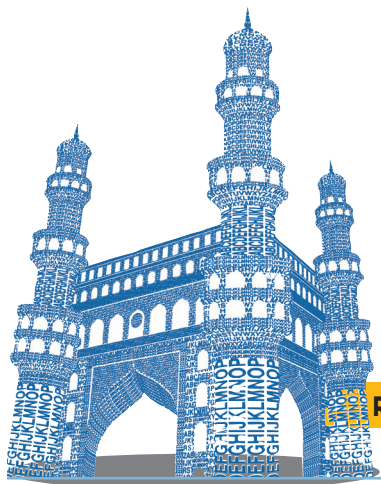




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

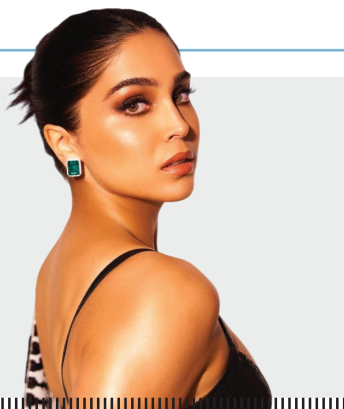
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EDUCATION
CURBS
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SPECIAL 02

Sharvari
Wagh Brings
Bling Bliss



BOX-OFFICE 12

CONGRESS TO WIN 117 SEATS

CM Revanth predicts 117 Assembly and 20 Lok Sabha seats in 2029

Says polls likely in May-June 2029.

Dismisses BRS surveys as fake.

Challenges Harish Rao to swear on KCR that he will never join the BJP

Warns on Medigadda barrage risks

Announces Engineering College for Madhira.

Says he is working

18 hours a day for farmers

KHAMMAM, JULY 10

Reaffirming that 'Our Ek Baar, Congress Sarkar' (Congress rule once again), Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has vowed that the ruling Congress will register a landslide victory by winning 117 out of 182 seats in the 2029 Assembly elections and 20 of the 26 Lok Sabha MP seats after the delimitation.

Addressing a public meeting after releasing Rythu Bharosa funds to the farmers accounts on Friday, the Chief Minister

predicted that the next elections will not take place in December 2028 but in May or June of 2029. The number of Parliamentary seats in Telangana will increase from 17 to 26 and Assembly seats to 182 from the present 119, he said.

"I am predicting the election results 36 months in advance that Congress will return to power for a second consecutive term by winning 117 out of the 182 Assembly seats. I swear by Lord Rama of Bhadrachalam, this is the pledge of the Khammam Congress workers. Let us ensure

victory in 20 out of the 26 parliamentary seats in Telangana in the upcoming elections and make Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister," the Chief Minister remarked.

Revanth Reddy took a strong dig at the BRS over spreading fake survey reports on the victory of Congress in the next elections and the opposition party resorted to malicious propaganda claiming that Congress would lose, based on a fake survey.

"Does anyone conduct surveys or predict victory and defeat without even knowing when the elections will be held or how

reservation policies might change? When similar claims were made in Jubilee Hills, the people dealt a crushing blow to the BRS. The BRS survey team has turned into nothing more than a noisy, disreputable band of troublemakers, the Chief Minister charged.

Further, Revanth Reddy said the Congress will not rest until the 'Kaurava'-Kalvakuntla family is buried in the impending 'Kurukshetra' battle. Since the formation of the Congress

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



PM Modi interacts with young athletes at the MCG, celebrating the unifying spirit of cricket, Kabaddi and Australian rules football while highlighting the strong sporting partnership between India and Australia.

MODI VISITS MCG,
LAUNCHES SPORTS
ROADMAP

02

'Congress Handing Telangana's Water to AP'

HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Former minister and BRS deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing the Congress government of deliberately allowing Telangana's Godavari waters to flow into Andhra Pradesh while farmers across the state suffer due to water scarcity. In a statement here on Friday, Harish Rao said that while the Chief Minister may be accustomed to breaking promises and changing political positions, his own 25-year political career stands as proof of consistency and commitment. "Breaking promises and switching parties may be your political culture, Revanth Reddy. It is certainly not mine. Your 20-year political career and my 25-year political journey speak for themselves. Unlike you, I do not make one promise under oath



and another without it," he said. Questioning the Chief Minister over the farm loan waiver promise made in the name of Lord Sri Rama at Bhadrachalam, Harish Rao asked whether even farmers in Khammam district where Revanth Reddy addressed a public meeting had received complete loan waiver benefits.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Telangana Most Conducive for Manufacturing Sector

Encourage German industrialists to invest in the State
Minister Sridhar Babu meets high-level German delegation



HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Telangana is the most conducive state for establishing manufacturing industries compared to other states in the country, and the State Minister for Information Technology and Industries, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, urged the high-level German delegation

to encourage German industrialists to invest in the State.

He said the State Government is making planned efforts to transform Telangana into a world-class manufacturing hub with investor-friendly industrial policies, world-class infrastructure, and a skilled workforce. A high-level German delegation led by Tobias

Gotthardt, Vice Minister of the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy, paid a courtesy call on Minister Sridhar Babu at the Dr. B.R. Telangana State Secretariat on Friday.

During the meeting, both sides discussed opportunities to further strengthen

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

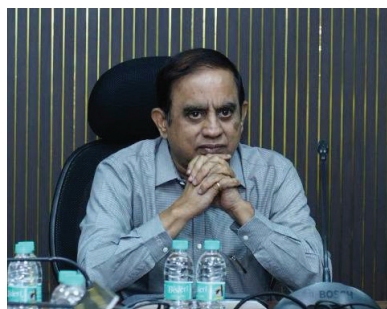
BONALU TO BEGIN FROM JULY 16

Hyderabad, July 10:

The annual Ashada Bonalu festivities will begin in Hyderabad on July 16 with the traditional offering of the first Bonam to Goddess Jagadambika Mahankali at Golconda. The celebrations will continue until August 13. Unveiling the festival poster and brochure on Friday, Telangana Endowments Minister Konda Surekha described Bonalu as a symbol of Telangana's composite culture and communal harmony. She directed the officials to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the lakhs of devotees expected to attend, with special emphasis on traffic management, parking, queue systems, drinking water, medical services, sanitation, uninterrupted power supply, and security.

SIR Must Be Completed Within the Deadline

Sr. Deputy Election Commissioner
Pawan Kumar Sharma



HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Senior Deputy Election Commissioner of the Election Commission of India, Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, has instructed the concerned officials to complete the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process within the stipulated timeline.

During a video conference chaired by Dr. Sharma to review the ongoing SIR process in the state, Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana, C. Sudharshan Reddy, IAS, the GHMC Commissioner, the District Election Officer of Hyderabad, District Election Officers (DEOs) from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

50k Acres Under Oil Palm Target: Vivek



HYDERABAD, JULY 10

The Telangana government has set a target of expanding oil palm cultivation to 50,000 acres in Siddipet district to promote sustainable and high-income agriculture, said Dr G. Vivek Venkatswamy, Minister for Labour, Employment, Training & Factories and Mines and district in-charge Minister. He noted that oil palm is already being cultivated on 14,000 acres in the district and urged farmers to diversify towards more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Bandi Sanjay Alleges Lake Land Grab

HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Friday accused the Telangana Congress government of selectively enforcing anti-encroachment measures, alleging that Fatima Women's college, owned by AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, is located within the Full Tank Level (FTL) limits of Sakalam Lake. In a post on X, Bandi Sanjay questioned why the government was demolishing houses of the poor under the HYDRAA initiative while allegedly ignoring the college. Taking a swipe at Congress leaders, he suggested they undergo eye check-ups and urged the BJP workers to organise free eye screening camps for them. He alleged that the Congress government was manipulating FTL boundaries to suit its political allies and accused it of misusing the HYDRAA initiative for political purposes.



CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER

MODI VISITS MCG, LAUNCHES SPORTS ROADMAP

AUSTRALIA, JULY 10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday visited the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) along with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Victoria Premier Jacinta Allan for an event celebrating India-Australia sporting ties. The event was attended by several Australian sporting legends, including former cricketer Steve Waugh and Lisa St-halekar, and highlighted the growing role of sports, cultural exchanges and people-to-people connections as key pillars of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. During the event, Modi and Albanese jointly unveiled the India-Australia Sports Collaboration Roadmap, aimed at expanding cooperation in sports training and capacity building, sports science and technology, and the sports industry and investment



sectors. The roadmap also proposes the organisation of an India-Australia Youth Sports Festival. The two leaders welcomed the growing collaboration

between the two countries in the field of sports. Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister Modi said sports play a unique role in bringing people to-

gether and noted that the roadmap would help diversify and strengthen the sporting partnership between India and Australia.

Congratulating Australia on its women's cricket World Cup victory, Modi said both countries were entering a significant decade in international sports, with India set to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and Australia preparing to host the Brisbane Olympic Games in 2032.

He said these major sporting events would create new opportunities for deeper cooperation between the two countries in sports and related industries. During the visit, the two leaders also interacted with young athletes participating in demonstrations of kabaddi, Australian Football and cricket exhibition matches. The visit underscored the strong sporting links and growing people-to-people ties between India and Australia.



NEW CS SANJAY JAJU CALLS ON GOVERNOR

Hyderabad, July 10: The newly appointed Chief Secretary, Sanjay Jaju, called on Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan on Friday. The Governor congratulated Sanjay Jaju on assuming charge as the Telangana Chief Secretary and conveyed his best wishes. He expressed confidence that Jaju would work

with dedication towards the State's holistic development, public welfare, and the promotion of good governance. During the meeting, the Governor and the Chief Secretary discussed various matters relating to the administration of the State. Special CS to Governor M. Dana Kishore attend meeting.

CS CHAIRED A REVIEW MEETING WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS



HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju today chaired a review meeting with senior officials of the Industries and Commerce Department at the Secretariat to assess the progress of key industrial infrastructure projects being developed across the state. The meeting focused on accelerating industrial growth, attracting investments and creating large-scale employment opportunities in the State.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took stock of the progress of major projects being implemented by the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIC), including the Bharat Future City, Zaheerabad Industrial City, Kakatiya Mega Textile Park and other strategic industrial infrastructure initiatives. MD TGIC Shashanka briefed him on the present status of these projects, the infrastructure being created, investment

prospects and the timelines for their completion.

The Chief Secretary stressed that the primary objective of the department should be to position Telangana as a preferred investment destination by facilitating industries with world-class infrastructure and a business-friendly ecosystem. He said that attracting both domestic and global investments is essential for sustaining the State's economic growth and generating large-scale employment opportunities for the youth.

Sanjay Jaju directed the officials to work with a clear focus on achieving the goals envisioned by the Government. He emphasised that all departments and implementing agencies should function in close coordination to ensure the timely execution of industrial projects without delays. He also instructed the officials to regularly monitor the progress of ongoing projects, identify bottlenecks at an

early stage and resolve them through effective inter-departmental coordination.

The Chief Secretary noted that flagship projects such as Bharat Future City, Zaheerabad Industrial City and the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park have the potential to transform Telangana's industrial landscape by attracting significant investments and promoting balanced regional development. He asked the officials to adopt a proactive approach in providing necessary infrastructure and investor facilitation services to ensure the successful implementation of these projects.

Industries & Commerce Special Secretary Krishna Aditya, Handlooms & Textiles Special Secretary Katayayani Devi, Chief Executive Officer, Invest Telangana, I&C Ajit Reddy, Future City Development Authority Commissioner Shashanka, Industries Director Nikhil Chakravarthi and Senior officials attended the meeting.

Non-Hallmarked Gold Seized in Secunderabad

Hyderabad, July 10: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) conducted a search and seizure operation at a jewellery store in Pot Market, Secunderabad, for alleged violations of mandatory gold hallmarking norms, notified by the Government of India, under the BIS Act, 2016.

The BIS enforcement team seized 111 non-hallmarked gold jewellery items, including 34 rings (164.26 g), 27 necklaces (797.07 g), 17 chains (412.72 g) 27 pairs of earrings (122.86 g) and six bangles (57.03 g). BIS has

initiated legal action against the establishment. The agency urged consumers to purchase only BIS hallmarked jewellery, verify the Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) using the BIS Care mobile app, and report hallmark misuse through the app or the BIS complaint mechanism. BIS website www.bis.gov.in and e-BIS (manakonline.in) may be browsed for general information on BIS. The enforcement team was led by Kavin K, Sc-C/ Deputy Director, Vijayraj Barbar, Sc- C/Deputy Director.

Cyberabad SHE Teams Nab 33 Harassers

HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Cyberabad Police intensified their drive against crimes targeting women and children during the week from July 3 to 9, with SHE Teams conducting 114 decoy operations and catching 33 offenders red-handed for indecent behaviour in public places. Police registered 34 petty cases, while the remaining offenders were counselled. During the week, 13 complaints were received from women through various channels. As part of Operation Muskaan, the Cyberabad Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) registered 30 cases under the Juvenile Justice Act and Child Labour laws, rescuing 146 children, including 144 boys and two girls, across the commissionerate limits.

Family Counselling Centres and CDEW Centres also facilitated the reunion of 21 couples involved in family disputes.

Sky Tower Glows in Tricolour for Modi Visit

NEW ZEALAND, JULY 10

Auckland's iconic Sky Tower was illuminated in the colours of the Indian tricolour on Friday as a special gesture to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to New Zealand, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in four decades.

PM Modi arrived in Auckland on Friday evening (local time) for the third and final leg of his three-nation tour. In a rare gesture, New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon personally received him at the airport. Sharing a photograph of the illuminated landmark on X, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "A special welcome in Auckland! The iconic Sky Tower was illuminated to mark the visit of PM Narendra Modi to New Zealand, symbolising the close and growing ties between our two countries." PM Modi and Luxon shared a warm embrace on arrival, underscoring the close and growing ties between the two nations. India's High Commissioner to New Zealand, Muanpui Saiawi, along with senior officials, was also present to receive the Prime Minister.

Welcoming the Indian leader, Luxon said in a post on X, "Welcome to New



Zealand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi," while sharing a video of his arrival in Auckland. Describing the visit as "historic", PM Modi said he looked forward to holding comprehensive discussions with Prime Minister Luxon on further strengthening bilateral relations.

"Reached Auckland a short while ago. Thankful to Prime Minister Luxon for the welcome at the airport. This visit is historic, being the first Prime Ministerial visit to New Zealand in four decades. I look forward to holding talks with Prime Minister Luxon and discussing the complete range of the India-New Zealand friendship. I will also be addressing a community programme tomorrow in Auckland," PM

Modi said in a post on X. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the visit is expected to inject fresh momentum into India-New Zealand ties and open new avenues for cooperation across a range of sectors. "Kia Ora New Zealand! Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Auckland, marking the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in 40 years.

In a special gesture, he was received by PM Christopher Luxon at the airport in Auckland. This historic visit is set to strengthen bilateral ties and unlock new avenues of cooperation across several areas, especially trade, defence, sports, culture, education and people-to-people exchanges," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

CONGRESS TO WIN 117 SEATS

>FROM PAGE 1

government in 2023, we ensured victory in every election and detained the 'Sinner-in-Chief' (Paapala Bhairavudu. KCR) in his farmhouse, he said.

Stating that "Palamuru is his political lifeblood and Khammam district is close to his heart", Revanth Reddy dared BRS leader Harish Rao to swear an oath on KCR that he will not join the BJP.

Responding to the opposition demand, the Chief Minister warned that the temple town of Bhadrachalam will be washed away if water is

released from the damaged Medigadda barrage. The threat of submergence of 44 villages in Khammam district was already anticipated. The BRS has no answer when asked if Medigadda had to be filled just for the sake of your wicked politics, he said.

Revanth Reddy highlighted that he has been working 18 hours a day and supporting the farmers at every step. On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced sanctioning of an Engineering college for Madhira on the request of the Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka.

Congress Handing Telangana's..

>FROM PAGE 1

He also questioned why the Chief Minister continued to display anger and political aggression in every public meeting despite repeatedly claiming that politics could wait until the final year of the government's term. Harish Rao alleged that the Congress government was attempting to cover up its failure to lift irrigation water from Kannapalli through misinformation and false propaganda against the Kaleshwaram project. He pointed out that the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages withstood floods of nearly 28 lakh cuses in the past, and questioned why the government was now attempting to create fear when the present flood flow was only about one lakh cuses.

The BRS leader demanded that the government immediately utilise the existing Kannapalli Pump House to lift water through Annaram and Sundilla into Yellampalli Reservoir instead of allowing valuable Godavari water to flow downstream. Harish Rao said the Congress government

had ignored repeated recommendations made by retired irrigation engineers regarding optimal utilisation of available Godavari waters. He accused the Chief Minister of reversing the gains achieved after Telangana's formation by reopening the door to the kind of water injustice that prevailed during the united Andhra Pradesh era. The BRS leader alleged that the Congress government was behaving as though it was sacrificing Telangana's rightful share of water for the benefit of Andhra Pradesh. Despite El Nino conditions and drought warnings, Godavari continues to carry substantial inflows in Telangana. However, instead of storing this water in reservoirs, the Congress government is allowing it to flow into Andhra Pradesh, causing irreparable damage to Telangana farmers, Harish Rao said. He described the government's failure to utilise available water despite repeated warnings from experts as a serious act of administrative negligence.

Telangana Most Conducive for Manufacturing Sector

>FROM PAGE 1

bilateral relations between Telangana and Germany. Minister Sridhar Babu explained the policies being implemented by the State Government to accelerate industrial development and the incentives being extended to industries.

He said Telangana offers vast investment opportunities in sectors such as Life Sciences, Biotechnology, Aerospace, Defence, Advanced Manufacturing, Precision Engineering, Digital Engineering, Semiconductors, Automotive and Mobility, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Digital Health, Research and Innovation, Clean Energy, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), and Industry 4.0.

He said the State is system-

atically developing a comprehensive ecosystem with a focus on advanced technology, research, innovation, and skilling to address future challenges in these sectors.

The Minister said the Telangana Government is ready to expand the Telangana-Germany partnership beyond investments to include collaboration in technology, research, and skill development.

The meeting was attended by German Consul General Michael Hasper, Germany's Honorary Consul in Hyderabad Amita Desai, Executive Director of the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs Ulrike Hoffmann, Executive Director of the Bavaria India Office John Kottayil, and others.

SIR Must Be Completed Within the Deadline

>FROM PAGE 1

all districts, and Electoral Roll Observers participated. Addressing the officials, Dr. Sharma directed them to expedite the distribution, collection, and digitization of enumeration forms and ensure that these activities are completed on schedule. He specifically instructed officials to further accelerate the digitization process in the districts of Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Sangareddy, and Vikarabad.

The Commission also interacted with District Election Officers from the districts that demonstrated outstanding performance in the SIR

process to understand the best practices they had adopted. Other districts were instructed to implement these strategies to complete the enumeration process efficiently.

Additionally, the Election Commission of India directed the Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana to closely monitor and accelerate the statewide distribution, collection, and digitization of enumeration forms on a daily basis in line with the prescribed targets. The Commission emphasized ensuring the successful completion of the SIR 2026 process within the stipulated timeframe.

