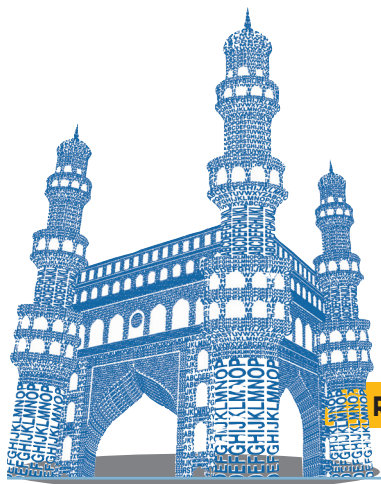




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**PARTY
WILL DECIDE
MY FUTURE-
JAGGA REDDY**

SPECIAL 02

**Lavender
Looks Lovely on
Aishwarya**

BOX-OFFICE 12



Melody Falls Silent

Legendary Singer S. Janaki Passes Away at 88

MYSURU, JULY 11

Indian music bid farewell to one of its greatest voices on Saturday as legendary playback singer S. Janaki, fondly known as the "Nightingale of South India," passed away at the age of 88 in Mysuru following age-related health complications.

According to Apollo BGS Hospital, Janaki was admitted after her health deteriorated. Despite intensive treatment and continuous monitoring by a multidisciplinary medical team, she suffered a cardiac arrest and was declared dead at 7:30 p.m.

With a remarkable career spanning nearly six decades, Janaki recorded over 48,000 songs in more than 20 Indian languages, becoming one of the most celebrated playback singers in the country's history. Her unmatched versatility, emotive singing and flawless diction earned her millions of admirers across generations and numerous honours, including the Padma Bhushan and several National and State awards.

Leaders Pay Rich Tributes

Condolences poured in from political leaders across party lines, who hailed Janaki's immense contribution to Indian music. Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar described her as the voice that defined generations of Kannada music lovers.

"As long as the Kannada language exists, S. Janaki's songs will remain immortal. She infused sweetness into Kannada with her extraordinary voice. Though she hailed from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka embraced her as its own. Her unparalleled voice will forever echo in our cultural heritage," he said.

YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy remembered Janaki as one of India's brightest musical icons.

"Her timeless voice transcended generations and touched millions of hearts across languages. Indian music has lost one of its brightest stars, but her melodies will live on forever," he said.

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) termed her death an "irreplaceable loss" to Indian cinema and the music industry.

"For nearly six decades, S. Janaki garu captivated audiences with her magical voice, bringing every emotion to life through her songs. Though she is no longer with us, her music will continue to inspire generations," he said.

End of an Era

Born on April 23, 1938, S. Janaki carved an unparalleled place in Indian playback singing with timeless classics in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi and several other languages.

AI to Drive India's IT Future

**UNION MINISTER
ASHWINI VAISHNAW**

ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN BUILDING
SIT BHARAT 2047



Hyderabad, July 11: Union Minister for Electronics & IT, Railways and Information & Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday urged India's IT industry to transition from a software services-driven model to an "AI as a Service" (AIaaS) model, positioning the country as a global leader in the next wave of technology innovation.

Addressing a gathering at a convention on the topic "The Role of Technology in Building Viksit Bharat 2047", organised by the Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association (HYSEA) in the city, he said India's trusted global reputation, skilled

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Govt Ready to Restore THREE BARRAGES: CM

Medigadda, Sundilla and Annaram on the advice of NDSA Expert / Technical committee



CM Revanth Reddy demands BJP MP E Rajendar to lead a delegation to Delhi and apprise the NDSA of the condition of the barrages

Rajendar should also get the center's nod for CBI probe into the kaleshwaram scam

HYDERABAD, JULY 11

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy affirmed that the state government is ready to rehabilitate the damaged 3 barrages- Medigadda, Sundilla and Annaram in the Kaleshwaram project on the recommendations of the NDSA (National Dam Safety Authority). The Chief Minister demanded BJP MP E Rajendar to lead a delegation to Delhi and ap-

praise the NDSA of the condition of the barrages for the release of water. The BJP MP was also demanded to convince the union government and order a CBI probe into the multi crore Kaleshwaram project scam.

Addressing the press today, the CM launched a sharp attack on the BRS for demanding the release of water from Kannepalli pump house. CM Revanth Reddy ridiculed the 'Khaladi Group' headed by

KCR's misinformation campaign on the release of water from the barrages. The Chief minister clarified that the ND-SAS report concluded that the damage to the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages are unsuitable for water storage. Page 346 mentioned that the damage to the 7th block of the Medigadda barrage has rendered it unfit for water diversion. Page 352 noted that the Annaram barrage is severely damaged and

that diverting water through it is unsafe. Page 356 clearly stated that diverting water through the Sundilla barrage is unsafe due to the severe damage. The NDSA recommended that all restoration designs, repairs, and related works be undertaken only with the approval of the NDSA or the CWC. "We are ready to handover the barrages to NDSA for rehabilitation if the agency comes forward."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

MAN ON POCSO BAIL MURDERS 6 IN SHABAD

HYDERABAD, JULY 11

In what is being described as one of the most horrific crimes to occur in the region recently, a man is alleged to have murdered six individuals, including a 17-year-old girl, a woman, and two young children, in the Shabad mandal of Rangareddy district early on Saturday.

Authorities have indicated that the homicides are connected to a case filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against the accused earlier this year.

According to police, Raj Kumar, a resident of Daivalaguda village within the Shabad mandal, was apprehended in May following a complaint lodged by the 17-year-old girl, who accused him of harassment.

This complaint led to the registration of a POCSO case on May 16, after which Kumar was released on bail. Investigators believe that the suspect gained entry into the girl's residence in the early morning hours of Saturday and subsequently attacked her family members.

