering chocolate biscuits with a creamy mixture of dulce de leche and cream cheese.

The biscuits gradually soften as the dessert chills, creating a texture similar to cake while absorbing the sweet-

World's 10 Best Chocolate Cakes

Chocolate cake is more than just a dessert. Across continents, it has become a symbol of celebration, comfort and indulgence. Whether it is served at birthdays, weddings, festivals or as an afternoon treat with coffee, chocolate cake continues to delight people of all ages. Every country has its own unique

interpretation of this timeless favourite, using local ingredients, baking traditions and culinary creativity to create desserts that are both distinctive and unforgettable.

From flourless cakes packed with intense chocolate flavour to soft sponge cakes layered with mousse and cream, chocolate

cakes come in countless varieties. Some are rustic and homemade, while others are elegant creations served in fine-dining restaurants and famous pastry shops.

Recognising the world's finest chocolate desserts, the popular food and travel guide TasteAtlas has released its latest ranking of

the **10 best chocolate cakes in the world**. The list features iconic recipes from Europe and the Americas, showcasing cakes that have become culinary treasures in their home countries and earned global admiration. Here is a closer look at these irresistible chocolate masterpieces.

ness of the filling.

Its simplicity makes it a favourite for birthdays, family gatherings and festive occasions. Since it requires no baking, even beginners can prepare this crowd-pleasing dessert with ease.

The combination of chocolate biscuits and Argentina's famous dulce de leche creates an indulgent flavour that perfectly reflects the country's love for sweet treats.

4. Molten Chocolate Cake - America's Famous Lava Cake

Few desserts create as much excitement as cutting into a **Molten Chocolate Cake** and watching warm chocolate flow from its centre.

Also known as 'Lava Cake', this dessert became internationally famous after French-American chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten reportedly served an under-baked chocolate sponge by mistake. The accidental discovery transformed into one of the world's most iconic res-

taurant desserts.

Although chocolatier Jacques Torres later argued that similar cakes had existed in France, it was in the United States that molten chocolate cake achieved worldwide popularity.

The dessert combines a delicate outer cake with a warm, liquid chocolate centre that creates a dramatic presentation.

It is commonly served with vanilla ice cream, fresh berries or chocolate sauce, providing a delightful contrast between hot and cold temperatures.

5. Bolo de Brigadeiro - Brazil's Celebration Cake

Chocolate is an essential part of celebrations in Brazil, and 'Bolo de Brigadeiro' is one of the country's favourite party cakes.

The dessert is inspired by Brazil's famous brigadeiro candy—a rich chocolate confection traditionally made using condensed milk, chocolate powder and butter.

The cake consists of soft

chocolate sponge layers generously filled and frosted with creamy brigadeiro. Some recipes also include table cream, milk and cornflour to create an even smoother filling.

Chocolate sprinkles often cover the entire cake, making it instantly recognisable at Brazilian birthdays and festive gatherings.

Every bite offers layers of moist sponge and creamy chocolate filling, creating a dessert that is rich, nostalgic and impossible to resist.

6. Torta Garash - Bulgaria's Elegant Chocolate Masterpiece

Originating in the Bulgarian city of Ruse, 'Torta Garash' is one of Eastern Europe's finest chocolate cakes.

Created by Hungarian confectioner Károly Garash during the late nineteenth century, the dessert has remained a favourite for more than a century.

The cake is built using five delicate walnut sponge layers sandwiched with rich dark chocolate filling. It is then

covered with glossy chocolate ganache or icing before being decorated with chopped walnuts, almonds, coconut flakes or chocolate ornaments.

Unlike lighter sponge cakes, Torta Garash offers an intense chocolate experience balanced by the earthy flavour of walnuts.

Its elegant appearance makes it a popular choice for weddings, anniversaries and other special celebrations.