50k Acres Under Oil Palm Target: Vivek

>FROM PAGE 1

remunerative crops. The Minister, along with Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, participated in the Mega Oil Palm Plantation Programme held at Janagama village in Akkannapet mandal of Husnabad Assembly constituency on Friday, where they planted oil palm saplings.

Addressing the gathering, Vivek Venkatswamy said that expanding oil palm cultivation has become essential in view of the growing domestic demand for edible oils. He pointed out that international developments have contributed to rising edible oil prices and stressed the need

to reduce dependence on imports by increasing domestic production.

The Minister assured farmers that although oil palm requires patience during the initial years, it offers substantial long-term returns. Farmers cultivating oil palm would receive government subsidies and benefits under the Rythu Bharosa scheme during the first four years, he said.

The Minister also observed that oil palm requires comparatively less water than paddy and that the presence of an oil palm processing factory near Husnabad provides an added advantage to farmers in the region.

Referring to paddy pro-

urement, Vivek Venkatswamy said the State government had procured 25 per cent more paddy last year despite the Kaleshwaram project not being fully operational. He said warehouses were currently stocked with paddy, while restrictions on rice exports and the Food Corporation of India's limited procurement had made it necessary for farmers to adopt alternative high-value crops.

The Minister said farmers in Chennur were also showing interest in oil palm cultivation. He appealed to the elected representatives and Agriculture Department officials to undertake extensive awareness campaigns in

villages to educate farmers about the benefits of cultivating oil palm.

To encourage large-scale adoption of the crop, Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar announced an incentive of ₹5 lakh for any village bringing more than 100 acres under oil palm cultivation. Responding immediately, Vivek Venkatswamy announced an additional ₹5 lakh from his side as the district in-charge Minister, taking the total incentive to ₹10 lakh for such villages.

On the occasion, the Ministers felicitated farmer Sampath, who has taken up oil palm cultivation, appreciating his efforts in promoting the crop.



Engineering Staff College of India – A Centre of Excellence for Engineering Training

*** Col. Harpal Singh Grewal, Director, Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI)**

HYDERABAD

The Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), Hyderabad, has been playing a pivotal role in strengthening the professional competence of engineers and technical professionals for the past 45 years by providing world-class training, consultancy and capacity-building programmes, said Col. Harpal Singh Grewal, Director, Engineering Staff College of India, while addressing a Press Meet held at ESCI.

Col. HS Grewal said that with rapid technological advancements transforming the engineering profession, continuous learning and capacity building have become essential for engineers. Recognizing this national need, the concept of establishing the Engineering Staff College of India was conceived in 1975 to impart high-quality professional training to in-service engineers across the country.

He informed that several States had expressed interest in hosting the institution. However, Hyderabad was selected owing to its emergence as one of India's leading engineering and industrial centres, with premier Central Government organizations such as BHEL, ECIL, NFC, HAL, HMT, MIDHANI, BDL, DRDO, HCL and several other strategic establishments located in the city. Consequently, The Institution of Engineers (India) decided to establish ESCI at Hyderabad.



Highlighting ESCI's achievements, Col. HS Grewal said that from 1981 to 2026, lakhs of engineers from various parts of the country have undergone professional training at the institution. Eminent engineers, academicians and domain experts from across India regularly serve as Guest Faculty, sharing their practical knowledge and professional expertise. He also recalled that Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, while serving at DRDO before becoming the President of India, delivered several lectures at ESCI as a Guest Faculty member.

Col. Grewal said ESCI presently conducts specialized training programmes through its twelve engineering divisions covering Civil & Transportation Engineering, Management & Technology, Quality & Productivity, Environment Management, Power & Energy, Mining Engineering, Information Technology and several other emerging disciplines. Engineers and

technical professionals from Central and State Government departments, Public Sector Undertakings and private industries regularly participate in these programmes. The ESCI is concentrating to impart the trainings in AI&ML, Robotics, Computer Science, Cyber Security, Sustainability and Renewable Energy.

The Director further stated that ESCI organizes nearly 450 professional training programmes every year, benefiting around 7,000 engineers, scientists, technical professionals and officers.

Apart from training, ESCI hosts numerous national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, technical meetings and capacity-building programmes throughout the year.

Speaking about consultancy services, Col. HS Grewal said the Project Division of ESCI functions as a reputed Third-Party Quality Control and

Certification Agency, offering inspection, testing and certification services for major civil engineering and infrastructure projects across the country.

He further stated that through its School of Post Graduate Studies (SPGS), ESCI offers two-year Post Graduate Diploma programmes in General Management and Infrastructure Management with specializations in Civil Engineering, Transportation Engineering and Power Engineering, thereby preparing future engineering managers and administrators.

ESCI Convention Centre

Col. HS Grewal said that ESCI has recently established a world-class Convention Centre at its Gachibowli campus with modern infrastructure and advanced technology. Strategically located amidst Hyderabad's IT corridor, corporate offices and business establishments, the Convention Centre has already hosted several nation-

ECI cracks down on slow SIR work, GHMC issues notices to erring EROs

HYDERABAD



The Election Commission of India on Friday convened a video conference with all District Election Officers (DEOs) and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Observers.

During this meeting, directives were issued to accelerate the digitisation of enumeration forms. Additionally, instructions were given to issue show-cause notices to Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) who have demonstrated low performance in the digitisation of these forms.

In Hyderabad, R.V. Karnan, the Commissioner of GHMC and the District Election Officer (DEO), presided over a thorough review session concerning the progress of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). This meeting involved all Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and election personnel. Key discussion points included the current state of data digitisation, ensuring the timely completion of Enumeration Forms, and strict adherence to the schedule set by the Election Commission. During the review, the DEO observed that the progress of SIR data digitisation in Sanathnagar, Musherabad and Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly con-

stituencies was unsatisfactory and significantly below the expected standards.

Expressing serious concern over the poor performance, the Commissioner issued show cause notices to the concerned EROs and conveyed a stern warning to all low-performing officers to improve their performance immediately.

The Commissioner directed all EROs to closely monitor the digitisation process, ensure accuracy and timely completion of all pending work, and maintain daily progress. He reiterated that any negligence or delay in the SIR process will be viewed seriously and appropriate action will be initiated against the responsible officials.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No. : MC-38-Laundry-OM-TK-26, dated 08.07.2026, Open tender is invited by Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Co-ordin), Eastern Railway, Howrah, New DRM Building, near Rail Museum, Howrah-711101 for the following work.

Name of the Work : Operation and Maintenance of Mechanized Laundry Plant at Tikiapara Coaching Depot for washing of bedroll linens of Howrah Division for a period of 3 years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 15,83,20,934.45. **Earnest Money to be deposited :** ₹ 9,41,600.00. **Period of Contract :** 36 months from the date of commencement of work. **Bid closing date and time :** 30.07.2026 upto 14.00 hrs. **Website particulars for submission of Tender online :** www.ireps.gov.in

HWH-204/2026-27

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [f@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

Centre reviews Andhra Pradesh FCV Tobacco marketing season

HYDERABAD

A senior delegation from the Ministry of commerce and industry, led by Additional secretary Nitin Kumar Yadav, reviewed the ongoing 2025-26 Andhra Pradesh FCV (Flue-Cured Virginia) tobacco marketing season in Hyderabad. The meeting, attended by tobacco growers, exporters, manufacturers, dealers, trade associations and the Tobacco

Board, focused on protecting growers' interests, expediting procurement and boosting exports. Discussions also covered restructuring the Tobacco Board, enhancing Growers' Welfare Fund benefits, simplifying registration, digital initiatives, AI-based grading, export market expansion and crop diversification to improve the long-term sustainability and global competitiveness of India's FCV tobacco sector.



Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy Turns Mathematics into an Enjoyable Learning Experience

■ Special Mathematics Orientation and "Maths Magic" Session Conducted for Students of Grades VI to X

HYDERABAD

A special Mathematics Orientation Programme and "Maths Magic" Session was conducted at Samaritan Public School (ICSE), ECIL by Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, eminent Educationist, Environmentalist, Green Ambassador, child philosopher, motivational speaker, and Chairman of Lotus Lap Group of Schools.

The programme was organized for students of Grades VI to X, with nearly 140 students and 20 teachers enthusiastically participating. The session transformed mathematics from a subject often perceived as difficult into an exciting, practical, and enjoyable learning experience.

Using innovative teaching techniques, Dr. Gopal Reddy demonstrated a variety of mathematical tricks, number games, puzzles, brain teasers, logical thinking activities, mental mathematics techniques, rapid calculation methods, and interactive demonstrations. His simple yet engaging approach helped students understand mathematical concepts with ease while developing curiosity and confidence.

From the very beginning, students remained fully involved in every activity. They eagerly answered questions, solved mathematical challenges, and actively participated in interactive exercises. The programme encouraged creative thinking, logical reasoning, analytical skills, and problem-solving abilities while eliminating the fear of mathematics and replacing it with enthusiasm for learning.

Addressing the students, Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy said, "Mathematics is not merely a subject for scoring marks in examinations. It is the foundation of logical thinking, analytical reasoning, creativity, decision-making, and innovation. Students who develop a love for mathematics gain the confidence to excel in every sphere of life."

He also encouraged students to cultivate the values of continuous learning, environmental responsibility, discipline, social commitment, and curiosity. He emphasized that asking questions, observing carefully, and learning something new every day are essential qualities of successful learners.

The programme proved equally valuable for teachers. They actively participated in the activ-



ities and appreciated the innovative classroom strategies demonstrated during the session. Dr. Gopal Reddy explained effective methods to create joyful classrooms, actively engage every child, and make learning activity-based, enjoyable, and meaningful.

He further highlighted practical strategies to strengthen students' reading, writing, comprehension, logical thinking, observation, and problem-solving skills. Stressing the importance of foundational learning, he remarked, "Children learn best when they are happy. A classroom free from fear, enriched with love, encouragement, and the freedom to ask questions, creates lifelong learners. Every teacher should reach the child's level, making learning simple, joyful, and meaningful."

The participating teachers expressed their happiness and stated that the programme provided valuable insights into making mathematics enjoyable while improving students' reading, writing, and comprehension skills through innovative classroom activities. They described the session as highly practical, inspiring, and professionally enriching.

The management, Principal, faculty members, and students of Samaritan Public School highly appreciated the programme, stating that it significantly enhanced students' interest and confidence in mathematics while equipping teachers with innovative pedagogical practices. The school management expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy for conducting such an inspiring and impactful educational session and hoped to organize many more such programmes in the future.

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Azharuddin Launches AI Readiness Initiative for 80,000 Minority Students

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has taken another significant step toward preparing minority students for the future digital economy by launching a large-scale AI Readiness and Digital Safety Program for nearly 80,000 students studying in 205 schools and colleges under the Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS). The initiative is being implemented under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

The program will be jointly implemented by TMREIS, MASK NextGen, and Doga Consulting Private Limited (DCPL). DCPL has been selected as the Global Implementation and Strategic Partner to ensure the successful rollout of the initiative across the state. The program will commence on August 15, 2026, and will be offered completely free of cost to both the government and students through a socially responsible partnership model.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Minorities Welfare and Public Sector Enterprises Mohammed Azharuddin said that the Telangana Government is committed to ensuring that minority students acquire the skills and opportunities needed to thrive in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.



The Minister said

"Artificial Intelligence is the future. It is transforming the world at an unprecedented pace. We are proud to introduce AI education and Digital Safety training in TMREIS institutions to ensure that our students are not left behind in this technological revolution."

"Today, we have entered into a three-year partnership with MASK NextGen. I am confident that this initiative will enhance students' knowledge, digital awareness, critical thinking skills, and future employment opportunities. AI is now a permanent reality, and our children must be prepared to become leaders in this field." Minister Mohammed Azharuddin also emphasized that the Telangana

Government is giving special priority to women's empowerment and ensuring equal opportunities for young girls.

He stated

"The Telangana Government attaches the highest importance to women's empowerment and increasing employment opportunities for women. Our girls must receive the best education, build confidence in technology, and emerge as leaders in their respective fields. Creating pathways for their success remains one of our highest priorities."

The Minister said that, through the AI Readiness and Digital Safety Program, students will develop essential skills required for future careers while

also learning how to use technology responsibly and safely.

He also appreciated the contributions of Ms. Avni Trivedi, Founder and CEO of MASK NextGen; Mr. Joseph Christopher of Doga Consulting Private Limited; Mr. B. Shafiqullah, Secretary, TMREIS; and Mr. Faheem Qureshi, Chairman of TMREIS, for their key role in making the initiative possible.

The Minister added

"This initiative has become possible because of the collective efforts of all our partners, who share a common vision of empowering our children through education and technology. The Telangana Government will extend its full support to ensure the success of this program and a brighter future for our students."

The curriculum will be delivered through a gamified, self-paced digital learning platform featuring interactive modules on Artificial Intelligence, Digital Safety, English Communication, Leadership, Critical Thinking, and Innovation.

The initiative is expected to become one of the largest AI education programs for minority students in India. It also marks another important milestone in Telangana's journey toward becoming a global hub for technology, innovation, and inclusive development.



₹47-cr export-oriented wholesale fish market to come up at Koheda

HYDERABAD

Telangana Minister Vakiti Srihari on Friday laid the foundation stone for an export-oriented wholesale fish market at Koheda in Rangareddy district, to be built at an estimated cost of ₹47.03 crore. The project, being developed under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), will be funded with 60% Central assistance and 40% State contribution. It is being projected as India's first modern freshwater fish export facility in an inland state.

Speaking at the event, the Minister said the State Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is committed to the welfare and economic empowerment of

the fishing community. He said the government would continue to address the problems faced by fishermen and work for the development of the Mudiraj community. Srihari extended greetings to fishermen on the occasion of National Fish Farmers' Day and said the government aims to ensure better incomes and sustainable livelihoods for the community.

The proposed export centre will feature modern cold storage facilities, fish processing and packaging units, training centres, customs clearance services and a large wholesale fish market capable of accommodating nearly 2,000 traders.

Telangana currently ranks first in the country in freshwater fish production, with

about 4.20 lakh tonnes of fish and 15,000 tonnes of freshwater shrimp produced in 2025. The new facility is expected to provide access to domestic and international markets, helping fishermen secure better prices while promoting Telangana's fish products globally.

The project is also expected to generate direct and indirect employment for around 5,000 people in loading, unloading, packaging, transportation and allied sectors. Among those present were Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, MLA Mal Reddy Rangareddy, Director of Fisheries Nikhila, Additional Director Muralikrishna, Additional Collector Chandra Reddy, and representatives of fisheries cooperative societies.

Collector directs officials to expedite Samagra Shiksha, PM POSHAN implementation



Dr Srinivas Vooradi

HANUMAKONDA

District Collector Chahat Bajpai has directed officials to expedite the implementation of the Samagra Shiksha and PM POSHAN schemes and ensure that all financial and physical progress is uploaded on the PM PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) portal within the prescribed deadline. Reviewing the implementation of the two flagship programmes with District Educational Officer L.V. Giriraju Goud and Samagra Shiksha officials at the Collectorate on Friday,

the District Collector stressed the need for timely and accurate updating of progress on the portal. The Collector instructed officials to identify bottlenecks affecting the implementation of various components of the schemes and prepare advance action plans to address them. Emphasising inter-departmental coordination, she said concerted efforts were required to achieve the objectives of Samagra Shiksha and PM POSHAN and ensure that students receive quality education and nutritious meals without disruption. Samagra Shiksha coordinators Mahesh, Dr. Manmohan, Sunita, Suma, Raghuchandra Rao and Kranti Kumar, among others were present.

Trade unions were backbone of Telangana movement: Martyrs' panel

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Movement Activists' Recognition Committee on Friday hailed the crucial role played by trade unions in achieving statehood, stating that the separate Telangana movement would not have succeeded without the historic participation of workers during the "Sakala Janula Samme". During a face-to-face consultation here at the Martyrs' Memorial (Amaradeepam), the committee interacted with leaders of trade unions and unorganised sector workers as part of its ongoing review process. Committee

Chairman Dr K Keshav Rao along with members Prof M Kodandaram, Addanki Dayakar, Mothe Shobhan Reddy and S Ramulu Naik, received representations from workers organisations. The panel said employees of RTC, Singareni, Railways, BSNL, TJAC and the unorganised sector brought the government machinery to a standstill during the general strike, forcing the Centre to respond to Telangana's demand. Committee members asserted that welfare measures sought by workers were their rightful entitlement, earned through their sacrifices during the movement.

Student unions claim statewide education bandh a success, allege police excess

HYDERABAD

Student unions on Friday claimed that the statewide bandh of educational institutions, called to protest the Congress government's handling of the education sector, received widespread support across Telangana.

Leaders of student organisations, including SFI, AIFS, PDSU, AIDS, AIFDS, AISB and AIPSU, said the students from across the state participated in the shut-down. As part of the protest, activists attempted to lay siege to the state ministers' residential complex in Hyderabad, leading to a confrontation with police.

The student leaders alleged that police used force to disperse peaceful protesters, assaulted



several students and detained many activists. They accused the government of suppressing democratic protests instead of

addressing students' concerns. Addressing the media later, the leaders criticised the Congress government for not appointing a

full-time Education Minister despite nearing two years in office. They alleged that the absence of leadership had worsened prob-

Hyderabad-Bengaluru travellers welcome TGSRTC's free connectivity offer

HYDERABAD

An innovative initiative introduced by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) to provide greater convenience to IT professionals, businesspersons and other passengers travelling between Hyderabad and Bengaluru has received an overwhelming response.

In a statement here on Friday, the TGSRTC stated that the corporation's decision to increase the number of bus stoppages on the Hyderabad-Bengaluru route, along with offering free intra-city connectivity for Bengaluru-bound passengers, has been widely appreciated.

Passengers, who book TGS-



RTC bus tickets to Bengaluru, can travel free of cost on the Pushpak AC buses operating on the Shamshabad Airport route from various parts of Hyderabad city. They can avail themselves of this facility by simply showing their Bengaluru

journey ticket. The new initiative has not only reduced the financial burden on passengers, but also has made their journey more convenient.

As a result, the corporation is witnessing an additional 60 to 70 ticket bookings every

day. Considering the growing passenger traffic and demand, TGSRTC has significantly increased the number of bus stoppages between Hyderabad and Bengaluru. TGSRTC Managing Director Nagi Reddy has also directed officials to operate additional services in line with passenger demand.

"Passenger convenience and safe travel remain TGSRTC's top priorities, and the corporation continues to introduce innovative measures to enhance its services. We are delighted by the encouraging response to the free Pushpak AC connectivity introduced for Bengaluru-bound passengers. We urge commuters to make full use of this facility," Nagi Reddy said.

UoH faculty, research scholar receive prestigious royal society Intl fellowship



HYDERABAD

The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has added another feather to its cap after Dr. Pratap Kollu, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Electronics Science and Technology (CASEST), School of Physics, was awarded the prestigious Visiting Fellowship by the Royal Society, United Kingdom.

Dr. Kollu, accompanied by his PhD scholar Prajakta Dange, recently completed a 10-day academic exchange visit to the University of Glasgow, where he also served as an Honorary Faculty Member.