It is suspected that he then took the minor girl to a nearby agricultural field, where she was allegedly subjected to sexual assault and killed. Following this, the suspect is accused of murdering her mother, identified as Chitkala Lakshmi, 45, and her grandmother, Chitkala Rukamma, 65. In a separate incident shortly thereafter, the suspect allegedly killed his own wife, Parvathi Saritha, 30, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

India's First CMP Pad Techno Hub

Minister Sridhar Babu formally inaugurates the facility at T-Works



HYDERABAD, JULY 11

Telangana has taken another significant step forward in the semiconductor manufacturing sector. With the initiative of the State Government, India's first hub dedicated to Chemical Mechanical Polishing (CMP) Pad Technologies, a critical component in chip

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Three-Phase Land Re-Survey Begins

Minister Ponguleti Unveils Roadmap for Statewide Land Re-Survey

Khammam /Hyderabad, July 11: Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Saturday ordered a state-wide land re-survey as a priority to ensure effective implementation of the Bhuparati Act and secure farmers' land holdings. Speaking via video conference from Khammam Collectorate, he said the survey

will be done in three phases, with 70 villages per district in phase one, and monthly reviews to monitor progress. A five-village pilot resolved 95% of disputes, prompting expansion. Licensed surveyors will be paid Rs.60 per acre; licences of those who fail to report will be cancelled. He ordered an inquiry into rejected Sadabain-

ama applications, asked officials to correct wrongful 22A prohibitions, and said re-survey could settle 98% of revenue grievances. He also urged faster Indiramma and 2BHK house delivery and uniforms for all government students by August 15. D.S. Lokesh Kumar and Khammam Collector Diwakar T.S. attended

PM Modi's Diplomatic Tour Strengthens India's Global Engagement



02

15 Indians Killed in Vietnam Boat Tragedy

PHU QUOC (VIETNAM), JULY 11

At least 15 people, including Indian tourists, were killed after a speedboat carrying 36 people capsized near Vietnam's Phu Quoc Island on Saturday, according to Vietnamese newspaper VN Express.

According to VN Express, citing authorities in the Phu Quoc Special Economic Zone, the speedboat, operated by Ocean Pear Island Company, was ferrying tourists from Hon May Rut Islet to An Thoi Port, about 25 kilometres from Phu Quoc Airport, when it overturned on Saturday afternoon (local time), throwing all those on board into the sea. Nearby tourist boats rushed to the scene after spotting the capsized vessel. A boat owner involved in the rescue operation said his vessel reached the site within five minutes, but rescue efforts were hampered as several passengers were trapped inside the overturned speedboat.

By Saturday evening, rescuers had brought all 36 people on board



safely to shore. However, 15 people—13 men and two women—were confirmed dead, while 21 others survived, according to VN Express.

The Embassy of India in Vietnam

stated that, based on information received from official sources, 32 Indian tourists were on board the ill-fated boat. "As per information received from official sources, the

following 32 Indian tourists were onboard the boat which capsized near Phu Quoc Island in Vietnam a few hours ago," the Embassy said in a post on X.

Apart from the 32 Indian tourists, the boat was carrying three crew members and one flight attendant.

Earlier, the Embassy confirmed the incident and said a control room had been established at the Consulate General of India in Ho Chi Minh City to provide information and assistance to the affected families.

"In a tragic incident, a boat carrying several Indian tourists has capsized near Phu Quoc Island in Vietnam a few hours ago. Exact details of the incident are being ascertained as search and rescue operations by local authorities are ongoing," the Embassy said.

The Consulate General's control room can be contacted at +84 36 281 7930, +84 91 552 3714, and +84 33 452 0414. The Embassy has also set up another control room in Hanoi, which can be reached at +84 91 308 9165 for assistance and queries.



తెలంగాణ - ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ - కర్ణాటక
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PM Modi's Diplomatic Tour Strengthens India's Global Engagement

NEW DELHI, JULY 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday concluded his three-nation tour of Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, returning to India after a landmark visit to New Zealand that saw the two countries elevate their relationship to a Strategic Partnership and sign a series of agreements across key sectors.

In a special diplomatic gesture, New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon personally saw off Prime Minister Modi at the airport after the conclusion of the visit, reflecting the warmth and growing trust between the two nations.

The New Zealand visit, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in four decades, marked a significant milestone in bilateral relations, with both leaders holding extensive talks aimed at expanding cooperation in trade, investment, defence, security, education, sports, culture, technology and people-to-people exchanges.

Expressing gratitude for the hospitality extended during the visit, Prime Minister Modi said the tour had opened "an important new chapter" in India-New Zealand relations.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "My gratitude to PM Luxon, the Government and people of New Zealand for the exceptional warmth during this fruitful visit. This visit, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in four decades, has opened an important new chapter in our relations. Our decision to elevate ties to a Strategic Partnership, the pro-



gress on trade and investment and the renewed momentum in defence, education, culture, sports and people-to-people exchanges reflect the growing depth of our friendship."

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) described the visit as a major diplomatic success, saying it had strengthened bilateral ties and produced substantial outcomes across a wide range of sectors.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the Prime Minister's three-nation tour had advanced cooperation in trade, technology, security, innovation, education and people-to-people exchanges, while laying the foundation for stronger long-term partnerships.

"A visit that deepened bonds, strengthened partnerships and shaped a shared future. After concluding substantive discussions and overseeing key set of outcomes in New Zealand, PM Narendra Modi departs for India. In a special gesture, he was seen off by PM Christopher Luxon at the airport. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-coun-

try visit to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand delivered significant outcomes advancing cooperation across several sectors including trade, technology, security, education, innovation and people-to-people exchanges among others," Jaiswal posted on X.

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi was accorded a traditional Māori welcome and a ceremonial Guard of Honour before holding delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Luxon at Government House in Auckland.

The two leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, focusing on expanding cooperation in trade and investment, defence and maritime security, agri-tech, education, tourism, sports, culture and people-to-people ties.

The centrepiece of the visit was the decision to elevate India-New Zealand ties to a Strategic Partnership, reflecting the growing convergence between the two countries on regional and global issues. The leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening coop-

eration in areas of mutual interest and stressed the importance of the early implementation of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement.