7. Mississippi Mud Pie - America's Ultimate Chocolate Indulgence

Despite its name, 'Mississippi Mud Pie' is closer to a rich chocolate pie than a traditional cake, but its decadent layers have earned it a place among the world's finest chocolate desserts.

Inspired by the muddy banks of the Mississippi River, the dessert features a crunchy cookie crust topped with luxurious layers of chocolate pudding, whipped cream, marshmallows, ice cream or cream cheese filling, depending on the recipe.

Many versions are finished with chocolate syrup, nuts or chocolate shavings for extra richness.

Every slice combines crunchy, creamy and silky textures, making Mississippi Mud Pie a favourite in American diners, bakeries and family celebrations.

It is especially popular during holidays, where its generous portions make it ideal for sharing.

8. Torta Tenerina - Italy's Soft and Tender Chocolate Delight

Italy appears once again on the list with **Torta Tenerina**, a classic dessert from the city of Ferrara.

Its name translates to "Tender Cake," perfectly describing its soft, melt-in-the-mouth texture.

The cake was reportedly created in the early twentieth century to honour Elena Petrovich of Montenegro, the wife of King Vittorio Emanuele III.

Made using chocolate, butter, eggs, sugar and cornflour,

Torta Tenerina contains no regular flour, allowing the chocolate flavour to dominate every bite.

During baking, the cake develops a thin, delicate crust while remaining exceptionally soft and moist inside.

Served plain or lightly dusted with icing sugar, it pairs beautifully with coffee or fresh cream.

Its elegant simplicity has helped it remain a beloved dessert throughout Italy.

9. Sacher-Torte - Austria's Most Famous Chocolate Cake

No list of legendary chocolate cakes would be complete without **Sacher-Torte**, Austria's internationally celebrated dessert.

Created in Vienna during the nineteenth century by young apprentice chef Franz Sacher, the cake has become one of the country's greatest culinary icons.

The dessert features rich chocolate sponge layers separated by a thin layer of apricot jam. The entire cake is then

coated in smooth, glossy dark chocolate icing that gives it its unmistakable appearance.

Unlike many modern chocolate cakes that rely on heavy fillings, Sacher-Torte balances sweetness with the slightly tangy flavour of apricot preserves.

Traditionally, it is served alongside unsweetened whipped cream, allowing diners to enjoy the cake's rich chocolate taste without overwhelming sweetness.

Visitors to Vienna often consider tasting an authentic Sacher-Torte an essential culinary experience.

10. Torta Settevelli - Sicily's Spectacular Seven-Layer Creation

Completing the list is Sicily's magnificent **Torta Settevelli**, meaning "Seven Veils Cake."

Created in Palermo, this luxurious dessert is considered one of Italy's finest pastry achievements.

The cake combines multiple layers of chocolate sponge, crunchy praline, hazelnut Bavarian cream and silky chocolate mousse. Everything is finished with a perfectly smooth mirror-like chocolate glaze that gives the dessert its dramatic appearance.

Its complex construction requires exceptional pastry skills, making it a popular centerpiece for weddings, birthdays and grand celebrations.

Each slice reveals beautiful alternating layers that deliver contrasting textures—from crunchy praline to airy mousse and soft sponge.

The result is an unforgettable dessert that truly lives up to its theatrical name.

Why Chocolate Cakes Continue To Captivate The World

Chocolate cake remains one of the world's most universally loved desserts because it adapts effortlessly to different cultures and culinary traditions.

Some countries prefer dense flourless cakes packed with rich cocoa flavour, while others embrace soft sponge cakes layered with cream, mousse or caramel. Whether baked in home kitchens or crafted by master pastry chefs, every chocolate cake tells a story about its place of origin.

The TasteAtlas rankings highlight not only outstanding desserts but also the diverse baking traditions that have evolved across generations. From Sweden's humble Kladdkaka and Argentina's easy-to-make Chocotorta to Austria's elegant Sacher-Torte and Sicily's sophisticated Torta Settevelli, each creation reflects local ingredients, history and craftsmanship.