During the fellowship, the UoH team collaborated with Prof. Duncan H. Gregory, Chair in Inorganic Materials at the University of Glasgow's School of Chemistry, on cutting-edge research in advanced functional materials, smart instrumentation systems, and next-generation energy storage technologies.

The fellowship is supported by the Yusuf and Farida Hamied Foundation, established by Dr. Yusuf Hamied, Chairman of Cipla, to promote international scientific collaboration in areas such as clean energy, advanced materials and healthcare. The visit is expected to pave the way for joint research projects, academic collaborations, and bilateral student exchange programmes between the University of Hyderabad and the University of Glasgow.

Kandou AI to Open India Chip Design Headquarters in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

Kandou AI today announced the opening of its India Chip Design Headquarters in Hyderabad, marking an important milestone in the company's global engineering expansion and its mission to power the future of AI infrastructure.

Located at Krishe Emerald in Kondapur, Hyderabad, the new headquarters will serve as a strategic engineering hub for advanced semiconductor design, high-speed connectivity, and next-generation AI system development. The opening reflects Kandou AI's continued investment in world-class chip design talent in India and its commitment to strengthening Hyderabad's rapidly growing semiconductor ecosystem.

As AI workloads continue to scale, the industry faces growing pressure to move more data, faster, and with greater power efficiency. From data centers to high-performance compute platforms, connectivity is becoming a critical

system-level enabler. Kandou AI's work sits at the heart of this challenge, delivering advanced semiconductor solutions designed to improve bandwidth, latency, and energy efficiency across modern compute architectures.

The Hyderabad headquarters marks a significant expansion of Kandou AI's global engineering footprint, enhancing the company's ability to develop and scale world-class semiconductor and AI infrastructure technologies across international teams. Located in one of India's premier semiconductor and technology hubs, the center will house core engineering functions—including chip design, verification, validation, firmware, software, systems engineering, and customer-facing technical teams—fostering closer collaboration, accelerating innovation, and supporting customers worldwide.

The headquarters was inaugurated during a ceremony attended by employees, customers, partners, industry leaders, and government



representatives. The event featured a traditional diya-lighting ceremony, a fireside chat, and demonstrations of Kandou AI's next-generation AI infrastructure technologies, followed by a networking reception. The ceremony was attended by Chief Guest Shri K.T. Rama Rao, MLA, Working President of BRS, and former Minister for Information Technology, Electronics &

Communications, Government of Telangana, and was hosted by Srujan Linga, CEO and Co-Founder of Kandou AI. "Hyderabad has established itself as one of the world's premier destinations for semiconductor engineering talent," said Srujan Linga, CEO and Co-Founder of Kandou AI. "The depth of technical expertise here is exceptional, and

this new headquarters reflects our long-term commitment to building world-class semiconductor and AI infrastructure technologies from Hyderabad. Beyond growing our own engineering team, we are committed to working with universities, industry, and government to help develop the next generation of semiconductor engineers and further strengthen Hyderabad's position as a global semiconductor design hub."

"Hyderabad's success has always been built on exceptional talent, strong industry collaboration, and a long-term vision for technology-led growth," said Shri K.T. Rama Rao, Working President of BRS and former Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Government of Telangana. "Kandou AI's decision to establish its India headquarters here is another testament to the city's emergence as a globally recognized semiconductor and deep technology hub. I congratulate the Kandou AI team and look forward to seeing the company contribute to innovation,

high-value employment, and the continued growth of Telangana's semiconductor ecosystem."

The opening of the Hyderabad headquarters further strengthens Kandou AI's global engineering organization and reinforces the company's long-term commitment to developing world-class engineering talent and advancing Hyderabad's position as one of the world's leading semiconductor design hubs.

About Kandou AI

Kandou AI is a fabless semiconductor design company dedicated to advancing high-speed, longer reach, low power connectivity solutions. Leveraging its differentiated interconnect IP and system design capabilities, Kandou AI builds high-performance connectivity products and systems for its customers across datacenter infrastructure, AI and consumer electronics with over 28mm silicon units shipped using its technology. Kandou AI is headquartered in Saint-Sulpice, Switzerland, with offices worldwide.



Video: Vijay breaks down as he hands job letters to families of Karur stampede victims

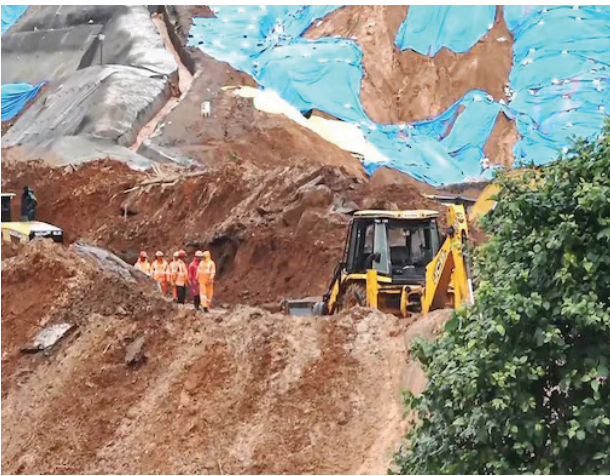
Vijay broke down in tears as he consoled the grieving families of the Karur stampede victims while handing over government job appointment letters to them during his first visit to Karur after the tragedy. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay broke down in tears while handing over government job appointment letters to the families of the victims of the Karur stampede, that claimed 41 lives during a Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) rally he addressed in September 2025. Dressed head-to-toe in black, the actor-turned-politician visibly struggled to contain his emotions as he consoled the grieving relatives in a deeply emotional public gathering, describing the incident as an "unhealed wound"

that continues to weigh heavily on his heart. Visuals from the event showed Vijay embracing grieving family members of the victims as they stood in silence. The visibly emotional Chief Minister often appeared looking down as he handed the documents. Chief Minister Vijay, while addressing the gathering, paused several times as he recalled the lives lost in the tragedy that unfolded during a TVK election campaign rally, where thousands of supporters had gathered. Friday marked Vijay's first official visit to Karur since assuming office in May. The visit combined efforts to rehabilitate the families affected by the stampede with the launch of a major industrial project. He had earlier met the victims' families in Chennai.

Wayanad landslide: Kerala govt blames contractor, says repeated warnings ignored

The Kerala government told the High Court that the contractor had been warned to remove excavated soil and debris before the Kalladi landslide. The court directed the state to cover treatment costs, release compensation quickly and hand over bodies without delay.

The Kerala government on Thursday told the High Court that the contractor involved in the construction work at the Kalladi landslide site in Wayanad had been repeatedly instructed to remove excavated soil and construction debris well before the accident, placing responsibility on the company for failing to comply with safety directions. In an affidavit filed before the High Court, the state government said the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) had issued directions on May 26 and June 4 warning that excavated earth and construction waste should not



endanger the public. The authority had also instructed that workers and local residents be evacuated if required and that all necessary safety measures be ensured at the work site. Seven bodies have been recovered, while one person remains missing after a landslide struck Kalladi near the construction site of a tunnel project linking Wayanad and Kozhikode. The disaster was triggered when a massive mound of excavated soil, dumped without scientific safe-

guards at the active tunnel construction site, became unstable amid heavy rain and collapsed into the valley below. According to the government affidavit, the contractor was reminded about safety precautions even on the day before the landslide. The SDMA informed the court that these directions had been communicated to both Konkan Railway and the contractor undertaking the construction work. The government further told the court that it is examining whether the

contractor had complied with the environmental clearance conditions governing the project. Taking note of the situation, the High Court directed the state government to bear the medical expenses of those injured in the landslide, as well as the costs incurred by their bystanders during treatment. The court also ordered the government to expedite the disbursement of the financial assistance announced for the victims and their families. In addition, the High Court directed authorities to ensure that the bodies of those who died in the accident are handed over to their families without delay. The court further said it would continue to monitor developments in the aftermath of the landslide and the relief measures being undertaken by the authorities.

The matter is expected to come up again on Friday when the High Court takes up the suo motu case related to natural disasters in the state.



Pre-RTE Teachers Demand Exemption from TET, Restoration of Old Pension Scheme

Barkot/Uttarkashi: The Uttarakhand State Primary Teachers' Association, Naugaon Unit, on Friday submitted a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister and the Union Education Minister through the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Barkot. The association demanded a permanent exemption from the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) for teachers appointed before the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, and the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). The association stated that all teachers appointed before the enforcement of the RTE Act were selected as per the norms prescribed by the State Government and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). Therefore, making TET mandatory for their service continuation and promotions is unjustified. The teachers urged the Centre to amend the relevant provisions of

the Act and grant them exemption from TET. The memorandum also sought the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme in place of the National Pension System (NPS), arguing that OPS provides greater financial and social security to employees after retirement. The teachers appealed to the Prime Minister and the Union Education Minister to safeguard the interests of pre-RTE appointees by removing the TET requirement and reinstating the Old Pension Scheme. They said these measures would enable teachers to continue serving with greater confidence and dedication. The memorandum was signed by Vijendra Vishwakarma, President, Mrs. Poonam Sargola, Treasurer, and Pratap Singh Rana, Minister, of the Uttarakhand State Primary Teachers' Association, Naugaon Unit, and was forwarded to the Government of India through the SDM, Barkot.

Kavitha's Rs 1,400-Crore Charge Exposes Kaleshwaram's Inside Story: Uttam Kumar Reddy

Financial relationship between BRS and the project contractors compromised KLIS engineering standards

HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday alleged that the structural failures in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme owed to poor-quality construction, arbitrary deviations from the approved design and above all a contractor-politician nexus. Citing BRS chief, KCR's daughter K. Kavitha's allegation that Rs 1,400 crore was received from Kaleshwaram contractors by the BRS, he claimed the "inside story" behind the project explained why Medigadda collapsed and why Annaram and Sundilla were also in a precarious condition. Speaking to the media persons at Huzurnagar, the Minister further alleged that two of the Kaleshwaram barrages was constructed nearly five kilometres away from the location approved in the Detailed Project Report (DPR), calling it a glaring example of engineering deviations that had endangered the project's structural integrity. "When the former Chief Minister's own daughter says that Rs 1,400 crore was received from Kaleshwaram contractors, the BRS leadership owed an explanation to the people of

Telangana," Uttam Kumar Reddy said. He alleged that the purported financial relationship between the ruling party and the project contractors compromised engineering standards, construction quality and public safety. "When money is allegedly received from contractors on a quid pro quo basis, what quality of construction can the people expect?" the Minister asked. Uttam Kumar Reddy said Kavitha's allegation assumed greater significance in the backdrop of the partial collapse of the Medigadda Barrage and the serious structural and foundation-related problems subsequently identified at Annaram and Sundilla. He alleged that the failure of Medigadda and the precarious condition of the other two barrages were the consequences of poor design, sub-standard construction, weak supervision and the neglect of sound engineering principles during the BRS government. "The Kaleshwaram project was planned by them, designed by them, constructed under their supervision and suffered failure during their rule. They cannot now blame the present Government for the consequences of their own decisions," he said.



Deeper defects exposed

While Medigadda had already suffered sinking of piers and structural damage, he said Annaram and Sundilla were also affected by leakages, foundation deficiencies and other engineering problems. "The collapse at Medigadda was not an isolated incident. It exposed deeper defects affecting the entire chain of barrages," he said. The Minister said the National Dam Safety Authority had raised concerns over the foundations of all three barrages and advised against storing water until detailed testing, redesign and rehabilitation were completed. He said the NDSA team inspected Medigadda in October 2023, when the BRS was still in power, and submitted its findings in November 2023. According to the Minister, the Authority identified deficiencies in

design, construction, operation and maintenance and recommended comprehensive investigations before the structures were used again. "The NDSA did not give these findings after the Congress came to power. Its team visited the project and issued its initial findings while the BRS government was still in office," he said. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Authority had advised that the barrage gates be kept open and water allowed to flow freely until the safety of the structures was established. He added that the recommendations of the NDSA, a statutory national authority created under an Act of Parliament, could not be ignored for political convenience.

Poor Construction Led to Failure

The Minister alleged that the structural crisis had arisen because the previous government failed to ensure proper design, adequate foundations and quality construction. He compared the execution of the barrages with the construction of an ordinary house, pointing out that even a small building requires soil testing before its foundation is designed. "When people construct a house, they

first test the soil and decide what type of foundation is required. But enormous barrages were constructed across the Godavari without properly ensuring the strength and suitability of their foundations," he alleged. He further claimed that Annaram and Sundilla were built nearly five kilometres away from the locations indicated in the original Detailed Project Report. The Minister alleged that the reasons for changing the locations had never been satisfactorily explained and that such deviations were now being examined by technical and investigating agencies. He said changes in barrage locations and foundation systems should have been supported by exhaustive geological and geotechnical investigations. Instead, he alleged, the project was executed hurriedly, with insufficient attention to the long-term safety of the structures. He said poor-quality construction had left Telangana with a massive financial burden and barrages that required extensive rehabilitation only a few years after completion.

Pumps Cannot Be Operated Without Safety Clearance

Uttam Kumar Reddy reject-

ed demands from BRS leaders to immediately operate the Kaleshwaram pumps and impound water in the barrages. He explained that water lifted from the Kannepalli Pump House would first enter Annaram, then pass through Sundilla and subsequently be lifted further into the system. Since Annaram and Sundilla were also facing foundation and structural problems, he said operating the pumps without rehabilitation would be reckless. "You cannot switch on the pumps and fill barrages whose foundations are under suspicion. If they fail after impounding water, the consequences could be catastrophic," he said. He warned that a major failure could endanger downstream villages, habitations and religious centres situated along the Godavari. "The safety of the people cannot be sacrificed to satisfy a political demand. We will not risk another collapse merely to create an impression that the pumps are functioning," he said. The Minister said the Government would follow the recommendations of the NDSA, IIT Bombay, the Central Water and Power Research Station and other national-level technical institutions.



Highways Cut Off as Floods Hit Northeast

NEW DELHI: (JUL 10)

Rain continued to wreak havoc across the country on Friday, with more landslides in the hill states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh blocking crucial highways, and flooded rivers in the north-eastern states forcing authorities to evacuate people to safer areas.

At least five more people died in incidents related to rain, even as parts of the country, including Delhi-NCR and Rajasthan, saw a dry day after days of incessant heavy showers.

In Himachal Pradesh, heavy to extremely heavy rains disrupted normal life in many parts, blocking roads, damaging bridges and uprooting trees. Schools remained closed in many parts of the state.

Kolkata Metro's Purple Line Hits Major Construction Milestone

Corridor to Strengthen East-West Connectivity, Reduce Travel Time and Road Congestion Across Kolkata
Khidderpore-Victoria Underground Tunnel Completed One Year After Tunnelling Began, Marking Another Engineering Milestone for Kolkata Metro
Latest Achievement Follows Chingrighata Viaduct Completion and Continued Momentum in Kolkata Metro Expansion



tunnelling having commenced on 10 July 2025. The achievement reflects engineering excellence, precision planning, and seamless coordination among all stakeholders. The tunnelling work was executed while maintaining high standards of safety and quality, with minimal disruption to surface traffic. The Joka-Esplanade Metro Corridor will significantly improve east-west connectivity across Kolkata by linking the southern parts of the city with its central business district.

The corridor is expected to provide faster, safer and more sustainable public transport, reducing travel time and easing road congestion. The successful breakthrough of TBM 'Durga' builds on a series of important milestones achieved by Kolkata Metro within 50 days. Earlier, Kolkata Metro successfully bridged the critical 62-metre viaduct gap at Chingrighata on the Kavi Subhash-Airport (Orange Line) corridor, re Subsequently, during his visit to Kolkata, Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed the progress of Metro expansion projects. He travelled by Metro from Jai Hind Biman-

bandar to Noapara station, interacted with fellow passengers to understand their travel experience and gather feedback on Metro services, and met Metro staff, moving a major construction bottleneck and paving the way for faster progress towards completing the line. The Minister also visited the Chingrighata project site, where he reviewed the recently completed viaduct work and appreciated the pace of execution. During the visit, he announced the induction of around 60 new-generation Metro trains over the next 4-5 years and highlighted that 45 km of new Metro network has been commissioned in and around Kolkata since 2014, compared to 28 km before 2014.

Court in UP's Azamgarh sends 3 men to jail for life in murder case

AZAMGARH (UP): (Jul 10) A court in this Uttar Pradesh district sentenced three men to rigorous life imprisonment on Friday after convicting them in a 2024 murder case, while acquitting a fourth accused for want of evidence. The court also slapped a fine of Rs 50,000 each on the three convicts. District and

Sessions Judge Jai Prakash Pandey directed that 80 per cent of the fine amount, if realised, be paid to the victim's wife as compensation. The court further directed the superintendent of police to initiate action against the investigating officer, Manish Pal, observing that the probe was not conducted properly.

EDITORIAL

Chasing 2034:
What It Will Actually Take for
India to Play a FIFA World Cup

For a nation that breathes, lives, and builds its sporting identity around a cricket bat, the question of when India will play in a FIFA World Cup remains a romantic yet painful query. For decades, the mythical lore of the 1950 withdrawal—supposedly over a refusal to wear boots—served as the closest India ever got to the pinnacle of football. Today, with the 48-team expansion offering Asia an unprecedented 8.5 slots, the door has never been wider. Yet, for the Blue Tigers, the grand stage has never felt further away. The answer to when India will qualify is a sobering exercise in reality. It will not happen soon. With India having missed the third round of the AFC qualifiers, the dream of a historic appearance is entirely out of reach. Instead, the national team has plummeted to 138th in the FIFA rankings under coach Khalid Jamil. The immediate hurdle is no longer chasing giants like Japan or South Korea; it is avoiding the ignominy of slipping into Asia’s Round 1 knockout playoffs for the 2030 cycle—a trap door where one bad night could end a World Cup campaign before it even begins. So, when can it happen? A realistic timeline points to 2034 or 2038, and even that depends on a radical restructuring of the ecosystem.

To transform this blueprint into reality, Indian football must stop looking for shortcuts. The current system relies heavily on the Indian Super League (ISL) to manufacture talent, but a top-heavy franchise league cannot substitute for a robust, multi-tiered domestic pyramid. First, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) must pivot entirely toward grassroots and youth development. The recently initiated youth academies are a start, but India needs an unbroken pipeline of competitive football for players aged 6 to 18. Without a baseline of high-intensity, technical training from a young age, Indian players will always lag in tactical awareness and physical transitions when facing continental opposition.

Second, the structural limitations regarding overseas talent must be addressed. While standardizing rules to utilize the vast Indian diaspora through Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) eligibility could provide a quick competitive injection, the sustainable solution rests on exporting domestic talent. Indian players must find avenues to play in tougher Asian or European leagues. Exposure to faster, more physical football abroad is what elevated nations like Japan and Australia.

Ultimately, qualifying for the World Cup is a generational project, not a four-year cycle. India will play in the FIFA World Cup only when the country treats football not as a quadrennial curiosity, but as a daily grassroots crusade. Until the infrastructure matches the untapped passion of millions of fans, the Blue Tigers will remain spectators to the world’s greatest show. The road is long, steep, and unforgiving, but it is a journey India must finally begin to walk with honesty.