Setting an ambitious economic agenda, the two Prime Ministers agreed to work towards doubling bilateral trade by 2030. They also exchanged views on regional and international developments and reiterated their commitment to enhancing cooperation in multilateral forums.

Following the talks, the two leaders witnessed the exchange of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements covering defence and maritime security, hydrography, sports, disaster management, dairy, tourism, maritime heritage, culture, food technology and ocean research. They also adopted a Joint Statement outlining a comprehensive roadmap for advancing the Strategic Partnership.

Prime Minister Modi thanked Prime Minister Luxon for the warm hospitality extended during the visit and invited him to visit India, reaffirming the commitment of both countries to maintain regular high-level engagement. The New Zealand visit marked the final leg of Prime Minister Modi's three-nation tour, during which India strengthened cooperation with Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand across strategic sectors, including trade, technology, security, innovation, education and people-to-people exchanges, further reinforcing its engagement with key partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

Youth with job qualifications are THE BACKBONE OF OUR COUNTRY

Lion: Capt: Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy



KARIMNAGAR, JULY 11

If today's students excel in their studies, learn the necessary skills and get high-level jobs, they will lay a solid foundation for the development of the country, said noted writer, speaker and retired principal Lion: Captain: Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy. Speaking as the chief guest at the World Population Day program organized by the Satavahana Lions Club on the premises of the local Dhangarwadi Gov-

ernment High School today, he said that the youth who spend their time lifelessly away from education and jobs are a burden not only to their families but also to the country. He encouraged them to pursue higher education and get attractive jobs and run away from poverty. He said that the responsibility of providing a bright future to India, which has the largest youth population, lies solely with the youth. He expressed hope that if today's youth grow up on the

right path, Vikasit Bharat will achieve its goals and reach the position of Vishwaguru. Satavahana Lions Club President Lion Acharya V Srinivas said that it has become mandatory to learn skills along with studies and urged every student to make efforts to learn skills in parallel with reading textbooks. He suggested that teachers should put a lot of effort in skill development. Speaking on the occasion, Incharge HM Rama Devi promised to teach skills along with studies to her students. Prizes were given to the winners of the essay writing competition organized on the topic of population of the country. Club Secretary Lion Narla Venugopal presented the vote of thanks, and 120 students including teachers K. Anil, V. Saveria, Srilatha, G. Vasundhara, Anandha participated in the program.

STREET FOOD IN THE RAINY SEASON: BALANCING FLAVOR AND HEALTH

Hyderabad is a city known for its vibrant culture and an even more diverse food scene. As the clouds gather and the evenings turn cool, our cravings naturally shift toward hot street food—spicy mirchi bajji, crispy pakodas, and tangy panipuri. While these treats are the heart of our evening outings, we must ask: Are these flavors coming at the cost of our health?

The Hidden Truth Behind the Taste

The secret to the irresistible taste of deep-fried street snacks is, naturally, deep-frying. However, a major concern lies in the quality of the oil. In many street-side stalls, the same oil is used repeatedly for hours, or even days, as it is constantly reheated. This practice fundamentally alters the chemical structure of the oil.

Recycled Oil: The Silent Enemy

Scientifically, repeatedly heating oil creates "trans fats" and "free radicals." At high temperatures, the oil undergoes oxidation, turning it toxic. Consuming such oil regularly can lead to serious health issues, including heart disease, high blood pressure, and elevated cholesterol. Furthermore, it triggers inflammation in the body, which serves as a foundation for many chronic illnesses.

Understanding

"Total Polar Compounds" (TPC)

When cooking oil is repeatedly heated, chemical changes produce substances called Total Polar Compounds (TPC). While fresh oil has very low levels of TPC, continuous heating causes these levels to spike.

How they form: At high temperatures (180°C–200°C), three processes occur: Oxidation (reaction with air), Hydrolysis (reaction with moisture in food), and Polymerization (molecular breakdown). This turns healthy triglycerides into harmful Polar Compounds.

The Health Risk: High TPC levels can lead to cardiovascular damage, impaired immunity, digestive issues (acidity/indigestion), and in extreme cases, may even be linked to cancer-causing potential.

FSSAI Guidelines: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is clear: Any oil with a TPC level above 25% is unsafe for consumption. Vendors are encouraged to use TPC meters or testing strips to monitor this.

How to Spot Reused/Bad Oil

While you cannot run a lab test at a food stall,

you can use your senses:

Dark Color:

The oil turns a deep, murky brown.

Consistency:

It becomes viscous and thick.

Excessive Foaming:

A lot of foam appears on the surface while frying.

Off-putting Smell:

A sharp, stale, or rancid odor.

Early Smoke:

The oil begins to smoke at lower-than-normal temperatures (lowered smoke point).

The Path Forward: Enjoyment with Caution

Giving up street food entirely is not practical, as it is deeply ingrained in our urban lifestyle. However, being a mindful consumer makes all the difference:

Be Observant: If the oil looks dark or smells strange, skip it. Look for basic hygiene—are the servers wearing gloves? Is the stall clean?

Choose Wisely: If a craving hits, consider making these snacks at home using fresh, high-quality oil. It's healthier, safer, and a great way to bond with family.

Spread Awareness: As a customer, you have the right to ask. Politely share your concerns with vendors about oil quality and hygiene standards.

Final Thoughts

Street food is a cherished part of our city's identity. But as our lifestyle changes, so must our approach to health. Never compromise your long-term well-being for a short-term taste. With committed vendors and conscious, informed consumers, we can continue to enjoy the soul-warming flavors of Hyderabad, safely and healthily.



DR. CHITYALA RAVINDER
7798891795

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

MAN ON POCSO BAIL MURDERS 6 IN SHABAD

FROM PAGE 1

their two young sons, Parikshit, 3, and Daivikshit, 2, at their home. The motive behind the killings of his immediate family remains under investigation.

The police have stated that the suspect reportedly contacted his parents after committing the murders, confessing to killing six people across two different locations and expressing an intention to take his own life.