Brook, Salt crush India as England seal series with emphatic nine-wicket win

BRISTOL

Captain Harry Brook produced a scintillating 79 not out off just 35 balls while Phil Salt remained unbeaten on 59 off 42 deliveries as England thrashed India by nine wickets with 37 balls to spare in the fourth T20I at the County Ground in Bristol, to clinch the five-match series 3-0 with one game to spare.

Chasing a modest target of 159, England lost Jos Buttler early, but thereafter India had no answers as Brook and Salt stitched together an unbroken 151-run stand for the second wicket. Brook dominated the attack with a flurry of boundaries and sixes, while Salt played the perfect supporting role as England raced to 159/1 in just 13.5 overs, winning with 37 balls to spare.

Earlier, India once again endured a batting collapse before skipper Shreyas Iyer rescued



the innings with a fighting 80 off 49 balls. Walking in after the fall of early wickets, Iyer anchored the innings almost

single-handedly, striking four fours and five sixes. Shivam Dube chipped in with 22, but no other Indian batter managed to

make a significant contribution as the visitors finished on 158/7 in 20 overs. England's bowlers laid the

foundation for victory with disciplined spells. Jofra Archer claimed 2-20 while Josh Tongue also picked up two wickets to ensure India never built any sustained momentum despite Iyer's resistance.

India's bowlers failed to defend the below-par total after dismissing Buttler cheaply. Brook seized control from the outset, attacking both pace and spin with ease, while Salt kept the scoreboard ticking as England completed one of their most dominant chases of the series. The victory gives England an unassailable lead in the five-match series, continuing India's disappointing tour in which their batting has repeatedly depended on skipper Iyer. At the same time, the bowling attack has struggled to contain England's aggressive batting lineup. After the first match was abandoned, England won the next three.



Noskova sets up all-Czech final with Muchova

LONDON

Linda Noskova overcame Marta Kostyuk in her first appearance in the last four at Wimbledon, setting up a summit clash with Karolina Muchova of Czechia, who advanced to her second career Grand Slam singles final in dramatic fashion, saving a match point to outlast American Coco Gauff in a thrilling three-setter in London on Thursday.

In the two matches played on the Centre Court, Nishkova made it to her maiden final with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Marta Kostyuk, while Muchova won the semifinal against Gauff 6-2, 1-6, 7-6(10) in dramatic fashion as the match ended in a tie-breaker.

At 20, Noskova becomes the youngest women's finalist since 2014, and for the third time in the last four years, the Venus Rosewater Dish will be raised by Czech hands.

Saturday's clash will be the first major final between two women from the same country at Wimbledon in nearly a decade, since the Williams sisters played each other in the 2017 final. "It's a very special moment," Muchova said in her post-match press conference. "It's a great achievement. This is one of the biggest tournaments that we have with all the, again, I'll repeat myself, history; so many legends were



Muchova, making her Centre Court debut. The Czech, who reached the 2023 Roland-Garros final on the clay, is now 11-1 on grass this season after winning the title in Bad Homburg. She made only 56 per cent of first serves but triumphed with her crisp groundstrokes, which relentlessly targeted the Gauff forehand.

Gauff's first two break points summed up the opening set. On the first, Muchova played a delicious backhand drop shot and followed in to convert a forehand volley winner. Even the Americans joined the applause. On the second, Muchova framed a forehand return over the baseline. The Czech broke twice and took her first set point with an ace.

The match flipped in the second set as Gauff finally found her rhythm. Varying play with drop shots and dashes to the net, the American took a ninth break point when she chased down a drop shot and hit a backhand cross-court winner to lead 3-1. She sealed her first set point after one hour and 14 minutes when Muchova's backhand service return sailed over the baseline.

My dream is to host Olympics: CM Revanth

HYDERABAD

With India bidding to host the 2036 Olympics, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday said it was his dream to see Telangana and Hyderabad host the prestigious sporting event. He said Telangana and Hyderabad were being prepared in every aspect to host the Olympics.