Fractured River: Where Telugu Poetry
Finds Its Global Voice

A Review of Fractured River

There are translations that merely transfer words from one language to another, and there are translations that carry the very soul of a literary tradition. Fractured River, the English rendering of selected poems from Dr. Gandra Laxmana Rao's acclaimed Telugu collection Satadru, belongs to the latter. It is far more than an English version of Telugu poems; it is a graceful literary bridge that carries the richness of Telugu language, culture, philosophy, and lived experience to readers across the world.

The title itself is deeply symbolic. A river may divide into many streams, yet every stream remains inseparable from its source. Likewise, the poems in this collection explore diverse landscapes of memory, nature, labour, silence, faith, friendship, justice, and philosophical inquiry while remaining unified by a single current—the celebration of humanity. Each poem stands independently, yet together they form an unbroken river of wisdom, compassion, and reflection.

Dr. Gandra Laxmana Rao is one of the distinguished voices of contemporary Telugu literature. Born in Pegadapalli to Smt. Satyamma and the late Sri Gandra Hanumantha Rao, he grew up amidst the rhythms of rural life that continue to nourish his creative imagination. Even after an illustrious academic career, he remains actively engaged in agriculture, believing that the soil is not merely a source of livelihood but also of philosophy, humility, and poetic inspiration.

A respected Telugu lecturer for more than four decades, Dr. Laxmana Rao inspired generations of students through his scholarship, eloquence, and exceptional teaching. He is not only a poet but also a scholar, translator, literary critic, Avadhani, public speaker, and cultural ambassador of Telugu literature. Rooted in classical literary traditions while remaining sensitive to contemporary realities, he has created a body of work that is both timeless and universal.

His literary contribution spans nineteen published books covering poetry, fiction, literary criticism, philosophy, and translation. Among his notable works are Muggu, Satadru, and Verrimanavudu,

his acclaimed Telugu rendering of Khalil Gibran. Through these works, he consistently presents literature as a medium for moral reflection, social awareness, and human compassion.

His contribution extends beyond writing. Through Avadhanams, public lectures, literary organisations, seminars, and cultural initiatives, he has actively nurtured Telugu literary culture. In memory of his father, he instituted the Gandra Hanumantha Rao Memorial Literary Award to honour eminent writers annually. Over the years, he has received more than twenty-five prestigious literary awards and honorary titles, including the Telugu University Keerti Puraskaram and the My Gift Sahiti Puraskaram, recognising his outstanding service to literature, education, and cultural life.

The poetry of Fractured River possesses a rare artistic balance. It is simple without being simplistic, philosophical without becoming obscure, and deeply reflective without losing emotional warmth. Nature is never reduced to decorative imagery; rivers, trees, rain, fields, wind, and silence become living participants in humanity's moral and emotional journey. Farmers, labourers, forgotten voices, and ordinary lives are portrayed with dignity, reflecting the poet's abiding faith in the resilience of the human spirit.

Among the collection's most compelling sections is the Questions sequence, where the poet gently invites readers to reflect on truth, justice, faith, friendship, responsibility, and the meaning of existence. Rather than offering easy answers, these poems encourage contemplation, allowing readers to discover their own truths within the silence that follows each verse.

Julie deserves the highest appreciation for a translation of remarkable literary sensitivity. Poetry cannot survive through literal translation alone; it demands emotional understanding and artistic recreation. She preserves the cadence, cultural richness, philosophical depth, and lyrical beauty of the Telugu originals while allowing the English poems to stand confidently as works of literature in their own right. Her translation remains faithful not only to language but

Original Telugu
Work: SATADRU
Author:
DR. GANDRA
LAXMANA RAO
Translated into
English by:
JULIE
Pages: 150

also to the living spirit of the poems.

For me, this volume carries a deeply personal significance. I had the privilege of studying under Dr. Gandra Laxmana Rao during my Degree course at SRR Government Degree & PG College, Karimnagar. He was not merely our Telugu lecturer but an extraordinary teacher whose classroom became a living academy of literature. His melodious recitation, profound interpretation, expressive voice, and captivating teaching transformed every lecture into an unforgettable literary experience. Students from other departments often gathered simply to listen. He did not merely teach literature; he awakened in us a lifelong love for poetry. Reading Fractured River today is like hearing that unforgettable voice once again. The same warmth, humility, philosophical depth, compassion, and artistic brilliance that illuminated his classroom continue to flow through every page.

More than an English translation of Telugu poetry, Fractured River is a meaningful conversation between languages, cultures, and literary traditions. Dr. Gandra Laxmana Rao's poems, deeply rooted in the soil of Telangana yet universal in their human vision, find an eloquent English voice through Julie's accomplished translation. Rich in philosophical insight, lyrical grace, and ethical reflection, this volume stands as a significant contribution to Indian literature in translation. It extends the reach of an accomplished Telugu poet while affirming that authentic literature knows no linguistic boundaries. This is not merely a book to be read; it is a river to be entered—one that leaves the reader enriched, reflective, and profoundly human.

- DR PERUKA RAJU
Poet, Author & Literary Critic.



OPINION
The Human Cost of Industrial Growth:
India Must Put Worker Safety First

India is steadily emerging as one of the world's fastest-growing industrial economies. Flagship initiatives such as Make in India, Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, rising foreign investment, and the rapid expansion of pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electronics, automobiles, and other manufacturing sectors have strengthened the country's industrial base. This transformation has generated employment, improved exports, and reinforced India's position in global supply chains. Yet, behind this impressive industrial progress lies a disturbing reality. Industrial accidents, factory fires, chemical leaks, explosions, and workplace fatalities continue to claim the lives of workers with alarming regularity. Every major accident leaves behind grieving families, shattered livelihoods, and questions about whether economic growth is being pursued at the cost of human life. No nation can claim true industrial success if workers cannot return home safely at the end of the day.

Recent industrial disasters across different parts of India have once again exposed serious weaknesses in workplace safety. The familiar cycle of announcing compensation, ordering inquiries, and registering criminal cases after every tragedy cannot substitute for a robust system that prevents accidents from occurring in the first place. The real test of governance and corporate responsibility lies not in responding to disasters but in ensuring they do not happen.

Strong Laws, Weak Implementation: India does not suffer from a shortage of laws governing industrial safety. Over the years, legislation such as the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, and the Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986 sought to establish minimum safety standards across sectors. Recognising the need for a more integrated framework, Parliament enacted the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code), which consolidates thirteen labour laws into a single legal framework. Although the Code received Presidential assent in 2020, its nationwide implementation remains incomplete because the supporting rules are yet to be fully notified and operationalised across all States. Once fully implemented, the Code requires employers covered under its provisions to provide safe working conditions, maintain workplace hygiene, supply personal protective equipment, conduct risk assessments, organise regular safety training, ensure periodic medical examinations, maintain accident records, and establish safety committees wherever applicable.

Industrial safety is further supported by the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, safety regulations administered by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), standards issued by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), State fire safety laws, and the National Building Code. The problem, therefore, is not legislative inadequacy but weak enforcement. Smaller factories and units operating in the unorganised sector often escape rigorous inspections, allowing unsafe practices to continue unchecked.

A Persistent and Underreported Crisis: Industrial accidents continue to occur frequently, particularly in chemical, pharmaceutical, mining, and metal-processing industries. However, obtaining real-time official data remains difficult because government statistics are usually published with a considerable time lag. Consequently, policymakers and researchers often rely on a combination of official data and credible independent reports to understand the scale of the problem.

According to analyses based on data released by the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) for the period 2017–2020, registered factories in India witnessed an average of nearly three worker deaths and more than eleven injuries every day. Meanwhile, a 2024 report by IndustrialALL Global Union, drawing on media reports and publicly available information, estimated that more than 400 workers lost their lives in workplace accidents during the year, with chemical and pharmaceutical industries accounting for a significant share of these fatalities. Since many workplace accidents, especially in the informal sector, go unreported, the actual numbers are likely to be much higher. These figures underline a troubling reality: India's industrial expansion has not been accompanied by a corresponding strengthening of its safety culture. Preventing accidents must become a far greater priority than responding to them.

Why Do Accidents Keep Happening? Industrial accidents are rarely isolated incidents or mere acts of misfortune. Most are the result of systemic failures. Weak enforcement remains the first and perhaps the biggest challenge. Many States face shortages of trained factory inspectors, technical experts, and adequate resources. Limited inspections and inconsistent enforcement allow safety violations to persist without meaningful consequences. A second problem is the tendency to treat safety as an avoidable expense rather than a long-term investment. Spending on safety equipment, preventive maintenance, and worker training is often viewed as an additional cost instead of an essential business responsibility. In contrast, globally competitive industries increasingly regard workplace safety as integral to productivity, quality corporate reputation.

Insufficient training is another major concern. Many workers, particularly contract labourers, receive inadequate instruction on hazard identification, chemical handling, emergency response, and safe operating procedures. Without proper orientation, they remain highly vulnerable in hazardous work environments. Ageing infrastructure also contributes significantly to industrial disasters. Poor maintenance, obsolete machinery, malfunctioning safety sensors, and delayed repairs often transform minor technical faults into catastrophic explosions, fires, or toxic leaks. The widespread use of contract labour presents another structural challenge. Contract workers frequently lack job security, comprehensive safety training, and the confidence to report unsafe conditions for fear of losing employment. As a result, they are disproportionately affected when accidents occur. Technology adoption also remains uneven. While large industries increasingly deploy automated monitoring systems, gas detection sensors, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, artificial intelligence, and predictive maintenance tools, many small and medium enterprises continue to operate with outdated equipment and limited safety infrastructure.

Emergency preparedness is equally inadequate in many industrial clusters. Emergency response plans often exist only on paper. Mock drills are conducted irregularly, firefighting systems remain poorly maintained, and coordination among factories, hospitals, fire services, and disaster management authorities is frequently insufficient.

Another growing concern is the expansion of residential settlements around industrial zones. In chemical and hazardous industries, accidents increasingly threaten not only workers but also surrounding communities. Industrial safety, therefore, is no longer merely a labour issue; it has become a matter of public health, urban planning, and environmental governance. Although major accidents are typically followed by inquiry committees, their recommendations are rarely subjected to independent monitoring or systematic implementation. Consequently, lessons from one tragedy often fail to prevent the next. Countries such as Japan and Germany have demonstrated that sustainable industrial growth depends not only on stricter regulations but also on building a genuine safety culture. Continuous training, technological innovation, transparent reporting, and independent audits have significantly reduced workplace accidents in these countries. India must move in the same direction.

Building a Culture of Prevention: Preventing industrial accidents requires a comprehensive and coordinated strategy involving governments, industry, workers, regulators, and local communities. Strengthening enforcement should be the first priority. The number of factory inspectors must increase, supported by continuous technical training and modern digital inspection systems. Transparent reporting, real-time monitoring, and stringent penalties for serious safety violations would significantly improve compliance. Coordination among regulatory agencies—including factory inspectorates, pollution control boards, fire departments, electricity authorities, and disaster management agencies—must become routine rather than exceptional.

More importantly, industries must move beyond mere legal compliance and embed safety into corporate culture. Senior management

should lead by example, encouraging workers to report hazards without fear of retaliation. Safety committees should function as active decision-making bodies rather than symbolic institutions. Continuous training must become mandatory for every employee, especially contract workers. Safety education should cover hazard recognition, chemical safety, emergency evacuation, fire prevention, and safe equipment handling, reinforced through periodic refresher programmes.

Technology offers enormous opportunities to reduce industrial risk. Artificial intelligence, IoT-based monitoring, gas detection systems, predictive maintenance, drones, digital twins, wearable safety devices, and virtual reality-based safety training can dramatically improve workplace safety while enhancing operational efficiency. High-risk industries such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, and oil and gas should strengthen Process Safety Management (PSM) by regularly conducting Hazard and Operability (HAZOP) studies, implementing robust Management of Change (MoC) procedures, and undertaking independent third-party safety audits.

Emergency preparedness also requires urgent attention. Industries should regularly conduct realistic mock drills in coordination with local fire departments, hospitals, and disaster management authorities. Communities living near hazardous industrial facilities must also be informed about emergency procedures and evacuation protocols. Special attention is needed for small and micro enterprises operating in the informal sector. Governments should provide simplified safety guidelines, financial incentives, technical assistance, and training programmes to help these enterprises adopt safer industrial practices.

Safety Is Not an Option- It Is a Moral Responsibility: India aspires to become a global manufacturing powerhouse. That ambition will be meaningful only if industrial growth is built upon the protection of human life and dignity. Every industrial accident is a reminder that safety is not merely a regulatory obligation or a compliance requirement. It is an ethical responsibility shared by governments, employers, regulators, and society. Every rupee invested in workplace safety protects not only workers but also families, businesses, communities, and the nation's economic future.

Industrial progress cannot be measured solely by the number of factories built, investments attracted, or products exported. It must also be measured by the confidence that every worker can leave for work in the morning and return home safely in the evening. Only when economic growth and human safety advance together can India's industrial transformation truly be called sustainable, inclusive, and worthy of global leadership.

J M R DUNGA
SENIOR TEACHING FACULTY IN MATHS

| SPECIAL ON WORLD POPULATION DAY (11 JULY)

THE TIDE OF POPULATION WILL STEM ONLY
THROUGH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Every year on July 11, 'World Population Day' is observed to awaken global consciousness regarding population-related problems. If we look at it in the context of India, it is due to the rapidly growing population that we are lagging behind in delivering basic necessities like education and health to everyone. Due to the rising population, the problem of unemployment has taken a monstrous form in the country. Although programs to generate new employment through various schemes were run in past decades, these programs proved to be 'a drop in the ocean' due to the growing population. Because of the increasing population, the imbalance between the population and resources in the country continues to grow. The reality is that the pace at which the country's population grew in past decades made it impossible for any government to succeed in making arrangements to mobilize the necessary resources for the public.

Today, a very large segment of the country's population is forced to live a low-standard life. About 40 percent of the population in the country has been living in poverty since independence. The mindset of many such people living in poverty has been that the more children they have, the more earning hands they will have. However, this thinking is far from the ground reality. In this era of continuously rising inflation, when a family is large, the expenses, needs, and prices of various products increase far more than the increase in income brought by more earning hands, making fulfillment beyond one's capacity. Therefore, for the success of population control programs, it is most essential that special attention be paid to making people living in extreme poverty aware of the importance of family planning programs. This is because until these people participate in this program, achieving the target is impossible.

To counter the population growth in the country, demands have been raised for a long time to make strict laws. However, the kind of measures being considered by some state governments in this direction—such as disqualifying families with more than two children from government jobs and local

body election candidacies—cannot be considered logical. Although population growth is a serious challenge at present, such measures are not deemed legally sound from a constitutional perspective either. In China, before 1980, only one child was permitted, and violating this meant the couple was not only deprived of government schemes but also punished; yet, this policy was not successful there. This is why the Chinese government changed this policy in 2016 to allow two children, and later had to permit three children. It is also important to understand the reasons why China's dictatorial government made a major shift in policies to allow couples to have three children. In fact, the general fertility rate among people there is continuously declining, and according to some experts, the same situation is bound to happen in India too.

For stability in population and a stable number of working youth, the general fertility rate of women should be 2.1, and this rate is continuously falling in China. In 1970, this rate in China was 5.8, which dropped to 1.6 in 2015 and only 1.3 in 2020, while the elderly population kept increasing. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the increasing number of older people in the population in the coming times will increase the pressure regarding balanced development and population. In the census conducted in 1982, China recorded its highest population growth of 2.1 percent, but after that, a continuous decline in population was recorded, for which the decades-old 'One Child Policy' adopted by the Communist government there is held responsible. In the past decade, China's population grew by about seventy million, but due to the increasing number of elderly people, a different problem has begun to arise for China. In fact, China fears that its population will decline over the next ten years, which will also reduce its consumption due to a decrease in the number of workers. According to NBS data, the demographic crisis faced by China was expected to deepen further, which is why China was forced to change its population policy.

As far as India is concerned, the general fertility rate of women here was 3.4 in 1994,

which dropped to 2.2 in 2015, meaning close to normal. According to the National Family Health Survey, India's population will start falling after increasing until 2050, and by the time it reaches 2100, the general fertility rate will remain at just 1.3. This means that by then, most families will have only one child, and India will stand in the same position in which China stood after the One Child Policy, forcing it to make major changes to its population policy twice in the past seven years. Therefore, attempts to control population through laws like the Two-Child Policy are not considered practical; instead of intimidating laws, creating awareness among people is most important. Without strict laws, the population growth rate has decreased in those states of the country where the literacy rate is higher. According to the National Family Health Survey, the fertility rate among poor women in India is around 3.2, whereas this rate was found to be only 1.5 among wealthy women. Similarly, uneducated women have an average of 3.1 children, whereas this number is an average of 1.7 among educated women. This clearly means that the population explosion is directly linked to social and educational conditions. In the absence of education, a large population of the country could not be made aware of the benefits of a small family.

(The author is a senior journalist continuously active in journalism for 36 years and the author of several popular books, including 'Sagar Se Antariksh Tak: Bharat Ki Raksha Kranti')



YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL

senior journalist

AAP Starts
Signature
Campaign Over
Temple Funds

AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal demanded those behind Ram Temple donation theft should be brought to justice. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced that his party will launch a nationwide signature campaign demanding strict punishment for those accused in the alleged theft of donations at Ayodhya's Ram Mandir, seeking to mobilise people across the country who say they have been hurt by the controversy.

The campaign will formally begin after a Sundar Kaand recital in Delhi on Sunday, with the party describing it as a public movement aimed at urging the Centre to ensure action against those responsible.

Addressing the media, the AAP national convenor said the programme would commence after devotees gather for the religious event at Japanese Park in Rohini to seek the blessings of Lord Hanuman before beginning the signature drive. According to Kejriwal, the campaign is intended to bring together people of faith from across the country, regardless of political affiliation, to press for accountability in the alleged donation theft case.

Yogi Adityanath's
development push in
Ayodhya with new projects

Yogi Adityanath will launch and lay foundation stones for multiple projects in Ayodhya and Basti. The visit gains added attention amid the Ram temple donation controversy and a renewed push on welfare delivery.

He would inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for various development projects in several other constituencies in Ayodhya district. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for a series of development projects in Ayodhya and Basti, while also distributing benefits under various government welfare schemes to beneficiaries in the two districts. The chief minister launched projects in the Bikapur Assembly constituency of Ayodhya district and the Harraiya and Kaptanganj Assembly constituencies of Basti district. During the programme, he also hand-

CM Directs Recharge Wells in Parks

Prepare Roadmap to Make Panchkula the State's Number One City- directs CM
Municipal Corporation to Oversee Sanitation, Sewerage, Roads and Water Supply in Residential Sectors-CM

CHANDIGARH, JULY 10

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, on Friday, chaired the fourth meeting of the Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority (PMDA) in Chandigarh that lasted for three hours and directed the officers to install recharge wells in every park, particularly to prevent water-logging during the monsoon, and ensure that only treated water is used for irrigating parks. The Chief Minister also reviewed in detail the works being undertaken under the PMDA and approved future development plans for the city. He said the government's objective is to make Panchkula the Number One City in Haryana and directed officials to prepare a comprehensive, time-bound action plan to translate this vision into reality. The Chief Minister directed officers to work towards making Panchkula a slum-free city. He directed them to identify suitable land and prepare a detailed project for constructing high-rise residential apartments so that eligible families can be provided modern housing facilities. He said the Municipal Corporation will be responsible for sanitation, sewerage, roads and water supply within the residential sectors to ensure better civic services. The PMDA will look after sector-dividing roads and storm-water drainage works, while HSVP will continue to collect water charges and maintain unsold properties as well as sanitation in residential sectors where nearly 25 per cent of the houses have been constructed.