His parents promptly alerted the authorities. However, by the time police units arrived at the crime scenes, the suspect had already absconded. The deceased have been transported for post-mortem examinations, and an official case has been filed. A manhunt is currently underway to locate the fugitive suspect. Senior law enforcement officials, including Future City Commissioner Tarun Joshi, have visited the sites, and the investigation is ongoing.

PARTY WILL DECIDE MY FUTURE: JAGGA REDDY

Hyderabad, July 11: Senior Congress leader and former MLA Jagga Reddy on Saturday announced that he will not contest from the Sangareddy assembly constituency in the next elections, while making it clear that the party leadership would decide if he contests from another seat. Referring to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's target of winning 117 Assembly seats, Jagga Reddy said preparing the

party well in advance was a sound political strategy. He noted that candidate selection would be based on the party's objective of returning to power and would be decided collectively by the Congress leadership and the AICC. Backing the Chief Minister's review of MLAs and ministers performances based on intelligence reports, Jagga Reddy said performance assessment was essential and advised legislators to improve

based on the feedback if they wanted party tickets.

He also dismissed surveys released by opposition parties, alleging that both the BRS and BJP projected results in their own favour. Warning party legislators against complacency, he said no leader should consider themselves "invincible", stressing that the final authority to issue party tickets rests with the Chief Minister and the PCC leadership.

AI to Drive India's IT....

FROM PAGE 1

workforce and strong digital ecosystem provide a unique opportunity to lead the AI revolution. The event was followed by a roundtable interaction with industry leaders. Union Minister for Coal and Mines Shri G. Kishan Reddy also participated in the programme. Vaishnav said India's future growth will be powered by Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, electronics manufacturing and advanced infrastructure, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He stressed closer collaboration between industry and academia, noting that NASSCOM, in partnership with the government, has developed an AI curriculum for educational institutions. Highlighting progress in semiconductor manufacturing, the Minister said 12 semiconductor plants are under development, with three already producing chips for domestic and international markets. He also noted that advanced semiconductor design tools have been made available to 315 Universities to strengthen India's talent pipeline.

Union Minister for Coal & Mines G. Kishan Reddy called for extending development beyond Hyderabad by promoting investment and employment in tier-II cities such as Warangal and Karimnagar. He also highlighted ongoing railway modernization projects, including the redevelopment of Secunderabad and Nampally stations.

India's First CMP Pad Techno Hub

FROM PAGE 1

manufacturing, has been established in Hyderabad. The centre, set up at T-Works in collaboration with Japan-based Toho Koki Seisakusho Co. Ltd., was formally inaugurated on Saturday by Telangana Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu said the State Government is working in a planned and strategic manner to transform Telangana into one of India's leading semiconductor hubs. He said the newly launched CMP Pad Technology Hub would play a crucial role in achieving this goal. CMP pads, which are used to planarize wafers during semiconductor chip manufacturing, are currently

imported entirely from overseas. With the establishment of this hub, CMP pad technology, which until now has been available only abroad, has been introduced in India for the first time, with Hyderabad serving as the platform.

The Minister said the centre would provide training and technical support for research to students, researchers, innovators, startups and industries. He explained that joint research initiatives would be undertaken in partnership with leading educational institutions, research organisations, industries and MSMEs, with the aim of manufacturing CMP pads domestically within the next 18 to 24 months.

He further stated that Tel-

angana is collaborating with countries such as Japan to gain access to cutting-edge technologies in the semiconductor sector. A dedicated roadmap is also being prepared to develop a comprehensive ecosystem in the State, covering the entire value chain from research to chip manufacturing.

Takuya Nishimura of Toho Koki Seisakusho Co. Ltd.; Swastik Kulkarni, Director General of JETRO Bengaluru; Daisuke Tanji, Founder and CEO of IndoBox; Shigemaro Yasui, Chairman of the Japan India Business Bureau; Anudeep Durishetty, Joint Secretary of the IT Department; Joginder Tanikella, CEO of T-Works; and others attended the event.

GOVT READY TO RESTORE THREE BARRAGES: CM

FROM PAGE 1

Rajendar should take the responsibility of convincing the central agency to address the issue".

Further, the Chief Minister said that a minimum water level of 93.50 meters is required for pumping. The current water level was only 89.90 meters. At Annaram and Sundilla, not a drop of water can be stored unless the gates are closed. The NDSA has already clearly advised against closing the gates to store water, citing safety concerns regarding the barrages.

The NDSA report also warned the bed level at Medigadda is 88.50 meters, and the crest level is 89.50 meters. Lifting water via the Kannepalli (Lakshmi) pump house—located approximately 18 kilometers away—a water level of 93.50 meters is required. Even though there is water flow at Medigadda, the water level does not reach the 93.50-meter mark necessary for pumping. The situation is similar at the Annaram and Sundilla barrages, the CM explained that if water is lifted from Kannepalli, it flows back to Medigadda because the gates there remain open. As per the NDSA recommendations, closing the gates

was not possible.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the NDSA's preliminary report has already stated that filling the barrage with water would be hazardous due to the damage sustained by the 7th block. After conducting various tests and field inspections by experts, the NDSA submitted its final report ten months later. Recently, the union government constituted a special technical committee to handle the restoration of the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages on June 30, 2026. The committee must be kept informed regarding technical advice on designs and restoration proposals, as well as inquiries, construction activities, quality control measures, and any proposed modifications.

CM Revanth Reddy advised Rajendar not to fall in the trap of the 'Khiladi group'. BRS leaders are demanding lifting water and the BJP MP also adopted the BRS stance for lifting water from Kannepalli. "We respect Etela Rajendar, but we do not respect the statements he has made. His stature would have been enhanced had he gathered details from the Irrigation Minister, the NDSA, or officials before making a

"If water is lifted from Kannepalli, it flows back to Medigadda because the gates remain open. As per the NDSA recommendations, the gates cannot be closed."



comment.