The Chief Minister, along with Indian Olympic Association President P.T. Usha, inaugurated the Gachibowli Sports District and the Young India Physical Education and Sports University (YIPESU).

He announced that the sports university and a world-class sports academy with state-of-the-art facilities would be developed across 82 acres. "The country has lagged behind in sports due to the absence of a clear policy in the sector. That is why we introduced a clear sports policy in Telangana," he said.

The Chief Minister stated that there was a need for a



policy governing sports training centres and universities across the country. He said the government established the Young India Sports University, drawing inspiration from the Young India weekly newspaper led by Mahatma Gandhi during the freedom struggle.

He noted that Hyderabad, which had earlier hosted events such as the Afro-Asian Games, the World Military Games and the Commonwealth Games, had not hosted any major sporting event over the past 20 years.

"Stadiums built 23 years

ago were subsequently used for weddings and political events; we intend to revitalise all of them," he said.

He stated that to provide comprehensive support to genuine athletes, the government had established the sports university through a public-private partnership.

"There is no government interference in its operations. We set up the university in collaboration with individuals who champion sports — such as Dr Sanjiv Goenka, Abhinav Bindra, Kapil Dev, Kavya Maran, Upasana Konidela and

Ravikanth Reddy — and have granted them full autonomy regarding its management," he said.

The Chief Minister said a bright future awaited those who excelled not only in academics but also in sports and urged the youth to focus on sports.

He announced that the Telangana government would take responsibility for providing government jobs to athletes who excel in sports and bring laurels to the country.

"Youth are the nation's wealth. When observing the medal tallies of various countries during the Olympics and other sporting events, India often finds itself at the bottom of the list. We need the support of individuals like P.T. Usha to help promote sports and athletes. There is much to learn from P.T. Usha; it was her excellence in sports that paved the way for her to become a Rajya Sabha member," the Chief Minister said.

"To excel in any field, one

must possess focus; that is the only way to succeed. One must practise with total dedication. There is no need to be disheartened by a single defeat. A loss should not discourage us; instead, we should view it as a challenge," he added.

P.T. Usha congratulated the Chief Minister and the state government for establishing YIPESU with a strong commitment to promoting sports.

On the occasion, cash incentives totalling Rs 7.15 crore were awarded to six athletes from Telangana who demonstrated exceptional talent in various sports. Details of the tournaments and leagues that Telangana will host in the near future were also announced.

Telangana is set to host the 2026 Khelo India Youth Games (8th edition) and the National Inter-District Junior Athletics Meet. In addition, the state will host the Hockey India League, World Pickleball League, Archery Premier League and Tennis Premier League competitions.

Chess: Humpy, Divya, Vaishali among top players in fray at 2026 Cairns Cup

SAINT LOUIS (USA)

Former World Rapid Champion Koneru Humpy, former women's junior World Champion Divya Deshmukh, and 2026 FIDE Women's World Championship Challenger Vaishali Rameshbabu will be among a strong field for the 2026 Cairns Cup chess championship to be held in Saint Louis in August. One of the world's strongest women's super-tournaments returns to Saint Louis this summer as the 2026 Cairns Cup welcomes 10 of the world's top women chess players to compete for a \$250,000 prize fund—one of the largest in women's chess.

The tournament will take place from August 8 to 21 at the recently expanded Saint Louis Chess Club (STLCC), where it will run alongside the prestigious Sinquefeld Cup, creating one of the world's premier showcases of elite chess.

Like the Sinquefeld Cup, the Cairns Cup features a ten-player, nine-round classical round-robin format, widely regarded as one of the most demanding



tests in professional chess. The sixth edition of the tournament continues Saint Louis' tradition of hosting the world's elite players while advancing opportunities for women in the game, the organisers informed in a release on Thursday.