Emphasising preparedness ahead of the monsoon, the Chief Minister directed that sewer lines and drains be cleaned at the earliest to ensure smooth disposal of rainwater. He directed officers to accord top priority to sanitation, sewerage, roads and drinking water supply at the ground level so that residents do not face any inconvenience. He also directed that three Super Sucker machines of HSVP be handed over to the Municipal Corporation to strengthen mechanised cleaning operations.

Develop Fountain Park on the Lines of Leisure Valley, Gurugram

The Chief Minister directed that Fountain Park be developed on the lines of Leisure Valley, Gurugram, so that Panchkula becomes an even



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini presiding over the 4th meeting of Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority, at Chandigarh on July 10, 2026. MIA Sh. Chander Mohan, Mayor, Panchkula Sh. Sham Lal (Bansal), former Vidhan Sabha Speaker, Sh. Gian Chand Gupta and other senior officers are also seen in the picture.

more beautiful city. He said special attention should be paid to the city's beautification so that it emerges as a model city for other urban centres. He also directed that attractive wall paintings be created, all 14 major intersections be beautified, and a comprehensive proposal be prepared for storm-water drainage at these locations.

Next PMDA Meeting to Review Progress Next Month

The Chief Minister said the next meeting of the PMDA would be held next month to undertake a detailed review of the progress of all ongoing projects. He directed officers to prepare a comprehensive plan for installing ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) CCTV cameras across Panchkula to strengthen public safety and surveillance. He also asked that the city's shooting range be upgraded with international-standard facilities so that athletes can receive world-class training and compete at the global level.

Inquiry Ordered into Multi-feature Park Project

Reviewing the Multi-feature Park project, officials informed the Chief Minister that nearly Rs. 22 crore had already been spent on it. Taking serious note of the expenditure, the Chief Minister ordered an inquiry into the project and directed officials to submit a detailed report.

He further directed that all major parks in Panchkula be developed with ornamental plantations, restored water bodies filled with water, attractive fountains and adequate public toilet facilities.

11-km Urban Drains to be Beautified Under Jaldhara Yojana-II

The Chief Minister said construction of Atal Park would be completed by November 30. He also directed that Children's Park be equipped with modern recreational facilities and play equipment for children. He further directed the Police Department to take strict ac-

tion against persons found consuming drugs in public parks. Under Jaldhara Yojana-II, the 11-kilometre-long drains passing through the city will be beautified. These include the drain passing through Rajiv Indira Colony and the Sector-1 Chowk-Industrial Area Phase-I drain. The Chief Minister also announced that five new Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) will be established in the city. Tenders for three STPs have already been issued, while action on the remaining projects is in progress. To ensure uninterrupted water supply to Pinjore, Kalka and Morni, he directed officials to identify suitable land for constructing new waterworks. He said the pipeline connecting the 24 MLD waterworks under construction in Sector-32 with Kaushalya Dam would be completed by next month. He further informed that development works worth nearly ₹575 crore are currently underway under 22 different projects across Panchkula.

Presentation Highlights Progress on Roads and Park Renovation

Chief Executive Officer PMDA and Director General, Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, K. Makrand Pandurang, made a detailed presentation on the development roadmap for Panchkula.

NFR Carries Out Intensive Ticket Checking
To Curb Ticketless travel On-board Trains

MALIGAON, 10 JULY, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has recorded a remarkable improvement in its ticket checking performance during June 2026, reflecting its continued commitment towards ensuring transparent ticketing practices, curbing ticketless travel and providing a fair travel environment for genuine passengers. Intensive ticket checking drives conducted across stations and trains throughout the zone resulted in the detection of 1,14,633 passengers travelling without tickets or with irregular tickets during the month, compared to 91,717 such passengers detected in June 2025, registering an increase of nearly 25%. The sustained enforcement efforts led to the realization of Rs14.44 crore through fare and excess charges during June 2026, a significant increase from Rs 9.10 crore collected during the corresponding month last year, reflecting a growth of nearly 59% in



revenue. Out of the total detections, 81,744 passengers were found travelling without tickets, generating Rs 11.85 crore in fare and excess charges, while 32,889 passengers were detected travelling with irregular tickets, contributing Rs 2.59 crore in revenue. In addition, NFR realized Rs 46.84 lakh through non-penalty cases during the month, while luggage checking also contributed to revenue generation by ensuring compliance with railway luggage booking rules. The success of the campaign was supported by

377 intensive ticket checking drives conducted across the zone during the month, compared to 349 drives in June 2025. Ticket checking staff covered 3,289 trains, a substantial increase over the 2,217 trains checked during the corresponding period last year, demonstrating NFR's enhanced focus on vigilance and revenue protection.

The cumulative performance during the first quarter of 2026-27 has also been encouraging. From April to June 2026, NFR detected 3,35,040 cases of ticketless and irregu-

lar travel, generating Rs 39.56 crore through fare and excess charges, compared to 2,37,256 cases and Rs 22.78 crore during the corresponding period of 2025-26. The railway also realized Rs 1.42 crore through non-penalty cases during the cumulative period, highlighting the sustained effectiveness of its ticket checking initiatives. These achievements underscore the dedicated efforts of NFR's Commercial Department, ticket checking staff and field officials, who have been conducting regular surprise inspections and special drives to discourage ticketless and irregular travel. Northeast Frontier Railway once again appeals to passengers to travel only with valid tickets, carry proper travel authority and book excess luggage as per Railway rules. Such cooperation will help ensure a safe, transparent and comfortable travel experience for all passengers while strengthening the efficiency and financial sustainability of railway operations

RAILWAYS WILL SOON
LAUNCH BETA VERSION
OF IRCTC WEBSITE

NEW DELHI, JULY 10:

Today, IRCTC & CRIS officials met Students of MNIT, Jaipur and experienced them the Beta version of new IRCTC website. The officials have asked for more feedback before the launch of new Beta version. Few weeks ago, students of MNIT, Jaipur pointed out the issues in IRCTC website. We promised that it will be revamped by 15th July. Reviewed the beta version of revamped website. The revamped IRCTC website is currently being integrated with Passenger Reservation engine of Indian Railways. Since the Passenger Reservation engine is also being revamped in parallel, the fully functional new IRCTC portal will be available in a few months. Since the students of MNIT are the catalysts, the beta version of IRCTC portal has been reviewed by the students of MNIT on 10th July at Jaipur. IRCTC has made four major improvements in the beta version:

Captcha: No unnecessary captchas. No unnecessary pop ups. No

flashing graphics. No distracting elements.

Seat availability: Visible across all classes.

Faster checkout: Reduction in the number of steps to book

Easier repeat booking: Saved passenger details.

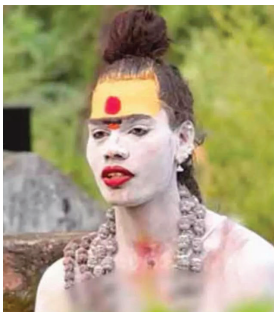
In parallel, we are revamping the four decades old Passenger Reservation engine that powers the various train booking apps. This required extensive work, because the system had to be operated throughout this journey of upgradation. We will launch the new Passenger Reservation engine very soon. RailOne app has now crossed 4 crore downloads. It has become the largest railway ticket booking app. All railway services are available at one stop in RailOne app. Many steps have been taken to reduce bots in Tatkal booking. Still it is a continuous fight. There is a some improvement, however we need to make more efforts. We will keep our efforts on. Thanks to MNIT students for your feedback. We listened to your voice and tried to improve.

Request to the religious lovers of
Aghori eunuch Mahamandaleshwar
Maa Kali Nand Giri

UJJAIN :

Last day, while doing sadhana at the crematorium in Ujjain, religions that create obstacles in sadhana It is requested to the lovers that she remains engrossed in deep sadhana, during this time she is harassed by the religious lovers, this causes difficulty in doing sadhana, everyone is requested not to disturb her sadhana. He has said that his spiritual practice is to pray to Baba Mahakal and Kali Mata for Sanatan Samaj so that the entire world gets welfare.

Rashtriya Kinnar Akhara had made Kinnar Aghori Saint Maa Kali Nand Giri Mahamandaleshwar, she performs sadhana day and night in the crematorium of Ujjain. Recently, at the time of Aarti in the Gadkalika temple of Ujjain, Aghori Mahamandalesh-



war Maa Kali Nand Giri created a ruckus when his hair interrupted the arrangements for the temple. Due to this incident, the video got circulated on social media all over the world and in newspapers, TVIt has become famous due to the news published and broadcast in the channels. After this incident, he has been expelled from Rashtriya Kinnar Akhara.

Every day devotees of religion come to the crematorium to have darshan of their Aghori method of sadhana.

High-Tension
Wire Theft Hits
Rail Operations

Thieves allegedly cut several metres of 25,000-volt overhead wire on the Patna-Gaya section, disrupting trains for nearly three hours. The recovered wire has been seized as evidence, while the RPF investigates and railway officials step up surveillance. Rail services remained affected between approximately 4 am and 7 am.. Train services on the Patna-Gaya rail section were disrupted for nearly three hours early Thursday after thieves allegedly cut several metres of the 25,000-volt overhead electric wire near Unta-Madarpur in Bihar's Jehanabad district, affecting the movement of multiple trains.

According to the East Central Railway (ECR), the incident occurred around 3 am on the down line between Tehta and Jehanabad stations. The theft of the overhead equipment (OHE) wire interrupted power supply to the section, forcing railway authorities to suspend normal train operations. Railway officials said the disruption was first reported to the Danapur Railway Division, which immediately alerted officials in Jehanabad.

DM Resolves Public Grievances
at Barkot Jan Seva Camp

BARKOT, UTTARKASHI, JULY 10

As part of the "Seva, Good Governance and Dedication: Government at Every Doorstep" campaign marking five years of the Uttarakhand Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, a Jan Seva Camp was organised at Government Inter College, Barkot, on Friday. The camp was held in the presence of Minister of State Shyam Dobhal and chaired by District Magistrate Prashant Arya. A total of 140 public grievances were registered, with the majority being resolved on the spot through coordinated efforts of district officials. The District Magistrate issued immediate directions on several complaints. He instructed the Executive Officer of Barkot Municipality to construct a retaining wall beneath a damaged house following a complaint by Aradhana Nautiyal. Officials were also directed to expedite action on issues related to land records, drinking water supply, old water tanks, and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), while ensuring that eligible beneficiaries re-



ceive the benefits of government welfare schemes. The camp brought together multiple government departments under one roof, enabling citizens to access services conveniently. A total of 440 people benefited from various welfare schemes. The Health Department and the AYUSH Department conducted medical check-ups for 162 people and distributed medicines. Departments including Revenue, Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Dairy, Electricity, NRLM, Panchayati Raj and others provided information and services to beneficiaries. The District Legal Services Authority also offered legal counselling, assistance with pension and birth certificate-related matters, and distributed legal awareness material. District Mag-

istrate Prashant Arya said the outreach camps are aimed at strengthening the connection between the administration and the public while ensuring timely and transparent resolution of grievances. He urged eligible residents left out of the PMAY list to apply for a fresh survey through their Block Development Office or Gram Panchayat and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to ensuring that every eligible citizen receives the benefits of government schemes. The camp was attended by Minister of State Shyam Dobhal, BJP District General Secretary Parshuram Jagudi, SDM Brijesh Kumar Tiwari, Tehsildar Renu Saini, district officials from various departments, public representatives and a large number of local residents.

Realising the Hopes and
Aspirations of Young People

(On the occasion of "World or International Population Day" on 11 July)

The "International or World Population Day" was established to commemorate the first day of reaching 5 billion world population mark on 11 July 1987 (Five Billion Day). This important International event is celebrated annually on 11 July to bring awareness to the challenges and opportunities of world population. It also brings the focus on the issues related to population trends for sustainable development, health, and well-being across the globe. The UN general assembly adapted resolution in 1990, establishing the World Population Day annually from 11 July 1990 onwards. The theme of 2026 World Population Day is "Realising the Hopes and Aspirations of Young People - Today and for the Future" to underscore the importance of world youth, reproductive rights, and gender equality, maternal health, poverty, environmental protection, highlighting the world's largest generation of young population.

World Population Day Events:

This day focused the eyes of the world at sustainable development, resource management, and the pace of population expansion. The governments, civil societies has to invest in quality education, healthcare, employment, and family-planning services, with which young people can follow their own future amid economic uncertainty, climate change, and demographic transitions. Let's give decision-making power to youth about their marriage, parenthood will assure fairness, sustainability, and hope for the next generation. On this day, the events like awareness campaigns, public lectures and discussions, art and cultural events, health camps and services, youth engagement, community mobilisation, and partnerships and collaboration activities.

World's & India's Largest Populations - 2026:

The world population reached 1 billion in 1800s,

5 billion in 1987, 7 billion in 2011, and reached 8.2 billion in 2025. The expected population by 2030 is 8.5 billion and 9.7 billion by 2950. By 2050, about 66 percent of the global population will reside in cities. The global population has now reached over 8.3 billion in 2026, and hence this day serves as a reminder of the urgent need for sustainable solutions to population-related challenges. India has now topped the population list with a 1.464 billion. The top ten most populous countries in the world are India (146.4 Crore), China (141.6 Crore), U.S. (34.7 Crore), Indonesia (28.6 Crore), Pakistan (25.5 Crores), Nigeria (23.8 Crore), Brazil (21.3 Crore), Bangladesh (17.6 Crore), Russia (14.4 Crore), and Ethiopia (13.6 Crore). The world's most population density countries are Macau (21,946 people/km Square), Monaco, Singapore, Hong Kong, Gibraltar, Bahrain, Vatican City, Maldives, Malta, and Bangladesh (1,350

people/km square). According to 2011 census the most populous states of India are UP, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, MP, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, and AP. In 2025, UP population is 240 million, Bihar 131 million, West Bengal 100 million and MP 89 million.

World Population Day-2026 serves as a vital reminder of the challenges and responsibilities that come with a growing global population. As we navigate issues like resource management, reproductive health, education, and environmental sustainability, it becomes increasingly important to empower individuals- especially youth - to make informed choices about their future. The population explosion in countries like India can be a boon, if the youth are excellent in their academics as well as technical and personal skills. Population without any proper education and skills can be a bane to any country.



Acharya Prashant, Steve Fleming examine the nature of self

LONDON

Philosopher and author Acharya Prashant and the noted cognitive neuroscientist Professor Steve Fleming held a public dialogue on self-knowledge, metacognition and consciousness at University College London (UCL) on the evening of July 9.

Titled "Thinking About Thinking," the session was the closing engagement of Acharya Prashant's UK tour, which had earlier taken in the Cambridge Union, Oxford, the House of Lords, Queen Mary University of London, and the London School of Economics.

A hall packed with students broke into sustained applause as the two speakers took the stage, and the question-and-answer round that followed the inter-

action ran well past its allotted time. The session was moderated by Dr Megan Peters, Lecturer in Computational Cognition at UCL, whose research spans metacognition, subjective experience and consciousness.

Introducing the evening, she said self-awareness is among the oldest subjects of human inquiry, and that over the past few decades metacognition has become an experimental, empirical science, putting brain research in direct conversation with contemplative traditions that have examined the self far longer.

She introduced Acharya Prashant as a philosopher featured in the Watkins 2026 list of the world's most influential living thinkers, whose work reaches more than 100 million people.

Professor Fleming is Profes-

sor of Cognitive Neuroscience at UCL's Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience and a Group Leader at the Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry. His work on metacognition and consciousness has been recognised with honours including the Royal Society's Francis Crick Medal and Lecture, and his book "Know Thyself: The Science of Self-Awareness" has been translated into seven languages.

Opening his remarks, he said the human mind not only models the external world but is able to place itself within that model, so that the brain can monitor its own performance, though the knowledge it forms about itself is not always accurate or useful.

Acharya Prashant drew the distinction between metacognition and self-knowledge through



an analogy he returned to over the course of the evening. In a vehicle, he said, the engine produces speed, a first-order variable, while the speedometer on the dashboard measures it, so that one part of the system reads another part. This second-order reading is what science calls confidence, he noted, while the radar gun outside reports the actual speed, or the ground truth. The steady gap between speedometer and radar gun is metacognitive bias, and their moving together is metacognitive sensitivity.

"This reading is a report, not a choice," he said, "and none of it points to the driver." The system reading the system is metacognition, he said, whereas the driver investigating himself and finally

discovering that there is no driver is self-knowledge.

Professor Fleming praised the analogy, saying he would use it in his own lectures. In experiments, he said, a person's confidence often diverges from their actual performance, and such patterns are frequently linked to the pre-frontal cortex, which appears to help build the internal model we hold of ourselves. He offered one refinement, noting that in the brain there is no dashboard sitting apart from the engine, since implicit and explicit metacognition are different levels of the same physical hardware.

Acharya Prashant said the brain does not suffer. "The body can feel pain, but there is someone else within who wakes at three in the morning and says, I am lonely, memories of the past

haunt me, what am I to make of the future," he said. "That sufferer cannot be located anywhere in the body, and it is this one that the field of self-knowledge studies."

The ego, he said, is self-referential and self-certifying, claiming ownership over every act with the words "my thought, my body." He described it as a computational error in the system, something like holding that two plus two equals five, which has no existence and yet can be believed in. This "someone else," he clarified, is not a hidden entity lodged in the body but the very driver of his analogy, real as a belief and unreal as a being, and it is precisely this claimant that self-knowledge sets out to investigate. Turning to memory, he argued that what survives from the day's countless

impressions is far from neutral. "That choice is not made by the brain," he said. "Someone else makes it, keeping what matches its own identity."

Professor Fleming said this view sat close to the philosopher Daniel Dennett's notion of the "user illusion," the idea that the sense of a single place where everything comes together is itself a construction, one that thinkers have searched for over centuries without ever finding. Yet that narrative sense of self, he added, is still grounded in how the brain works. He pointed to the classic split-brain experiments, in which one hemisphere of the brain would invent an explanation for what the other hemisphere had done, showing that even such narratives are authored within the brain itself.



India, Oman explore ways to elevate strategic partnership

MUSCAT

External Affairs Minister (EAM), S Jaishankar, on Friday met his Omani counterpart, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, and explored ways to elevate the strategic partnership between both countries.

According to the Foreign Ministry of Oman, the meeting addressed the course of the historical relations between Oman and India, and explored ways to elevate the strategic partnership between the two India and Oman, particularly in the fields of trade and investment, energy, logistics services, and modern technologies, alongside enhancing cooperation between companies in both countries, and encouraging quality partnerships and mutual investments that serve shared interests and align with promising economic opportunities.

The two ministers also exchanged views on a number of current regional and international developments, including those related to shipping and maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, and their implications for international trade, energy supplies, and supply chains.