In a scathing attack on BRS, the Chief minister alleged that Rajendar was speaking at the BRS leader's behest and lost his credibility. KCR has formed a separate 'Khiladi Committee' with KTR and Harish Rao as members. Now, Etela has also joined as a member. The CM took strong exception to the retired engineers' support to the BRS demand for release of water. The truth behind the debts, commissions and

was diverted to Pattiseema during the BRS regime? Can the BRS leaders guarantee that water won't be denied to Polavaram if Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla become operational?

The CM questioned the union government for not accepting the demand for CBI probe into the Kaleshwaram scam. The State Government handed over the investigation into the irregularities and corruption allegations surrounding

rated the Kaleshwaram project on June 29, 2019. On May 18, 2020, Executive Engineer B.V. Ramana Rao wrote a letter pointing out defects in the Medigadda barrage. Defects in the Medigadda Barrage came to light within just 11 months. The then BRS government ignored and it escalated to the point of collapse. The Piers of the Medigadda Barrage sank on October 21, 2023. The very next day, engineers filed a complaint at the police station regarding

"Defects in the Medigadda Barrage surfaced within just 11 months of its inauguration, but the then BRS government ignored them until the structure suffered severe damage."

wrongdoings would only come out only when they were sent to Cherlapally Jail. The Chief minister also fired a salvo at Harish Rao alleging that the BRS leader was greedy for commissions and not even sparing crusher contractors now. It was Harish Rao's dairy farm which was supplying milk to the Andhra-based institutions - Narayana and Chaitanya groups. "Was Harish Rao grazing donkeys when 105 TMC of water

the construction of the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages to the CBI. Government order 104 was also issued on September 1, 2025, handing over the case to the CBI. The chief minister demanded an explanation as to why the investigation was not ordered.

The Chief minister also disclosed the details of the Kaleshwaram project and the damage of barrages in a chronological order. KCR inaugu-

the incident. On November 1, 2023, the NDSA submitted a report citing flaws in planning, design, and operational maintenance. The Dam Safety Act, 2021, came into effect across the country on December 30, 2021. Under the Dam Safety Act of 2021, designated dams can be monitored, maintained, and inspected. The NDSA visited Medigadda in accordance with the legislation enacted by the Central Government.



Musi River Rejuvenation Project Must Be Implemented

- **with Public Participation and Scientific Planning**
- **Study the Sabarmati Model; Ensure Transparency and Rehabilitation: Former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya**
- **Provide Local Rehabilitation and Constitute a Public Advisory Committee: Prof. G. Haragopal**
- **Restore the Musi as a Living Natural River, Not Merely a Drain: Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy**

HYDERABAD

The Musi River Rejuvenation Project should be implemented through public participation, scientific planning, complete transparency, and dignified rehabilitation, eminent political leaders, environmentalists, legal experts, and social thinkers suggested during a State-Level Round Table Conference held in Hyderabad on Saturday.

The conference was organized by the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), Telangana, at Central Court Hotel to deliberate on various aspects of the Musi River Rejuvenation Project.

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Kapilavai Dilip Kumar, Former MLC and President of RLD Telangana, while Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, Vice President of RLD Telangana, eminent educationist, environmentalist, National Advisor of the Environment Protection & Development Council, and Green Ambassador of Telangana, served as the Co-Chairman.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Kapilavai Dilip Kumar said that the Musi River Rejuvenation Project is not merely an infrastructure initiative but a comprehensive programme encompassing environmental protection, social justice, sustainable livelihoods, and economic development. He stressed that public opinion must be accorded the highest priority in projects of such magnitude and announced that all suggestions and recommendations emerging from the conference would be compiled into a



comprehensive report and submitted to the Government of Telangana.

Former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya stated that rejuvenating the Musi River is vital for the future of Hyderabad. He remarked that there is no need to search for international models, as the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project, initiated under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat, offers valuable lessons. He suggested that the Sabarmati model be carefully studied and adapted to suit Hyderabad's local conditions while ensuring equal importance to public welfare, environmental conservation, and sustainable development.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy said, "The Musi River is the cradle of Hyderabad's civilization. It should not be treated merely as a drainage canal but restored as a vibrant, living natural

river." He emphasized that "Development should exist for people, not people for development."

Dr. Gopal Reddy called upon the government to ensure complete transparency throughout the implementation process so as to build public confidence. He stressed that affected families must receive dignified rehabilitation, sustainable livelihood opportunities, quality education for children, and adequate healthcare facilities.

He further recommended that untreated sewage and industrial effluents must be prevented from entering the river by operating modern Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) at full capacity and by enforcing strict pollution control measures on industries. He noted that true river rejuvenation extends far beyond beautification and must focus on restoring the river's natural flow, conserving biodiversity, protecting riverbanks, expanding



green cover, and maintaining ecological balance. Member of Parliament Etala Rajender observed that development and democracy must progress together. He urged the government to ensure that no family suffers injustice in the name of rehabilitation and emphasized transparency and public participation at every stage of the project.

BRS MLC Ravinder Rao stated that his party is not opposed to the development of the Musi River but has been raising concerns regarding the lack of transparency in the project's implementation. He urged the government to proceed in a manner that strengthens public trust.

Renowned social scientist Prof. G. Haragopal emphasized that the rights and welfare of people living along the Musi river basin must be fully protected before undertaking development works. He recommended constituting an advisory committee comprising representatives of political parties and civil society organizations to guide the project. He also advocated for local rehabilitation instead of relocating affected families to distant locations, stating that such an approach would better protect their livelihoods, employment opportunities, and children's education.

Prof. Madabhushi Sridhar, Dean, School of Law, Mahindra University, stated that the project should strictly adhere to environmental laws, constitutional values, and judicial guidelines. He called upon society to collectively assume responsibility for protecting rivers, lakes, and other natural water bodies. Other speakers, including Taduri

Srinivas, Kathi Venkataswamy, Beerappa, Sumanth Reddy, and Bellayya Naik, emphasized that achieving permanent pollution-free restoration of the Musi River requires scientific planning, effective sewage treatment, strict industrial pollution control, conservation of riverbanks, and active public participation.

Unanimous Resolution

The conference unanimously resolved that all recommendations, expert opinions, and suggestions presented during the deliberations should be compiled into a comprehensive report, along with complete documentation of the proceedings, and submitted to the Government of Telangana.