Named in honour of STLCC co-founder Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefeld, the Cairns Cup reflects the STLCC's commitment to growing women's chess and inspiring the next generation of champions. Furthering that mission, Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefeld established the Cairns Chess Queens Award in 2024, a first-of-its-kind initiative offering a \$100,000 award to any eligible U.S. woman who earns the Grandmaster (GM) title during the program's five-year period ending July 4, 2029.

"It is an honour to once again welcome some of the world's top women players to Saint Louis," said Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefeld, co-founder of the STLCC. "Through events like the Cairns Cup, we aim to create greater opportunities for women in chess and inspire the next generation to compete, achieve, and lead in this timeless game."

The 2026 Cairns Cup will feature a star-studded field that includes three former Women's World Champions, reigning Cairns Cup Champion International Master (IM) Carissa Yip, 2026 FIDE Women's World Champion Challenger GM Vaishali Rameshbabu, former Women's World Chess Champion and 2026 World Chess Hall of Fame inductee Alexandra Kosteniuk, and three-time Women's World Blitz Champion and Guinness World Record holder for youngest Women's World Blitz Champion, GM Bibisara Assaubayeva.

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manding display against Frenchman Lilian Bardet. Backed by the familiar coaching duo of Elena Timina and Parag Agrawal, who guided Goa to the 2024 title, Abhinandh dictated proceedings with powerful forehand drives and a devastating serve—winning 21 of his 33 points while serving—racing away 11-6, 11-2, 11-3. Three-time Olympian and last year's Butterfly UTT MVP, Szocs then ex-

Amandeep fires bogey-free 68 to take two-shot lead in 9th Leg of WPGT

HOSUR (TN)

Amandeep Dral fired a second straight 4-under 68 and opened a two-shot lead over her best friend, Vani Kapoor, who also shot a 68 in the second round of the ninth leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour (WPGT) at the Clover Greens in Hosur on Thursday. Amandeep fired a bogey-free round with two birdies on either side of the course. Even as the first-round leader, amateur Alysha Dutt (67-78) slipped down to T-17 with a score 11 shots higher than her first-round effort. Vani Kapoor, the five-time winner in 2025, shot up to second place with 70-68. Vani, who, like Amandeep, had a bogey-free round, is tied for second with Eti Chaudhary (69-69) at a 6-under total of 138. Four players were in tied fourth place, and they were led by Nayanika Sanga, who improved on her first-round.



17 players face suspension risk ahead of quarterfinals

NEW YORK

In all, seventeen players head into the 2026 FIFA World Cup quarterfinals one yellow card away from suspension, with several title contenders at risk of losing key players for the semifinals. Yellow cards accumulated during the group stage were wiped before the knockout rounds, but any players who receive two bookings between the round of 32 and the quarterfinals will be suspended for the semifinals if their teams advance.

England and Morocco are the teams facing the greatest disciplinary concerns. Morocco have four players at risk ahead of their quarterfinal against France, with Issa Diop, Achraf Hakimi, Redouane Halhal, and Bilal El Khannouss all one booking away from suspension.

France also have two key players walking a disciplinary tightrope, with forward Michael Olise and midfielder Manu Kone both at risk of missing a potential semifinal. England arguably have the most to lose. Midfielder Jude Bellingham, defender Marc Guehi, holding midfielder Declan Rice, and

left back Nico O'Reilly are all one yellow card away from a suspension. Midfielder Jordan Henderson also entered the knockout stage carrying a booking, but he has already been ruled out through injury after breaking his wrist. Norway winger Antonio Nusa is also one caution away from a suspension.

Switzerland could be without three influential players if bookings go against it, with captain Granit Xhaka, Denis Zakaria, and Miro Muheim all at risk. In Friday's quarterfinal between Spain and Belgium, Spain forward Ferran Torres, who impressed off the bench in the round-of-16 victory over Portugal, and Belgium defender Brandon Mechele are both one booking from a ban.

Argentina has only one player at risk, with defender Gonzalo Montiel the lone member of Lionel Scaloni's squad facing suspension.