Both sides affirmed the importance of continuing coordination and consultation on these developments and supporting

efforts aimed at enhancing understanding and cooperation with various parties, while mitigating the repercussions of the current situation, in a manner consistent with the provisions of international law and taking into account the interests of the region's countries.

The meeting was attended by the Circuit Ambassador Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al Hunaiji, Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil Al Muski, Head of the Gulf Co-operation Council and Regional Neighbourhood Department, Prashant Pisai, Ambassador of India to Oman, and a number of officials from both sides.

Earlier in the day, EAM Jaishankar interacted with members of the Indian diaspora in Oman and appreciated their role in strengthening bilateral ties.

"A good interaction with members of Indian diaspora in Oman this morning. Their enthusiasm in strengthening India-Oman relations was palpable. Appreciated their many contributions to the society as well as to India-Oman partnership," he posted on X.

The EAM arrived in Oman on Thursday after concluding his visit to Kuwait. Oman is the fourth stop of EAM Jaishankar's six-nation visit, following which, he will travel to New York and Brussels.

ADB lowers Pakistan's FY27 growth outlook to 3.7 pc: Report

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's economic growth is expected to slow in the current fiscal year as higher energy costs and pressure on foreign remittances weigh on the economy, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its latest outlook, according to a report.

A report published in Dawn said that the lender has revised down Pakistan's GDP growth forecast for FY27 to 3.7 per cent from the 4.5 per cent projected in April, according to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO).

The ADB cautioned that the growth outlook for the current fiscal year has weakened because of rising energy costs and anticipated pressure on re-



mittance inflows from overseas Pakistanis.

The revised forecast is below the Pakistan government's growth target of 4 per cent for the fiscal year, though slightly above the International Monetary Fund's projection of 3.5 per cent.

The ADB also raised its in-

flation projections for Pakistan, citing rising food and fuel prices as well as persistent spillover effects from the ongoing West Asia conflict.

Moreover, inflation is now projected at 7.2 per cent, up from the 6.4 per cent forecast issued in April, while the outlook for FY27 has been revised up-

ward to 8.3 per cent from 7.2 per cent, according to the report. Pakistan is among several economies facing slower growth and elevated inflation as prolonged disruptions in global energy markets continue to weigh on economic activity, it added.

Across developing Asia and the Pacific, the ADB lowered its 2026 growth forecast to 4.9 per cent from 5.5 per cent in 2025, trimming its April projection by 0.2 percentage points. It retained the regional growth forecast for 2027 at 5.1 per cent, expecting a gradual recovery as energy market pressures ease. The report said downward revisions for South Asia were driven by weaker outlooks for Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Indian Ambassador in Azerbaijan discusses upcoming activities with diaspora



BAKU

India's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Abhay Kumar, on Friday met with members of the Indian community and discussed upcoming community activities. Praveenkumar Ramachandran Nair and Anas Meerasahib, Executive Committee Members of the Baku Malayalee Association (BMA), called on Ambassador Abhay Kumar on Friday and apprised him of the Association's upcoming activities, including the organisation of a cricket tournament.

The Ambassador suggested that BMA encourage greater participation of Azerbaijani players in the tournament to help promote cricket in Azerbaijan, noting that sports are an effective means of fostering people-to-people contacts and strengthening cultural ties between India and Azerbaijan.

The Indian Embassy in Azerbaijan wrote on X that the discussion also covered BMA's forthcoming cultural events, including the celebration of Onam. The Ambassador appreciated the Association's efforts and observed that such initiatives play an important role in deepening cultural relations and enhancing mutual understanding between the two countries.

Prashant Mishra, President of the Indian Association of Azerbaijan, also called on Ambassador Abhay Kumar on Friday. They discussed the Association's forthcoming activities and how it can play an active role in promoting India-Azerbaijan cultural ties.

The Ambassador also met Amit Mohan Govil, Director of the Foreign Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND), who is in Baku for the Egmont Group Plenary Meetings. The Ambassador congratulated him for FIU-IND securing the Runner-up position at the prestigious Best Egmont Case Award 2026 held in Baku.

On Thursday, Ambassador Abhay Kumar visited the ancient village of Khinalig, one of Azerbaijan's oldest highland settlements. He was briefed on the village's unique language, rich cultural traditions, and distinctive stone architecture. He also visited the Historical and Ethnographic Museum of Khinalig, where he viewed rare archaeological finds, ancient manuscripts, and traditional artefacts that reflect the village's rich cultural heritage.

EAM Jaishankar and Omani FM discuss bilateral ties, developments in Gulf

MUSCAT

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar held a meeting with his counterpart from Oman, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Albusaidi, in Muscat on Friday, discussing bilateral ties and developments in the Gulf.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), during the meeting, EAM Jaishankar expressed India's appreciation for Oman government for the prompt assistance extended to Indian seafarers during the recent regional developments. The two ministers also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

"Delighted to meet Omani FM Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi in Muscat today, and hold discussions on various facets of our cooperation. Focused on trade, investments, connectivity, maritime,



technology, defence and cyber and AI domains. Had a comprehensive exchange of views on developments in the Gulf, and efforts to ensure peace and stability. Our discussions reflected the trust and strength of our strategic partnership," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi noted that longstanding maritime ties between India and Oman have connected our peoples for centuries and continue to provide a strong foundation for our partnership,"

Albusaidi posted on X. Earlier in the day, EAM Jaishankar interacted with members of Indian diaspora in Oman and appreciated their role in strengthening bilateral ties.

"A good interaction with members of Indian diaspora in Oman this morning. Their enthusiasm in strengthening India - Oman relations was palpable. Appreciated their many contributions to the society as well as to India-Oman partnership," he posted on X.

On Thursday, EAM Jaishankar arrived in Oman after concluding his visit to Kuwait. Oman is the fourth stop of EAM Jaishankar's six-nation visit, following which, he will travel to New York and Brussels.

"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 X.

'Self-immolation outside UN headquarters desperate plea to highlight Tibet's suffering'

NEW YORK

The self-immolation outside United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York was not an isolated act of despair but a desperate plea to the international community, reminding them that Tibet's suffering remains hidden behind China's facade. A person setting himself on fire is not only a tragedy but demonstrates the silence of the international community, a report has detailed.

"Self-immolation has become a haunting form of protest among Tibetans. It is not born of fanaticism but of suffocated voices. Inside Tibet, every avenue of peaceful dissent is blocked: monasteries are surveilled, language is policed, and even the act of mourning is criminalized. To burn oneself alive is to turn one's body into the last available megaphone," Khedroob Thondup, nephew of Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, wrote in European Times. "The UN protest was a direct appeal to the conscience of the world — a demand that Tibet's plight not be relegated to footnotes in diplomatic communications," he added.

According to the report, China's policies towards Tibetans



remain "repressive and absurd" in their attempt to erase identity while claiming to protect it. Children are forced to study in boarding schools, where Tibetan language and culture are diluted. Monks are forced to attend "patriotic education" sessions that are against their vows. Tibetans who live abroad also face intimidation, with Chinese authorities monitoring their activities and punishing their relatives who live in China for their activism.

"The act of self-immolation before the UN headquarters was a symbolic confrontation: Tibet's suffering laid bare before the very institution tasked with defending human rights. If the UN and its member states fail to respond, they risk complicity in the erasure of a people. Tibet is not merely a regional issue; it

is a test of whether the international community will uphold the principles it claims to embody," mentioned Khedroob Thondup. On July 2, Tibetan activist Lobga Rangzen died after self-immolating outside the United Nations headquarters in New York. The tragic incident unfolded a day after China's new legislation 'Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress Law', came into force. This legislation has drawn widespread criticism from the global community, with the UN experts warning that it risks "entrenching forced assimilation and encouraging transnational repression".

Moments before the incident, Rangzen livestreamed a message on his social media platform calling for Tibetan independence and unity. He later succumbed to his burn injuries

at Bellevue Hospital in New York. Tencho Gyatso, President of the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), expressed grief over the incident and urged the global community to address the worsening human rights situation in Tibet and hold the Chinese government accountable for its "policies of repression and forced assimilation."

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of Lobga, also known as Lobga Rangzen, following his self-immolation at the UN headquarters in New York on Thursday evening. Lobga was a tireless advocate for Tibet who devoted himself to peacefully raising awareness of the human rights crisis in Tibet, and he will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to justice and the Tibetan cause. Lobga's passing is one day after the implementation of China's new so-called Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress Law," Gyatso stated. "In his final statement, which he posted on his Facebook account, Lobga warned that China's policies threaten the very survival of Tibetan identity, language, and culture and called on all Tibetans to be united in their fight for the cause of the Tibetan struggle.

Ceasefire with Iran over, talks to continue, says Donald Trump

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said Friday that Washington had agreed to continue talks with Iran, even as he declared that the ceasefire between the two countries was over after a sharp escalation in military strikes.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has asked us to continue 'talks.' We have agreed to do so, but the United States has stated to them, in no uncertain terms, that the Cease Fire is OVER!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

The statement suggested that diplomatic contacts would continue despite the collapse of the ceasefire framework negotiated last month.

The Washington Post reported that the announcement followed several days of escalating strikes that shattered the fragile truce between Washington and Tehran. The newspaper said the preliminary agreement had been designed to end the fighting and begin negotiations on a broader peace accord within 60 days.

The New York Times reported that US forces struck more



than 170 Iranian military targets on Tuesday and Wednesday. It described the operation as one of the most intense rounds of American attacks since the war began more than four months ago.

The targets included air defence systems, drone and missile storage sites and military speedboats along Iran's southern coast near the Strait of Hormuz, according to the Times. The newspaper also reported that US forces appeared to strike a railway bridge in northeastern Iran, more than 700 miles from the strait.

Iran responded by firing at US military bases in Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait, the

Times reported. Jordan said it had also intercepted Iranian attacks.

The latest exchanges followed attacks on commercial vessels near the Strait of Hormuz. The waterway has become a central point of tension in the conflict because of its importance to global oil and shipping routes.

CNN reported that Qatari negotiators had travelled to Iran to meet officials and try to create conditions for US-Iran talks to resume. The trip was planned in coordination with Washington, according to a diplomat cited by CNN.

CNN also reported a lull in fighting Friday after the latest

strikes threatened to derail the agreement. A US official told the network that American forces were deliberately striking and then pausing to avoid a wider escalation and allow diplomacy to continue.

The Washington Post said the United States and Iran remained divided over the meaning of the preliminary agreement, particularly its provisions concerning the Strait of Hormuz. The newspaper quoted analysts as saying the region was caught between war and peace, with both sides applying military pressure during negotiations.

The Hill also reported Trump's declaration that the ceasefire was over while talks would continue. It cited the president's Truth Social statement and said his announcement came during renewed exchanges between the two countries.

The United States and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding last month intended to halt hostilities and open negotiations toward a more durable settlement. The agreement began to unravel after renewed attacks around the Strait of Hormuz.



MONEY MATTERS09

Five Singareni Mines Secure Prestigious 5-Star Rating at National Level

HYDERABAD (SINGARENI BHAVAN) , JULY 10, 2026:

Five mines of The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have been selected for the prestigious 5-Star Rating in the National Coal Mine Rating Programme conducted annually by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India.

According to the list released by the Ministry of Coal, RK Newtech and RK-6 mines of Srirampur Area, JVR OC-II of Sathupalli Area, Khairiguda Open Cast of Bellampalli Area and RG OC-I of Ramagundam-III Area have been recognised as 5-Star rated mines. Out of 382 coal mines across the country that applied for the 5-Star Rating, only 50 mines were selected, of which five belong to SCCL, marking a significant achievement for the com-

pany. Last year, four Singareni mines had received the 5-Star Rating. This year, for the assessment year 2024-25, SCCL has achieved its highest-ever tally of five 5-Star rated mines, the best performance in the company's history. Congratulating the officers, employees and workers of the award-winning mines, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Energy Sri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu appreciated their outstanding performance and called upon other mines in Singareni to emulate these best practices. The Ministry of Coal conducts this annual programme through its subordinate office, the Coal Controller Organisation (CCO), to encourage excellence in coal mining. Mines are evaluated across seven major categories covering 50 performance parameters, including scientific



mining practices, workers' welfare, environmental protection, mine safety and development of nearby villages. Every year, the Coal Controller Organisation invites coal mines across the country to participate in the 5-Star Rating programme. Government and private coal mining companies voluntarily undertake a self-evaluation of their mines based on the prescribed criteria and sub-

mit their applications. The assessment primarily examines seven major areas, including scientific mining practices, efficient use of mining technology, financial performance of the mine, welfare measures for mine-affected communities and nearby villages, employee welfare, safety and occupational health measures, and environmental management initiatives. Mines securing more than 90 percent marks across the 50 performance parameters are eligible for the 5-Star Rating. Before awarding the rating, an expert team from the Coal Controller Organisation conducts an on-site inspection to verify the information submitted by the mine. Only after being fully satisfied with the compliance and actual performance are the mines awarded the prestigious 5-Star

Rating. The expert team of the Coal Controller Organisation recently carried out detailed inspections of the nominated Singareni mines and subsequently selected five mines for the 5-Star Rating. Officials of the award-winning mines stated that these recognitions reflect SCCL's commitment to operational excellence, safety, environmental protection and sustainable mining practices.

Seventeen More Mines Receive 4-Star Rating

Apart from the five 5-Star mines, 17 other Singareni mines secured the 4-Star Rating by scoring between 80 and 90 percent. Although the 4-Star Rating does not carry an award, it recognises mines that have achieved a high standard of performance and narrowly missed the 5-Star benchmark by a small margin.

Deputy Chief Minister Congratulates Singareni

Deputy Chief Minister Sri Bhatti Vikramarka congratulated SCCL on five of its mines being recognised as 5-Star rated mines at the national level for their outstanding performance. He appreciated the company management, officers and employees for effectively implementing best practices in discipline, mine safety, employee welfare and environmental protection while ensuring uninterrupted and safe coal production to meet the energy requirements of the State. He expressed confidence that many more Singareni mines would achieve the prestigious 5-Star Rating in the coming years through continued excellence in performance.

-Chief Public Relations Officer



File Early, Stay Relaxed: Why the Income Tax Department is sending SMS alerts

Thousands of taxpayers are receiving SMS reminders from the Income Tax Department asking them to file their ITR early. What's behind these messages?

If you've recently received a text message from the Income Tax Department reminding you to file your Income Tax Return (ITR), you're not alone. Thousands of taxpayers across the country have started getting similar alerts as the July 31 deadline draws closer.

The message isn't a warning or a notice. Instead, it is part of the department's effort to encourage taxpayers to file their returns early and avoid the last-minute rush that often leads to errors, delays and technical glitches.

WHAT DOES THE MESSAGE SAY?

Many taxpayers have received a message that reads: "Dear XXXXXXXX, File Early, Stay Relaxed! Your ITR for AY 2026-27 awaits at the e-Filing portal. Due date 31st July 2026. Ignore if filed. - ITDept"

The wording makes it clear that the message is only a reminder. If you have already filed your return, no action is required.

WHY IS THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT SENDING THESE REMINDERS?

Every year, many taxpayers wait until the final few days before the deadline to file their returns. This often results in heavy traffic on the e-filing portal, rushed filings and avoidable mistakes.

By sending reminder messages well before the due date, the department hopes to spread out the filing load over a longer period. Early filing also helps taxpayers identify any missing documents, correct errors and complete verification without unnecessary pressure.

The campaign is also

aimed at improving voluntary tax compliance by nudging eligible taxpayers to file their returns on time.

WHY FILING EARLY MAKES SENSE

Filing your ITR well before the deadline offers several advantages. It gives you enough time to reconcile details such as salary income, TDS, bank interest and other sources of income with the information available on the Income Tax Department's portal. If there is any mismatch, you have sufficient time to resolve it before submitting your return. Early filers are also more likely to receive their tax refunds sooner, provided the return is correctly filed and verified. Perhaps most importantly, filing ahead of time helps avoid the stress that comes with last-minute technical issues or missing documents.

WHO SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO THE REMINDER?

The reminder is primarily meant for taxpayers who have not yet filed their return for Assessment Year 2026-27. Even if you receive the message, it does not necessarily mean you have made any mistake or that there is a problem with your tax records. It simply indicates that, according to the department's records, your return has not yet been filed.

If you have already completed the filing process, the message itself advises you to ignore it.

WHEN IS THE LAST DATE TO FILE YOUR ITR?

For most individual taxpayers who are not required to get their accounts audited, the due date to file the income tax return for Assessment Year 2026-27 is July 31, 2026. Different deadlines apply to taxpayers whose accounts require an audit or who are covered under transfer pricing provisions.

Beyond Salaries: 8th Pay Commission

Economists say the 8th Pay Commission will affect far more than central government salaries and pensions. Its recommendations could shape consumer demand, state finances, inflation and fiscal planning. Most people associate the 8th Pay Commission with salary hikes for central government employees. But its recommendations could have consequences that extend far beyond the government's payroll.

From higher consumer spending and stronger demand for housing to the finances of state governments, inflation and the country's fiscal health, economists say every Pay Commission creates ripple effects across the economy. That is because the recommendations will directly affect nearly 55 lakh central government employees and around 69 lakh pensioners, while indirectly influencing millions of households, businesses and state finances.

WHY 8TH PAY COMMISSION MATTERS TO WIDER ECONOMY

A Pay Commission is not simply an exercise in revising salaries. It determines the future salary and pension structure of central government employees, but those revisions eventually feed into household spending, savings, taxation and investment. Dr Manoranjan Sharma, Chief Economist at Infomeries Ratings, says the scale of the exercise itself explains why it has wider economic implications.

Sensex ends 828 points higher, Nifty above 24,200; RIL up 2%

Benchmark indices ended more than 1% higher on Friday, extending their winning run as buying in heavyweight Reliance Industries, banking stocks and IT shares lifted investor sentiment amid optimism over the June-quarter earnings season.



The BSE Sensex surged 827.57 points, or 1.08%, to close at 77,569.39, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 244.10 points, or 1.02%, to settle at 24,206.90. The rally was broad-based, with smallcap and midcap stocks outperforming the benchmarks. The Nifty Smallcap 100 climbed 1.55%, the Nifty Midcap 100 rose 1.40%, while India VIX, the market's fear gauge, declined 8.30%, indicating easing volatility.

EARNINGS OPTIMISM LIFTS DALAL STREET

Markets drew strength from upbeat June-quarter earnings expectations after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) delivered quarterly revenue above Street estimates and maintained an optimistic outlook on technology spending and artificial intelligence opportunities. The positive commentary from India's largest IT company sparked buying across the technology pack. The Nifty IT index gained nearly 2%, with Tech Mahindra, HCLTech, Infosys and TCS among the top contributors. Banking stocks

also remained in focus after encouraging business updates from lenders earlier this week, while heavyweight Reliance Industries climbed over 2%, emerging as the biggest contributor to the Sensex's gains.