The participants expressed confidence that if the Musi River Rejuvenation Project is implemented based on the four guiding principles of environmental conservation, public welfare, scientific planning, and dignified rehabilitation, it can become a national model for sustainable river restoration.

The conference witnessed the participation of Former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, MP Etala Rajender, Former MLC Prof. Kapilavai Dilip Kumar, Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, MLC Ravinder Rao, Prof. G. Haragopal, Prof. Madabhushi Sridhar, along with leaders from various political parties, environmental experts, legal professionals, academicians, representatives of civil society organizations, social activists, and members of the media.

Indian Railways has made an important announcement regarding train ticket verification

NEW DELHI



According to the announcement, WhatsApp-forwarded tickets and ticket screenshots will no longer be accepted. Only the original e-ticket or a printed ticket will be considered valid.

The new rule has been introduced to prevent ticket tampering and misuse. Passengers who present only a WhatsApp screenshot or a forwarded ticket may be treated as traveling without a valid ticket.

Such passengers may be required to purchase a new

ticket and pay a penalty, the warning says.

Indian Railways has advised passengers to carry the original e-ticket in the IRCTC app, the original booking confirmation message, or a printed ticket, along with a government-issued photo ID.

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
₹3,79,81,822.55	₹7,59,600.00	20/07/2026	03/08/2026 15:00 Hrs	Nil	12-months	
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Silence Before the Storm: Shabad Killings Raise Alarm Over Bail and Protection

HYDERABAD

In the quiet outskirts of Shabad, a nightmare unfolded that no family should endure. Six members of a single family were mercilessly slain by a POC SO-accused man who had walked free on bail, despite warnings from the victim's kin. The grief that grips this community is not just about the loss of loved ones; it is a haunting reminder of how quickly the echoes of fear become a permanent tremor in everyday life.

The night the world turned cold for the Shabad family began with whispers. Warnings into the ears of authorities, cries for protection, and a plea to reconsider bail — all signposted by a family that refused to stay silent. Yet, as dawn crept over Rangareddy, the house that once echoed with laughter stood silent, save for the rhythm of sorrow that now defines it.

KT Rama Rao, the BRS working president, spoke with the gravity of a man who has watched a community shatter. He did not mince words about the responsibility that rests on those who hold the power to restrain danger before it becomes tragedy. He ac-



cused the State government, and specifically the Home Department, of negligence in opposing the accused's bail and failing to shield the vulnerable. The blame, he argued, lands squarely on those who decide who walks free and who stays behind bars.

This is not merely a political charge; it is a human plea. A father who lost his son, a mother who lost her daughter, siblings who lost their only remaining family — these are losses that no political calculation can justify. The weight of such a crime presses on the shoulders of a nation that promises safety to its citizens, especially the most vulnerable. The time for rhetoric has passed. What remains is accountability, and the relentless

pursuit of justice for a family that deserves nothing less. Rama Rao did not leave the matter at accusations. He called for a reckoning with the very processes that allowed a bail decision to become a life-or-death risk. He questioned the effectiveness of the Public Prosecutor and challenged the Home Minister to reflect on the failures that emboldened a predator. The undercurrent of his message is clear: governance is a shield, and when it falters, the shield becomes a blade.

In a clash of voices that underscored the pain of the moment, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy addressed a harsh sentiment directed at him — calling Rama Rao a "financial terrorist." Rama Rao's response was measured

but firm, transforming a heated exchange into a call for dignity and responsibility. He reframed the accusation, pointing to the extraordinary costs of corruption and hidden wealth, and reminded everyone that the true measure of leadership is how a government protects its people — especially the vulnerable, and especially in moments of crisis.

As the community heals, the path to justice must be clear and unwavering. Families deserve to know that their grief will not be used as a political wedge, but will catalyze reforms that strengthen safeguards against those who would exploit bail laws to harm others. The Shabad killings demand more than sympathy; they demand systemic change, transparency, and a renewed pledge from leaders to guard the most fragile among us.

For the victims, for the surviving relatives, and for a city that now carries the memory of six lives lost in an instant, may this tragedy become a turning point — a moment when urgency meets accountability, and when a community can begin to rebuild with trust in a system that honors its duty to protect every citizen.

Hyderabad's Tech Hub Gets a Modern Rail Entrance

- **Hi-Tech City Station Redevelopment Finished**
- HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's Hi-Tech City Railway Station has undergone a comprehensive redevelopment, delivering world-class passenger amenities and enhanced accessibility under the Amrit Station Scheme. The Rs 26 crore project signifies a new era of comfort and efficiency for daily commuters and visitors to Hyderabad's tech hub, underscoring Indian Railways' commitment to transforming stations into passenger-centric, modern gateways.

The redevelopment focuses on upgrading infrastructure, ensuring better accessibility, and improving overall station experience. A key feature is the addition of a 12-meter Foot Over Bridge, complementing the existing structure, which aims to stream-



line movement across platforms and reduce congestion in circulating areas. The enhancements extend to vertical mobility with two additional passenger lifts and two new escalators, alongside improvements in circulating spaces to facilitate smoother crowd management.

Platform facilities have also been upgraded to elevate comfort and convenience. Clean and well-lit waiting areas, upgraded toilet blocks, and landscaped surroundings contribute to a more welcoming environment. Façade

lighting and passenger-friendly signage have been included to improve wayfinding and aesthetics, making the station not only functional but also visually appealing as a gateway to Hyderabad's IT corridor.

Serving the Lingampalli-Secunderabad suburban route, Hi-Tech City Railway Station handles a daily footfall of around 3,000 passengers and provides connectivity to Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Umdanagar, Falaknuma, Medchal, and Ghatkesar. With the upgraded facilities,

the station is better equipped to manage suburban train schedules and passenger flow, enhancing the overall efficiency of daily commuting for residents and IT professionals in the western part of the city.