Disciplinary records have varied widely among the remaining teams. Argentina has received one yellow card for every 19.7 fouls committed during the tournament, compared with one booking for every 7.7 fouls committed by England.



Indian Athletics Series

Defender Fran Garcia joins Betis from Real Madrid



MADRID: Left-back Fran Garcia has joined Betis from Real Madrid in a deal reportedly worth around four million euros. Garcia has agreed a four-year contract with the Seville-based club until the end of June 2030, with Betis acquiring 50 percent of the 26-year-old's economic rights. Garcia joined Real Madrid from Rayo Vallecano in the summer of 2023 after previously progressing through the club's youth system. He made 109 appearances for Real Madrid over the past three years, proving himself a reliable performer, although he was usually second choice behind either Ferland Mendy or Alvaro Carreras. The big-money signing of Spain international Marc Cucurella from Chelsea this summer opened the door for his departure. He is the second player to leave Real Madrid this summer, following Dani Ceballos, who rescinded his contract with the club and could also end up joining Betis.





Netflix Corrects Peddi's Biggest Goof

The wait is over as Ram Charan and Peddi is now available for streaming on Netflix. The response has been good, and there is a decent reaction to Janhvi Kapoor's role in the film after its OTT release. Generally, OTT platforms prefer releasing uncut versions despite bold content, but in the case of Peddi, the team and Netflix made the right decision by editing Janhvi's market scene, which had sparked significant negative buzz against the film at the time of its release. Several media houses had called out the manner in which Janhvi Kapoor was objectified in the film, and it became troll material. However, with a few simple changes, the scene now looks much better. Going by the response on social media, one gets the feeling that if the theatrical version had included these edits, the film's overall reception could have been significantly better. Buchi Babu Sana had to apologize due to the pressure created by the controversy. If all this had been addressed properly during the editing stage, the story might have been very different. But things have finally ended well for Peddi, as the response on OTT has been positive so far. Ram Charan's performance is being praised, and the content is doing all the talking.

Akhil Faces the Biggest Friday of His Career

There is no denying the fact that Akhil is a very talented actor, but success has been eluding him for a very long time. It has been three long years since his last film, Agent, hit the screens and ended up as a disaster. So, Akhil has changed his route and is trying an out-and-out mass entertainer, Lenin, which hits the screens on July 10, 2026. So far, the content that has been released has received a decent response. All those who watched the film are quite positive and feel that Akhil will make a roaring comeback. But the bookings tell a different story altogether. They are not that great when compared to the buzz created. All this boils down to only one thing, and that is word of mouth. If Lenin starts with positive word of mouth, things can change drastically. There are no other big films releasing alongside Lenin, and the previous releases, Naga Bandham and Rao Bahadur, have slowed down considerably, giving an edge to Lenin. If the film gets a hit talk, it will surely enjoy a long run at the box office. The film stars Bhagyashri Borse and Sivaji in key roles, and Murali Kishor Abburu is the director. Nagarjuna has locked the edit, and Naga Vamsi, the co-producer, has done his bit to keep the film in the news. So now, with just a few hours to go before the release, one needs to see whether Lenin starts off with positive word of mouth.



Samyuktha For Ram's Dream Project #RAPO23!

Energetic Star Ram Pothineni recently began filming his dream project, #RAPO23, which marks his debut as a story writer and director. Produced by Krishna Pothineni under the Rapo Cinematics banner, the film signifies a bold new chapter in Ram's career, with the actor also playing the lead role. It is said to be the most expensive project of his career. It is learnt that Samyuktha, who is currently busy with multiple projects, is considered to play the female lead opposite Ram, although an official confirmation is still awaited. If confirmed, this will mark the first on-screen pairing of the two.