Among Sensex constituents, Reliance Industries rose 2.28%, followed by Tech Mahindra (2.19%), BEL (2.17%), Axis Bank (1.92%), Tata Steel (1.78%) and Infosys (1.71%). On the losing side, Eternal slipped 0.89%, while Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma and Trent ended marginally lower. Sec-

torally, PSU Banks led the gains with a jump of 3.03%, followed by Realty (3.49%), Midcap IT & Telecom (2.50%), IT (1.96%), Financial Services Ex-Bank (1.66%), Chemicals (1.61%) and Metals (1.48%).

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said the market's recovery was being supported by encouraging corporate updates and improving global cues. "After a brief interim correction, the market appears to be on track for a strong recovery. Positive business updates from banks, along with a constructive outlook for the IT sector driven by in-line estimates, a potential rebound in global spending, and AI-related opportunities, have set the stage for an optimistic start to the Q1 earnings season. A continuation of better-than-expected Q1 results should help alleviate concerns about future earnings growth.

This can further the current uptrend, which is supported by a broad-based rally, with strong participation from sectors such as real estate and metals," he said. He added that easing crude oil prices and a recovery in global technology stocks had improved sentiment towards Indian equities and supported a rebound in foreign institutional investor (FII) inflows. "Importantly, the hawkish tone of the FOMC meeting has not weighed on global markets, as recent data suggests inflationary pressures are likely to moderate. At the same time, slowing economic data from the US, EU and China indicates that central banks may adopt a less hawkish stance going forward," Nair said. The positive market breadth, combined with easing volatility and growing optimism around corporate earnings, helped Indian equities end the week on a strong note.

DGCA issues warning letter to IndiGo for non-compliance with dangerous goods handling norms

NEW DELHI: (Jul 10) Aviation watchdog DGCA has issued a warning letter to IndiGo for lapses in compliance with norms for handling dangerous goods and has asked the airline to review the relevant training programme to include more practical exercises as well as operational scenarios. The letter relates to the spillage

of cargo detected on the ground post-arrival of the flight, reported in January 2026, and the subsequent audit findings regarding deviations from standard operating procedures (SOPs) with certain provisions under the Aircraft (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Rules, 2026, IndiGo said in a regulatory filing on Friday.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday said that during a special audit of the engineering stores facility at Delhi, multiple regulatory non-compliances under the Aircraft (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Rules, 2026, in carriage company material categorised as dangerous goods on its own aircraft were observed.



REC Limited Signs MoUs Worth ₹15,000 Crore

Accelerate Power and Renewable Energy Development in Tripura

NEW DELHI/AGARTALA:

REC Limited, a Maharatna RCPS under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Government of Tripura to support power and renewable energy projects worth ₹15,000 crore. The MoUs were signed during the Destination Tripura Business Conclave 2026, reflecting REC's continued commitment to enabling sustainable development and strengthening power infrastructure in the Northeast. Under the first MoU, REC

Limited has partnered with the Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TRED-DA), through the Department of Power, Government of Tripura, to provide financial assistance for renewable energy projects worth up to ₹5,000 crore. The agreement was signed by Sh. Subhendu Roy, Chief Program Manager, REC Regional Office, Guwahati, and Sh. D. S. Das, Director General (In-charge), TRED-DA. As the nodal agency for renewable energy development in Tripura, TRED-DA will facilitate the implementation of renewable power projects

across the state, while REC Limited will provide financial support to enable investments in the green energy sector. The partnership is expected to accelerate clean energy adoption, unlock Tripura's renewable energy potential, and contribute significantly to the region's sustainable development. Further strengthening its partnership with the state, REC Limited also signed an MoU with the Department of Power, Government of Tripura, through the Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited (TSECL), to support power sector projects worth ₹10,000

crore. The signing ceremony was graced by Sh. Ratan Lal Nath, Hon'ble Minister of Power, Government of Tripura. The MoU was signed by Sh. Subhendu Roy, Chief Program Manager, REC Regional Office, Guwahati, and Sh. Biswajit Basu, Managing Director, TSECL. The ₹10,000 crore partnership aims to facilitate financing for key power sector initiatives in the state, contributing to the expansion and modernization of Tripura's power infrastructure while ensuring reliable and sustainable electricity access for its citizens.

RBI's Rs 32,000 Crore Bond Sale: What Investors Should Know

Government bonds are back in the spotlight after the RBI's latest Rs 32,000 crore auction. What makes them different from other investments, and who are they best suited for? Have a look.



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 10 auctioned Rs 32,000 crore worth of government securities (G-Secs) on behalf of the Centre as part of its regular borrowing programme. The money raised will help the government meet its spending needs, including infrastructure development and other public expenditure. The securities will be settled on July 13. The auction included the re-issue of two government bonds—the 6.36% Government Security (GS) 2031 worth Rs 21,000 crore and the 7.71% GS 2066 worth Rs 11,000 crore. The RBI later announced that it had accepted bids for the entire notified amount, indicating healthy demand from investors.

WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT RAISING MONEY THIS WAY?

Like individuals and businesses, governments also borrow money when they need funds. Instead of taking loans from banks, the government raises money by issuing government bonds, also known as Government Securities (G-Secs). When investors buy these bonds, they are essentially lending money to the government for a fixed period. In return, the gov-

ernment promises to pay interest at regular intervals and repay the original amount when the bond matures. The July 10 auction is part of the government's annual market borrowing programme, which helps finance its expenditure while spreading repayments over many years.

WHY BOND AUCTIONS MATTER

According to Adhil Shetty, CEO of Bankbazaar, these auctions play a much bigger role than simply helping the government borrow money. "This auction is part of the Centre's regular borrowing programme to fund its spending throughout the year. Conducted by the RBI, it helps raise money at market-driven interest rates through a transparent and orderly process." He added that the yield, or the return at which these bonds are sold, is closely watched because it influences borrowing costs across the economy. "Government bond yields act as a benchmark for borrowing costs across the economy. A stable outcome supports a favourable interest rate envi-

ronment, while higher yields can gradually increase financing costs for businesses and retail borrowers."

WHAT EXACTLY ARE GOVERNMENT BONDS?

Government bonds are debt instruments issued by the Central or State governments to raise money from investors. They are considered among the safest investment options because they carry the government's sovereign guarantee. These bonds usually have long maturity periods ranging from five years to as much as 40 years. Investors receive interest, known as the coupon, every six months, while the principal amount is returned on maturity. Although government bonds were once largely bought by banks, insurance companies and financial institutions, they are now also available to retail investors.

WHY MANY INVESTORS CONSIDER THEM A SAFE CHOICE

One of the biggest attractions of government bonds is safety. Since they are backed by the government, the chances of default

are extremely low. This makes them suitable for conservative investors who prefer protecting their capital over taking higher risks. They also provide a steady stream of income. Interest is credited every six months, making them useful for retirees and investors looking for predictable cash flows. Some government bonds are also designed to protect investors against inflation. Inflation-indexed bonds adjust either the principal or returns in line with rising prices, helping preserve the real value of investments.

HOW DO GOVERNMENT BONDS COMPARE WITH OTHER INVESTMENTS?

Government bonds occupy a different space from investments such as equities, mutual funds or even corporate bonds. While shares and equity mutual funds have the potential to generate higher returns over the long term, they are also subject to market fluctuations. Government bonds, on the other hand, offer relatively stable and predictable returns with significantly lower risk. Compared with corporate bonds, government bonds carry a much lower credit risk because they are backed by the sovereign. Investors do not have to worry about the financial health of a private company affecting repayment. They can also be a useful way to diversify an investment portfolio. During periods of market uncertainty, government bonds often help reduce overall portfolio volatility.



India's Housing Market Enters a New Phase

Why Premium Homes Are Leading the Next Growth Cycle



Affordable Housing Faces Growing Challenges

Although India's overall housing market remains resilient, affordable housing continues to encounter significant headwinds. Homes priced below approximately ₹50 lakh to ₹75 lakh have become increasingly difficult to develop profitably due to rising land prices, construction material costs, labour expenses, and financing costs. Developers are finding it challenging to maintain attractive profit margins while keeping prices affordable for first-time buyers. At the same time, inflation has affected purchasing power among middle-income households. Higher home prices combined with increasing living expenses have prompted many potential buyers to postpone home purchases or opt for smaller properties. Government incentives continue to support affordable housing, but developers are increasingly shifting their focus toward mid-income and premium housing, where demand remains stronger and margins are healthier. This divergence has created what industry observers call a "K-shaped market," where different housing segments are moving in different directions.

Premium Housing Emerges as the Market Leader

While affordable housing is slowing, premium residential properties have become the primary growth engine of India's real estate sector. Luxury apartments, gated communities, villas, branded residences, and high-end integrated townships continue to attract strong buyer interest. According to JLL India, homes priced above ₹1 crore now account for nearly 71 percent of total residential sales across India's top seven cities, compared to 59 percent a year earlier. This significant increase highlights changing buyer preferences. Instead of simply purchasing a home, buyers increasingly seek properties that offer larger living spaces, better security, lifestyle amenities, wellness facilities, green surroundings, smart home technology, and long-term investment value. Developers have responded by launching projects featuring clubhouses, co-working

spaces, sports facilities, landscaped gardens, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, concierge services, and sustainable building technologies. Premium housing is no longer viewed as a niche segment—it has become central to India's residential growth story.

RERA Has Improved Market Confidence

Another important structural change has been the growing dominance of or-

ganised developers. The implementation of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, commonly known as RERA, has significantly transformed India's property market. Before RERA, delayed project deliveries and lack of transparency were common concerns among homebuyers. Today, regulatory oversight has improved project accountability, increased transparency, and strengthened consumer confidence. As a result, financially disciplined developers with strong execution capabilities have gained market share. Major developers such as Lodha, Godrej Properties, Prestige Group, DLF, Sobha, and other organised players now domi-

Urbanisation Continues to Drive Housing Demand

India's long-term housing outlook remains positive primarily because of rapid

connectivity allows developers to build large integrated townships offering better living environments at relatively competitive prices. As commuting times reduce, homebuyers are increasingly willing to move farther from traditional city centres.

Lower Interest Rates Could Support Demand

Another positive factor for the residential sector is the expectation of easier monetary conditions. After prolonged

The Rise of India's Affluent Homebuyers

India's rapidly expanding affluent population is fundamentally reshaping housing demand. Strong corporate earnings, startup wealth creation, booming capital markets, technology sector expansion, and increasing entrepreneurial success have created a growing class of high-income households. This emerging wealthy segment is investing heavily in premium residential assets. Unlike earlier generations, today's affluent buyers place greater emphasis on lifestyle, sustainability, exclusivity, and long-term wealth creation. Luxury homes are increasingly viewed not merely as residences but also as valuable investment assets capable of preserving and appreciating wealth. This structural shift is expected to sustain premium housing demand for years.

NRI's Continue Investing in Indian Real Estate

Non-Resident Indians remain among the strongest contributors to India's premium housing market. A relatively favourable exchange rate, improved regulatory transparency, digital property transactions, and stronger legal protections have encouraged overseas Indians to increase investments. Luxury apartments in Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and Chennai continue attracting substantial NRI interest. Many buyers consider Indian real estate an attractive long-term investment while maintaining emotional and financial connections with their home country. Developers are also increasingly designing projects specifically targeting overseas investors with global-quality amenities and professional property management.

Wellness and Branded Residences Gain Popularity

Luxury housing preferences have evolved considerably over the past decade. Today's premium buyers expect much more than spacious apartments.

Wellness-focused communities featuring green landscapes, advanced air purification systems, fitness infrastructure, meditation spaces, walking trails, and

coming more selective and developers are increasingly focused on delivering quality projects.

According to Knight Frank India, developers launched 187,350 residential units across India's eight major cities during the first half of the year, while sales stood at 171,471 units. For the first time in the current property cycle, supply has started exceeding demand. Unsold inventory is slowly increasing, sales momentum has moderated, and price appreciation has become more selective instead of being widespread.

However, this should not be interpreted as a market slowdown. Rather, it marks a period of consolidation where long-term fundamentals are replacing speculative growth. Supported by urbanisation, expanding infrastructure, stronger regulations under RERA, and financially sound developers, India's housing market is preparing for its next phase of premium-led expansion.

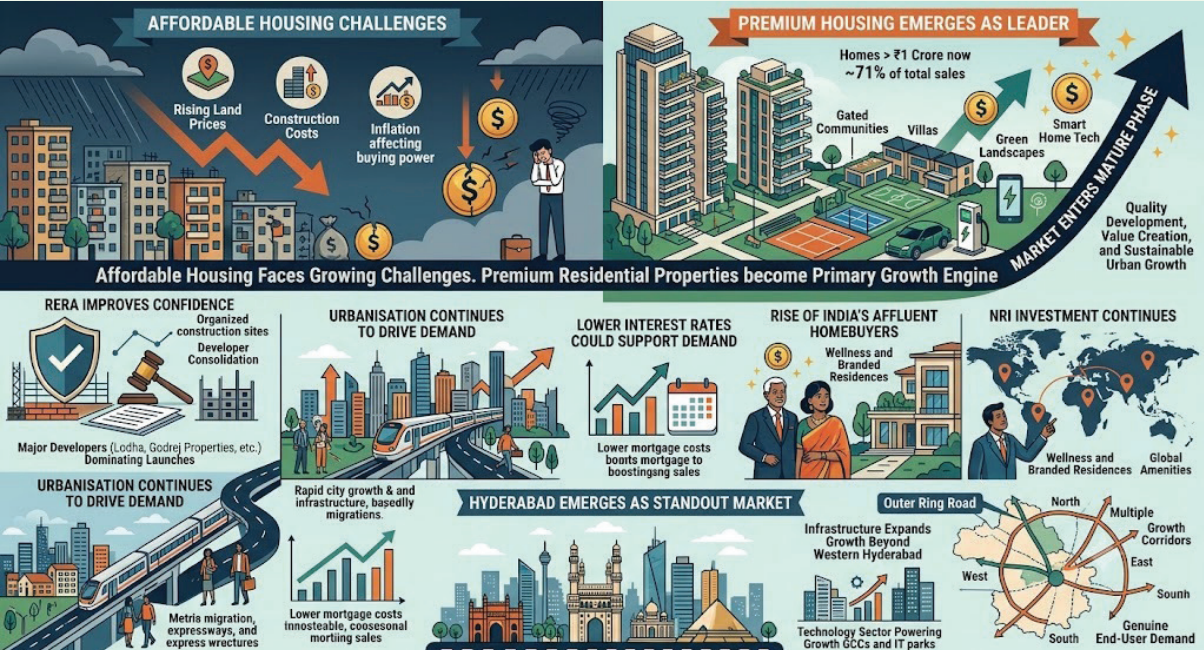
From Housing Boom to Market Consolidation

The post-pandemic housing boom between 2021 and 2024 was driven by several exceptional factors. Historically low home loan interest rates, changing work patterns, increased demand for larger homes, and pent-up purchasing demand encouraged millions of Indians to invest in residential property.

During this period, developers experienced record sales across nearly every housing segment. Buyers who had postponed purchases during the pandemic returned to the market, while investors also viewed residential real estate as a reliable

asset class. As these extraordinary conditions gradually normalised, the market naturally entered a period of consolidation.

Unlike previous property cycles that experienced sharp corrections, the current transition reflects healthy market stabilisation rather than distress. Demand continues to remain strong, but buyers are making more informed decisions, and developers are expanding projects more cautiously. This shift is allowing the market to move from rapid expansion toward sustainable long-term growth.



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urbanisation. Millions of people continue migrating from smaller towns to metropolitan cities in search of better employment opportunities, education, healthcare, and improved lifestyles. This steady population movement continues creating demand for residential housing across various price segments. Simultaneously, infrastructure investments are reshaping urban development. Metro rail projects, expressways, ring roads, airports, industrial corridors, and logistics parks are opening entirely new residential growth zones. Areas once considered distant suburbs are rapidly becoming well-connected residential destinations. Improved

periods of higher interest rates aimed at controlling inflation, borrowing costs are gradually expected to moderate. Lower home loan interest rates improve affordability and increase purchasing capacity. Even a modest reduction in mortgage rates significantly reduces monthly EMIs, encouraging fence-sitting buyers to enter the market. Premium and mid-income buyers are likely to benefit the most, as they generally qualify for larger loan amounts and possess greater financial flexibility. If interest rates continue easing during the second half of the year, residential demand could receive another meaningful boost.



HOCKEY

'Why would I make false allegations?': Asunta Lakra



RANCHI: Former India women's hockey captain Asunta Lakra has alleged that the state association ignored complaints of sexual harassment against a coach and instead threatened those who raised concerns about the welfare of women players. The former India star also claimed that players were too afraid to come forward despite the alleged misconduct continuing for a prolonged period. Lakra identified the coach as Sudhir Gola. She said he had been appointed to oversee the Jharkhand training centre and had managed the team for the past one to two years. She and her husband worked alongside him during that time. "The person facing these allegations is Sudhir Gola, who is from Telangana.

CRICKET

Saikia stresses course correction after T20I losses



NEW DELHI: BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia has stated that the upcoming review meeting on India men's recent T20I series defeats once the trip to United Kingdom concludes on July 19 will be strictly focused on course correction, adding that the discussions will revolve around identifying shortcomings and charting the way forward. India's T20I side under Shreyas Iyer suffered a shock 2-0 series defeat to Ireland before enduring another series defeat in England. The twin setbacks have prompted the BCCI to take stock of the slide, especially after India had won the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup on home soil in March.

One-off Test: England fight back after Smriti, Harmanpreet, Deepti fifties, leave historic game

LONDON

An absorbing and highly competitive opening day of cricketing action unfolded in the first-ever historic Women's Test at Lord's on Friday, leaving the match beautifully poised at stumps with England reaching 21/1 and trailing by 264 runs after bowling out India for 285, especially when they were cruising at 190/3.

Sophie Ecclestone and Mady Villiers ran through the middle order after Smriti Mandhana top-scored with 83 in what was also her 300th international appearance. In the process of picking a three-for, Sophie also became England's highest wicket-taker across formats, going past Katherine Sciver-Brunt, and climbed to third overall behind Deepti Sharma and Jhulan Goswami.

England's reply began shakily with Tammy Beaumont, who's playing her farewell international game, falling for two in the fourth over. But Maia Bouchier (17 not out) and Heather Knight (one not out) steadied the innings till stumps were called on the opening day. Sneha Rana found turn in her solitary over late in the evening, a sign that India's spinners could have plenty to work with on day two.

In what is also the first-ever women's Test to be played at the iconic venue, England picked up three crucial wickets in an action-packed first session. Opting to bowl first, England found immediate movement off the ball via Lauren Bell. India suffered an early blow in the second over when opener Shafali Verma was completely squared up by a sharp, short-of-length delivery from Lauren Filer and nicked behind to wicketkeeper Amy Jones for a duck.

Yastika Bhatia (12) joined Smriti and started confidently with a flurry of boundaries, while also surviving a close



leg-before-wicket review on umpire's call off Bell. However, Bell redeemed herself soon after, cleaning up Yastika with a brilliant inswinger that nipped away to hit the off-stump.

Jemimah Rodrigues then partnered with Mandhana to steady the innings, capitalising heavily on a wayward English bowling display that lacked discipline. Smriti looked in sublime touch, punishing the loose balls and welcoming premier spinner Ecclestone into the attack with a massive slog-sweep over mid-wicket for six to close out the first hour.