The Amrit Station Scheme, under which this transformation was undertaken, embodies Indian Railways' broader vision of delivering world-class facilities and improved accessibility across the network. The Hyderabad redevelopment aligns with this mission, reinforcing the city's position as a growing hub of technology and mobility where infrastructure supports both residents and a thriving business ecosystem. The project is complete and ready for inauguration, signaling a milestone in the ongoing modernization of Hyderabad's rail infrastructure and setting a benchmark for future suburban upgrades.

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KCR Condoles the Demise of Legendary Singer S. Janaki

- **"Janakamma's Passing Is an Irreparable Loss to South Indian Music and Song" - KCR**
- **"Her Family's Roots in Sir-cilla Are a Matter of Pride for Telangana" - KCR**

HYDERABAD

Former Telangana Chief Minister and BRS President K. Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR) expressed profound grief over the demise of legendary playback singer and music composer S. Janaki (Sishtla Sreeramamurthy Janaki), affectionately known as "Janakamma" by millions of admirers.

KCR said that Janakamma's immortal voice, which captivated music lovers across the world, will continue to live on forever. He praised her as a legendary singer who, driven by a deep passion for music from an early age, built an extraordinary career spanning six decades. During her illustrious journey, she rendered nearly 50,000 songs, enriching the landscape of Indian music with her timeless contributions.

He noted that as a playback singer and music composer, S. Janaki made remarkable contributions to Indian cinema by singing in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and several other Indian languages. Her immense ser-



vice to the world of film music, he said, has earned her a permanent place in the cultural history of the nation.

KCR also observed that, besides receiving numerous prestigious awards during her career, Janakamma was admired for her socially conscious outlook as much as for her deeply moving and soulful voice.

He described her as a courageous woman who declined the Padma Bhushan, announced by the Government of India in 2013, in protest against what she believed was the inadequate recognition accorded to artists from South India. He further said that Janakamma possessed the rare ability to adapt her voice to suit characters ranging from infants to the elderly, effortlessly expressing the full spectrum of human

emotions through her singing. Her musical legacy, he said, will continue to inspire future generations.

KCR recalled that her father had lived in the then Karimnagar district due to his employment and that her family's roots in Siricilla are a matter of pride for Telangana. Expressing deep sorrow, he said that Janakamma's demise is an irreparable loss, particularly to South Indian music and the world of song.

He remarked that a great artist like Janakamma transcends mortality and that her fame and musical legacy will remain immortal. KCR conveyed his heartfelt condolences to her bereaved family members and countless admirers and prayed for the eternal peace of her departed soul.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is deeply saddened by the passing of renowned veteran singer S. Janaki

HYDERABAD

The Chief Minister noted that the popular singer left an indelible mark on the hearts of music lovers across the South Indian film music world with her melodious voice.

Janaki songs which perfectly captured the Navarasas (nine emotions) to suit the contexts and scenes of in the films left the listeners spellbound. It is a matter of pride for Telugu people that the famous singer hailed from this region. The CM recalled that she sang over 50,000 songs in 17 languages including Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi and received numerous national awards.

The demise of Janaki is an irreparable loss not only to the Indian film industry but also to millions of music lovers. CM Revanth Reddy prayed to God the departed soul rest in peace and conveyed his deepest sympathies to the bereaved family members.

Good News for Civil Services Aspirants

- **Online Applications Invited for 'Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhaya Hastham' Scheme**
- **1 Lakh Financial Assistance for Telangana Candidates Qualified in the Civil Services Preliminary Examination**
- **SCCL CMD Dr. Bud-dhaprakash Jyoti Announces 346 Aspirants Benefitted During the Last Two Years**

SINGARENI BHAVAN

Good news for Civil Services aspirants from Telangana. The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) will continue the 'Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhaya Hastham' scheme this year as well, in accordance with the directions of the State Government, said SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Bud-dhaprakash Jyoti in a statement issued on Saturday.

He said that SCCL will provide financial assistance of ₹1,00,000 to every eligible candidate from Telangana who has qualified in the UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Exam-



ination this year and is eligible to appear for the Civil Services Main Examination.

Eligible candidates have been invited to submit their applications online. After scrutiny of the applications, ₹1 lakh each will be provided as financial assistance to every eligible applicant. For detailed guidelines and application procedure, candidates may visit www.sclmines.com. Dr. Bud-dhaprakash Jyoti expressed hope that more youth from Telangana would make effective use of the financial assistance provided by SCCL and succeed in the Civil Services this year, enabling them to serve both the State and the Nation.

Background

With the objective of enabling a larger number of youth from Telangana to succeed in the Civil Services, the State Government directed SCCL to in-

roduce the Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhaya Hastham scheme as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The scheme was launched in 2024 by Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister & Minister for Energy Shri Bhatti Vikramarka, Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti said.

As part of the implementation of the scheme, during the 2024 Civil Services Examination, 140 candidates who qualified in the Preliminary Examination received ₹1 lakh each as financial assistance. Of them, 20 candidates qualified for the Interview (Personality Test). As per the directions of the State Government, they were provided with an additional ₹1 lakh each as financial assistance. Out of them, seven candidates were finally selected for the Civil Services.

During the last year, 206 candidates received financial assistance under the scheme. Among them, 50 candidates qualified for the Interview stage, and 20 candidates were finally selected for the Civil Services. Thus, a total of 346 Civil Services aspirants have received financial assistance from SCCL under the Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhaya Hastham scheme during the last two years, he added.

SHORT TAKES

Women, youth key to Viksit Bharat vision: Governor

HYDERABAD: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Saturday underscored that women's empowerment and the active participation of youth are indispensable for achieving the vision of a Viksit Bharat. He said the Union government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has accorded high priority to expanding opportunities for women in political, economic and social spheres. The Governor was addressing an interaction at Lok Bhavan with winners of the Viksit Vibrant Villages Programme (VVVP) and the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament (VBYP). The programme was organised by the Telangana State Office of MY Bharat under the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Referring to women's political empowerment, Shri Shukla said the 106th Constitutional Amendment, enacted as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, marked a historic step towards reserving one-third of the seats in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies for women. The legislation, he said, would significantly strengthen women's participation in governance and public life.