M.S. Raju's AGADHA Gets Release Date

After creating a strong impression with its intriguing teaser, mega filmmaker M.S. Raju's much-awaited mystic divine thriller Agadha has officially announced its release date. Produced by Kasi Visalakshi Balusu under the Sri Adi Varaha Productions banner and presented by Ajay KR, the film is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on August 14, 2026. Ever since the teaser was unveiled, Agadha has been generating remarkable curiosity among movie lovers. Amassing over 14 million digital views, the teaser has been widely appreciated for its stunning visuals, mystical setting, haunting background score and intriguing narrative, making the film one of the most eagerly awaited releases in recent times. Mounted on a lavish scale, Agadha promises to transport audiences into a fascinating world where mythology, mystery and suspense come together in a visually breathtaking cinematic experience. The makers are highly confident that the film's unique con-

sections. Describing Agadha as the most ambitious film of his career, M.S. Raju said the teaser offers only a glimpse into its expansive world. He revealed that the film unfolds through unexpected twists, emotionally powerful moments and visually rich storytelling, culminating in an immersive theatrical experience unlike anything he has attempted before. He also lauded the dedication and performances of every member of the cast. Leading lady Kamakshi Bhaskarla said playing Mahadevi has been a deeply fulfilling experience and expressed confidence that the character will remain one of the highlights of her career. Shraavan Reddy, who reunites with M.S. Raju after Dirty Hari, shared that Agadha will surprise audiences with its unpredictable screenplay and captivating narrative. The film features an impressive ensemble including Ulka Gupta, Jovika Vijay Kumar and Siju, all essaying pivotal roles. The technical team comprises Rakesh Venkatapuram (Music), Nani Chamidishetty (Cinematography), Junaid Siddiqui (Editing), Rajeev Nair (Production Design), and Chaitanya Vegi (Additional Screenplay), while N.V.N. Subbaraju serves as the Executive Producer. With an intriguing premise, grand production values, captivating visuals and a genre rarely explored in Telugu cinema, Agadha is poised to offer audiences a truly distinctive big-screen experience when it arrives in theatres worldwide on August 14, 2026.



Allu Arjun x Loki BTS Video Editing Underway

Excitement is building around Allu Arjun and Lokesh Kanagaraj's upcoming film. The BTS shoot for bunny's look was recently completed, and editing is currently underway. If the final cut impresses Allu Arjun, fans can expect a signature Lokesh-style glimpse, elevated by Anirudh Ravichander's powerful trademark background score, to be released soon.



Rashmika Completes Mysaa Underwater Action

Rashmika Mandanna is getting ready to surprise fans with a powerful action role in her upcoming film Mysaa. The makers have officially announced that they have completed filming what they call India's first female underwater fight sequence. This special action scene is expected to become one of the biggest highlights of the movie. The production team

shared the exciting update on social media and praised Rashmika for her fearless performance. They described the sequence as a new milestone in Indian action cinema and promised that audiences will witness something never seen before on the big screen. The makers also confirmed that the film's teaser announcement will be made soon increasing excitement among fans.



Will IPS Sumathi Join Agent 2?

Naveen Polishetty was last seen in the film Anaganaga Oka Raju. The film ended with good result at the box office, leaving a question mark on what Naveen will do next. Interestingly, he will play a police officer in his next film. Naveen himself revealed the news during the 5th Telangana Police Games and Sports Meet, where he was the chief guest. During his speech, he entertained everyone with his usual wit and humor, and also filled the crowd with energy. What caught everyone's attention were his remarks about IPS officer Sumathi, who recently carried out undercover operations at night. Naveen spoke about it, saying that he wishes to act with her and solve a case in Agent Sai Srinivasa Atreya sequel. He also jokingly said that IPS Sumathi acted well during her undercover operation. On the other hand, Naveen confirmed that he will next be seen as a police officer in the movie, while also requesting that IPS Sajjanar teach him how to hold a gun and fire a gun. The speech had them in splits. At the same time, Naveen praised the Telangana Police for their dedication and hard work, emphasizing the importance of Sports in life to attain discipline.