Smriti then brought up a sparkling run-a-ball half-century off just 50 deliveries in the 16th over and got the distinction of getting the first-ever Women's Test fifty at Lord's. The dangerous 64-run third-wicket partnership was eventually broken against the run of play when Jemimah (35) chopped onto her stumps while going for an expansive drive against Issy Wong.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur (14 not out) then joined Smriti to safely navigate the remaining overs, ensuring India walked into the lunch break as the happier side. While the first session majorly belonged to India, England's bowlers roared back into the contest in the post-lunch session by showing discipline in their bowling and picking up the crucial wickets of set batters Smriti and Harmanpreet, who compiled 58.

Resuming from 122/3 in 25 overs, Smriti and Harmanpreet frustrated the hosts by taking India past the 150-run mark. Smriti was in splendid touch, using her feet elegantly against Sophie and executing crisp pulls off the fast bowlers.

At the other end, Harmanpreet battled intensely through physical discomfort and needed continuous medical attention from the team physio for troubles in her hand and hamstring. Scoring mainly through the off-side, Harmanpreet reached her second Test half-century off

99 balls with a drive off Mady. However, England's persistence soon broke the 79-run stand off 155 balls against the run of play. Issy, operating with supreme control, induced a faint outside edge from Smriti, as she fell 17 short of a historic century after being caught neatly behind by a diving Amy Jones standing up to the stumps.

England also burned two unsuccessful reviews during the session - one for a caught-behind off Smriti and another off Deepti. Just as the session seemed to be closing out evenly, Mady tossed one up beautifully outside off, and lured Harmanpreet into an expansive drive before turning sharply through the gate to castle the skipper and give England more delight at the stroke of tea break.

The final session saw India suffer a spectacular slide by losing their last seven wickets for just 95 runs to end 15 runs short of 300, as Sophie and Mady shared five scalps between themselves. Resuming the post-tea session from 202/5, India desperately needed stability. However, the visitors suffered an early setback when aggressive wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh (13) was cramped by pacer Lauren Filer and top-edged a short delivery straight to fine leg.

Deepti, who played a gritty 57 off 87 balls, laced with seven boundaries, tried to courageously hold the innings together. She employed the sweep shot to fantastic effect against the spinners and brought up a well-deserved half-century off 70 balls. Unfortunately, she completely lacked support from the lower order.

Mady continued her highly impressive debut by trapping Sneha (13) plumb lbw and breaking a brief period of resistance. Sophie then took complete charge by cleaning up the tail with ruthless efficiency. She trapped Sayali (1) lbw, before ending Deepti's valiant knock, as she was caught by mid-wicket.



Special Olympics Bharat flags off Indian football team for Gothia Cup 2026

NEW DELHI

Special Olympics Bharat on Friday flagged off India's football team for the Gothia Cup 2026 at the send-off ceremony held at the Embassy of Sweden, New Delhi, for the event to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, from July 12 to July 18. The team will look to complete a hat-trick of titles after winning the previous two editions of the Special Olympics Trophy category.

The athletes received an encouraging send-off from a distinguished gathering led by Jan Thesleff, Ambassador of Sweden to India, Ashish Sood, Minister of Home, Education, Power and Urban Development, Government of NCT of Delhi, Sujeeth Pai, Director - Manufacturing Operations, India, Southeast Asia and Middle East (IS-EAM), SKF India (Industrial) Limited, Representative from Special Olympics Bharat & SKF. Their presence served as a tribute to the team's rigorous preparation and a resounding vote of confidence as they head to Sweden for the world's largest and most prestigious youth football tournament.

The Indian contingent comprises 10 athletes and two coaches representing nine states and Union Territories across the country. The team was selected through a four-day national qualifying tournament held at the Centre for Defence Sports (CDS), Gwalior, in April 2026. More than 150 athletes from 16 states participated in the selection process. The shortlisted players subsequently underwent multiple national training camps before earning their place in the final squad that will represent India in Gothenburg.

Founded in 1975, the Gothia Cup is held annually in Gothenburg, Sweden. The tournament brings together more than 1,900 teams from over 70 countries every year.

Asian U23 Athletics: Indian athletes win three bronze medals on Day Two of meet

NEW DELHI

The spotlight was on Indian middle-distance runners as they won two bronze medals on the second day of the inaugural edition of the Asian U23 Athletics Championships 2026 in the Chinese city of Ordos on Friday. Sprinter Abhay Singh won India's third bronze of the day in the men's 200m.

Shakeel set the ball rolling for the Indian team as he won bronze in the men's 800m. He clocked 1:48.78-sec. Vinod Kumar B, the second Indian in the 800m final, finished fourth with a time of 1:49.10-sec. India's second bronze medal came in the women's 800m race through Bhumeswary Devi Huidrom, who clocked 2:10.20-sec. However, it was a disappointing day for Vaishnavi Rajendra Rawal as she finished fifth with a time of 2:10.83. Uzbekistan's Jonbibi Hukmova won gold in the women's 800m with a time of 2:08.41. Japan's Kurumi Sugure won silver (2:09.42). In an exciting men's 200m race, Abhay Singh clinched the bronze medal with a time of 20.96 seconds. The youth National Record holder, Abhay, was also the guide



for Simran Sharma when she medaled at the Paris Paralympics. China's Youwen Huang won gold (20.43 seconds) in the men's 200m, and Japan's Kota Uematsu settled for silver (20.58 seconds).

India's Sharuk Khan finished fourth in the men's 3000m steeplechase. His time was 9:14.14 seconds. Abhijit Sanjay Bhosale also finished fourth in the decathlon. His overall points tally was 6610. Earlier on the opening day, the Indian quartet of Astik Pradhan, Sandramol Sabu, Setu Mishra, and Shravani Sachin Sangle won a gold medal in the mixed 4x400m relay on Thursday.

Wimbledon: Sinner stuns Djokovic to storm into second successive final at All-England

LONDON

World No. 1 and defending champion Jannik Sinner produced a clinical display to outclass seven-time winner Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in the men's singles semifinal at Centre Court in London on Friday, sealing his place in the Wimbledon final with a dominant straight-sets victory.

Sinner controlled the contest from the outset with a powerful and precise serving performance. The Italian fired 16 aces, committed no double faults, and won an impressive 88 per cent of points on his first serve, leaving Djokovic with little opportunity to mount a comeback.

Although Sinner converted only three of his 13 break-point chances, those breaks



proved decisive as he wrapped up all three sets by an identical 6-4 margin. Djokovic, seeded seventh, failed to convert his lone break-point opportunity of the match. The statistics underlined Sinner's dominance.

He won 103 points compared to Djokovic's 81, claimed 41 receiving points to the Serbian's 17, and was far more effective on second serve, winning 62 per cent of those points against Djokovic's 41 per cent.

Djokovic managed eight aces but struggled with consistency, committing three double faults as he failed to reach another Wimbledon final.

The victory sends Sinner into the championship match, where he will aim to capture his maiden Wimbledon title after one of the most commanding performances of the tournament. In the final, Sinner will meet Alexander Zverev, who continued his remarkable Grand Slam resurgence by ending British wildcard Arthur Fery's dream run with a commanding 7-6(o), 6-2, 6-4 victory earlier in the afternoon, booking his maiden final at the All England Club and moving within one win of a second consecutive Grand Slam title following his triumph in Roland Garros.

UTT Season 7: Kolkata Thunder Blades edge past Pune Jaguars 8-7; Dabang Delhi beat UP Prometheans 9-6

PANAJI (GOA)

Taneesha Kotecha held her nerve to beat much-fancied Diya Chitale 2-1 (11-7, 11-2, 9-11) in a thrilling finish to give her side HVR Kolkata Thunder Blades an 8-7 victory in their Season 7 clash in the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) in Goa on Friday. The 19-year-old Kotecha showed far better composure and determination to win the first two games against the world No 77 Chitale, giving her side the decisive lead in the tie, which was placed tantalisingly close at 6-6. Earlier, PBG Pune Jaguars made a bright start in the second tie of the day, as Snehit SFR defeated Ankur Bhattacharjee 2-1 (11-9, 11-4, 5-11) in the opening men's singles.

HVR Kolkata ThunderBlades responded immediately through Singapore's Zeng Jian, who levelled the tie with a 2-1 (11-6, 11-7, 8-11) victory over Prithika Pavade in the women's singles. Kolkata continued holding the lead in the mixed doubles, with Eduard Ionescu and Ayhika Mukherjee edging past Snehit and Prithika 2-1 (7-11, 11-10, 11-6). Omar Assar came back from a game down against Eduard Ionescu 2-1 (5-11, 11-6, 11-4) to equalise the score at six-all, pushing Pune to the deciding women's singles match to decide the winner.

Earlier, Dabang Delhi TTC staged an impressive comeback to defeat UP Prometheans 9-6 and begin their Butterfly Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7



with a win in the opening double-header at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium on Friday.

While the final score suggested a comfortable victory, Delhi had to work hard as UP Prometheans pushed them in almost every contest. UP made the brighter start through star Indian paddler Manav Thakkar, who defeated Egypt's Youssef Abdelaziz 2-1 (11-8, 11-5, 10-11) to give his side an early

advantage. The Table Tennis Review (TTR) system, introduced in Butterfly UTT Season 7, was used for the first time in India when Thakkar challenged a serve by Abdelaziz for ball visibility/ball hiding. His first two TTR appeals were successful, allowing him to retain the three allotted unsuccessful reviews for the tie. However, his third appeal for ball visibility was unsuccessful, with the review confirming that the ball re-

mained visible in accordance with the regulations. Dabang Delhi responded immediately as Spanish star Maria Xiao overcame Australia's Yangzi Liu 2-1 (11-6, 11-7, 4-11) to level the tie. Xiao then combined with Sathiyam Gnanasekaran to dominate the mixed doubles match, beating Thakkar and Liu in straight games 3-0 (11-9, 11-7, 11-5) and putting Delhi ahead 2-1.

Gnanasekaran extended Delhi's lead with another hard-fought 2-1 victory over Germany's Ricardo Walther. The Indian paddler took the opening two games before Walther fought back in the third, with Gnanasekaran eventually winning 11-8, 11-6, 6-11.

UP stayed in the contest when Sayali Wani edged past Divyanshi Bhowmick 2-1 (9-11, 11-5, 11-10), but it was not enough to deny Delhi the overall victory. For her outstanding performance across singles and doubles, Xiao was named the ChatGPT Match IQ Player of the Tie, while Walther earned the Biserli Shot of the Tie award for his superb 11-6 run in the third game of his match against Gnanasekaran.

Earlier in the day, Dream UTT Juniors, Butterfly UTT's grassroots competition running alongside Season 7, continued in Goa. U Mumbai TT began on a positive note, registering a 5-4 victory against Dempo Goa Challengers, while HVR Kolkata ThunderBlades continued their winning run by recording a 5-4 triumph against Ahmedabad APL Pipers.

'Messi's god-gifted ability to change the game single-handedly makes him different,' says Robin

NEW DELHI

Former India striker Robin Singh believes Lionel Messi possesses a 'god-gifted ability' that sets him apart from almost every footballer in history, saying the Argentina captain's vision, intelligence, and magic on the ball allow him to influence matches in ways few others can.

Messi has once again been at the heart of Argentina's FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign, leading the defending champions into the quarterfinals with a string of match-winning displays. The 39-year-old is the tournament's leading scorer and has continued to prove why he remains one of football's greatest players. For Robin, however, statistics alone cannot explain Messi's greatness. "When you speak about Messi, we should all just be grateful that we have been blessed to watch him for 20 years. Two decades of magic we have seen," Robin, who is part of the Zee5 FIFA World Cup 2026 expert panel, told IANS in an exclusive interview.

While acknowledging the long-running debate between Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, the former India international refused to separate the two legends. "I think there is no separation between Messi and Ronaldo. They are two unbelievably gener-



ational talents who have competed year after year. They are both equally unbelievable footballers."

According to Robin, Messi's extraordinary ability to decide games on his own makes him unique. "Messi is separated because of his God-gifted ability to change the game single-handedly. The magic that he can create on the ball and the vision that he has, thinking two steps ahead of everybody in his decision-making process, just makes him very difficult to understand," he said.

Robin believes that quality alone keeps Argentina among the

favourites to defend their World Cup crown despite some inconsistent performances during the knockout rounds. "I have questions about Argentina moving forward after the last couple of games, but you can never count out Argentina when you have a Messi on your side," he added.

Argentina have relied heavily on their captain throughout the tournament, with Messi leading the scoring charts and producing decisive moments as the South American giants continue their quest for back-to-back FIFA World Cup titles.



Sharvari Wagh Brings Bling Bliss

Sharvari Wagh is enjoying a big moment as Alpha, co-starring Alia Bhatt, continues its theatrical run. The action thriller has maintained a steady hold at the box office and is now inching closer to the 75 crore worldwide mark after six days, keeping the momentum alive. Amid the film's promotions, Sharvari grabbed attention in a shimmering golden saree paired with a stylish embellished blouse. Flashing a radiant smile, the actress effortlessly blended traditional elegance with modern glamour, making her promotional appearance a major talking point on social media. With Alpha earning appreciation and Sharvari's fashion choices creating buzz, the actress is enjoying one of the biggest phases of her career. Her latest promotional look has once again proved that she knows how to steal the spotlight both on and off the screen.

As Akhil Akkineni's latest film Lenin hit theatres, congratulatory messages poured in from across the Telugu film industry. Among them, one particular social media post grabbed everyone's attention—that of star actress Samantha. The former Akkineni family member surprised fans by extending her best wishes to Akhil and the Lenin team on the film's release day, sparking widespread discussion on social media. Samantha shared the film's trailer on her Instagram story and wished the entire team success. Expressing confidence in the film, she said that Lenin already had "blockbuster vibes" and hoped it would achieve tremendous success. The timing of her post, coming on the very day of the film's release, quickly became a talking point among both fans and the film fraternity. Interestingly, this gesture comes shortly after Samantha celebrated the success of her female-led action film Maa Inti Bangaram. During the promotions of Lenin, Akhil had spoken warmly about Samantha's latest release. He admitted that he hadn't watched the film yet because he was busy with Lenin, but appreciated the fact that it placed strong emphasis on action in a woman-centric story. He also expressed happiness over Samantha's success and wished her the very best. The mutual appreciation

Sam Cheers Akhil's Lenin



between the two actors has impressed movie lovers, who see it as a refreshing example of professionalism in the industry. Despite Samantha and

Naga Chaitanya choosing different paths in their personal lives, many believe her respectful relationship with members of the Akkineni family has remained unchanged. Fans have praised both Samantha and Akhil for keeping personal matters separate from their professional lives and celebrating each other's achievements with grace. Social media has responded positively to Samantha's gesture, with both Akkineni fans and Samantha's followers applauding the exchange of goodwill. Many users commented that such mutual respect contributes to a healthier atmosphere in the film industry, where professional courtesy takes precedence over personal differences. Meanwhile, Lenin has opened to a positive response from audiences, with encouraging word-of-mouth from its very first shows. The coming days will reveal whether the film can maintain its momentum and emerge as a landmark success in Akhil Akkineni's career.

Dulquer Picks Another Beautiful Telugu Title

Cinema titles often play a crucial role in creating the first impression. While many filmmakers opt for complicated Telugu words or unfamiliar English titles, a simple and meaningful name usually connects better with the audience. That is exactly where Dulquer Salmaan's upcoming film seems to have scored. The makers have officially unveiled the first look of Dulquer Salmaan and Pooja Hegde's romantic

entertainer, confirming the title as Sri Sri. The poster features the lead pair sharing a light hearted moment while sitting on a wall, instantly setting a pleasant and feel good vibe in a college uniform. Directed by Ravi Nelakuditi, the film has music composed by G V Prakash Kumar. Though the release date has not been announced, the poster confirms a 2026 release. The title itself has become a talking point. Sri Sri is one of the most celebrated names in Telugu literature, instantly reminding audiences of legendary poet Srirangam Srinivasa Rao, whose revolutionary works transformed modern Telugu poetry. How-

ever, industry buzz suggests the film's title may have a different meaning altogether. According to inside talk, Dulquer's character is named Srinivas, while Pooja Hegde's character is called Sri. Combining the first part of both names reportedly resulted in the title Sri Sri. The title has already received a positive response for its simplicity and Telugu flavour. Pooja Hegde returns with a proper feel good entertainer after a long gap, while Dulquer is said to be highly confident about the project. If the content matches the title's charm, the film could well emerge as another winner.



VT's Korean Kanakaraju Locked Perfect Release Date

Mega Prince Varun Tej is fully dedicating his time and energy to his ongoing film Korean Kanakaraju, directed by Merlapaka Gandhi. The actor has undergone a complete transformation for the role, and the title glimpse stirred massive curiosity by showcasing him in a fierce, wild avatar. The first song, however, showed the romantic side of the movie. As officially announced by the makers, Korean Kanakaraju will arrive in cinemas on August 7th. Marking the release date announcement, the team unveiled an eye-catching poster packed with style and swagger. Varun Tej exudes confidence in a massy avatar, relaxing

on a chair despite being surrounded by dangerous-looking Korean mobsters. Holding a sword stained with blood and a grenade, he looks ready for chaos without losing his composure. The release date appears to be an ideal slot for the film, offering a favorable window at the box office. The team is also gearing up to kick-start the promotional campaign, with the teaser expected to be unveiled soon, marking the beginning of the film's publicity journey. Merlapaka Gandhi is crafting Korean Kanakaraju as a wholesome entertainer that blends horror, thrilling moments, and humorous elements. Ritika Naik plays the female lead opposite Varun Tej.



Pranitha's Chic Style Wins Again

Pranitha Subhash hasn't added a new film to her filmography since Ramana Avatara in 2024, but that hasn't stopped her from staying firmly in the spotlight. The actress, now a mother of two, has largely stepped back from acting in recent years, choosing to focus on her personal life instead. She looked breathtaking in her latest photos, wearing beautiful lingerie and posing barefoot on the studio floor. With a minimal styling approach and almost no accessories, her elegant look stole the spotlight. Despite the acting hiatus, her social media presence continues to draw attention, with followers regularly gushing over her latest posts.



Oh Sukumari Trailer Entertains

Thiruveer has been establishing himself as a remarkable and bankable actor in Telugu Cinema. His upcoming film, Oh Sukumari, stars Aishwarya Rajesh as leading lady and she plays a girl who passes electricity through her body. Her marriage becomes a problem in the village but she finds Thiruveer. The story follows their unconventional marriage and romance. The trailer of the film is unveiled by blockbuster director Anil Ravipudi and it is highly entertaining. The plot and characters alongside the leads are designed so beautifully that it feels like we are in a village with these eccentric people. Thiruveer and Aishwarya Rajesh with their chemistry and acting skills look perfect. Their performances form basic crux of the movie while the emotional journey of leading lady with such a unique issue is presented in a matured manner by director Bharat Dharsan. The movie trailer grows curiosity about the plot further. Produced by Gangaa Entertainments on Pan-India scale, the movie trailer promises to present an interesting tale woven around this relationship that blends romance, emotions, action and intensity in right proportions. Oh Sukumari is releasing on 17th July.