Ins Mahendragiri joins Navy, boosts India's blue-water power

VISAKHAPATNAM: India's maritime strength received a major boost with the induction of indigenous stealth frigate INS Mahendragiri into the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet on Saturday. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the sixth Project 17A frigate at Visakhapatnam, describing it as a symbol of India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd with over 75% indigenous content, the 6,670-tonne warship is equipped for air, surface and anti-submarine warfare. It can carry BrahMos missiles, advanced air-defence systems, electronic warfare suites and a multi-role helicopter, making it one of the Navy's most capable frontline platforms. Highlighting the changing nature of warfare, Rajnath Singh said emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and drones complement - not replace - credible conventional military power.

Chiranjeevi Fan's Family Receives Financial Assistance



KARIMNAGAR

In a heartwarming gesture, Telangana State Brahmin Corporation Chairman Basavaraju Srinivas extended annual financial assistance of ₹20,000 to the family of late Chiranjeevi fan Kiran Kumar from Kamalapur Mandal. The assistance was handed over

to his wife Swapna by senior Congress leader, former Rajya Sabha Member and Government Advisor V. Hanumantha Rao at a programme held in Ramojipet village of Illan-thakunta Mandal on Saturday.

Kiran Kumar is survived by two daughters, and the financial assistance is being provided every year to support their edu-

cation. Basavaraju Srinivas said the initiative reflects his commitment to ensuring that the children's education continues without interruption.

Speaking on the occasion, V. Hanumantha Rao appreciated Basavaraju Srinivas for his humanitarian gesture and said that standing by families in distress is a social responsibility that everyone should uphold. Manakondur MLA Kavvampally Satyanarayana, Chiranjeevi Yuvatha State President Velpula Venkatesh, and leaders Janagama Nagaraju, Arun Teja Chary, Mididoddi Kapil Madhav, Galipelli Kumar, Dilip, and others were present at the programme.

Interaction with Engineers and Manufacturing Teams at Medha Bogies Factory



HYDERABAD

During the visit, the Minister reviewed various stages of the manufacturing process and interacted closely with engineers and manufacturing teams engaged in the production of railway

coaches and components. He took firsthand feedback on production processes, technical capabilities, skill development initiatives and the training being provided to the workforce to support advanced manufacturing. Shri Vaishnav also enquired about

the employees' day-to-day responsibilities, their learning and training experience, and the adoption of modern manufacturing practices within the facility.

He appreciated the dedication, technical expertise and commitment of the teams, noting that a highly skilled workforce is central to India's growing railway manufacturing capabilities. The Minister also reviewed the manufacturing infrastructure and received updates on quality standards, production systems and capacity enhancement initiatives being undertaken at the facility.

Motkupalli Narsimhulu's Birthday Celebrated Grandly

- **10,000 Financial Assistance Extended to a Person Suffering from Illness**
- **Dr. Sagarapu Prasad Chairman, SEEDS Foundation**

SURYAPET

The birthday of former minister and founder of Madiga Mahashakti, Motkupalli Narsimhulu, was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Friday at the Suryapet district headquarters. As part of the celebrations, a cake was cut to mark the occasion.

On the occasion of his birthday, financial assistance of ₹10,000 was provided to a Muslim man from Modinpuram village who has been suffer-



ing from illness for some time and is facing financial difficulties. The event was organized under the leadership of Dr. Sagarapu Prasad, Chairman of the SEEDS Foundation.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sagarapu Prasad praised

former minister Motkupalli Narsimhulu for dedicating more than four decades to public life and consistently striving to resolve the problems of the poor and marginalized sections of society. He said that Narsimhulu earned a distinct

identity as a leader who raised his voice for Dalit rights both in the Legislative Assembly and on public platforms.

He further noted that Motkupalli Narsimhulu founded the Madiga Mahashakti organization with the aim of securing greater political representation for the Madiga community in Telangana and has been actively conducting social awareness programs through the organization.

Conveying his birthday wishes to Motkupalli Narsimhulu, Dr. Prasad expressed hope that he would continue his public service for many more years.

The event was attended by leaders including Prof. Gurunadham, Dr. Lingayya, Madiga leaders Ramulu, Srinu, Ashok, Mallamma, Venu, and others.

NCSC Chairman Kishor Makwana to Inaugurate Modernized State Office in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

The Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), Kishor Makwana, will visit Hyderabad on July 13, 2026. During his visit, he will inaugurate the newly modernized NCSC State Office located at the CGO Towers complex in Kawadiguda.

NCSC Member Vaddepalli Ramechander and the Commission's Secretary, Gude Sri-

nivas (IAS), will accompany the Chairman.

Following the inauguration ceremony, Chairman Makwana will address a special gathering. Senior officials from the Central and State Governments, public representatives, and representatives of various Scheduled Caste organizations are expected to attend the event in large numbers.

As part of his visit, the Chairman will also interact

directly with members of the public, receive petitions related to the welfare, rights, and grievances of Scheduled Castes, and discuss their concerns personally.

During the official tour, a high-level NCSC delegation led by Chairman Kishor Makwana will hold an important meeting with senior officials of the Telangana State Government.

The discussions will pri-

marily focus on reviewing the measures being taken for the social and economic development of Scheduled Castes in the state and exploring ways to strengthen them. The high-level review will also cover the effective implementation of welfare schemes, the reinforcement of constitutional safeguards, and the resolution of key issues affecting Scheduled Caste communities in Telangana.

JNTU-GV Celebrates its Historic First Convocation with Grandeur

- **JNTU-GV Celebrates its Historic First Convocation with Grandeur**

VISAKHAPATNAM

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Gurajada, Vizianagaram (JNTU-GV) celebrated its First Convocation with great grandeur and academic splendour on Saturday at the AU Convention Centre, Beach Road, Visakhapatnam. The convocation was presided over by Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Chancellor of JNTU-GV, Shri S. Abdul Nazeer.

The ceremony was graced by Prof. M. Madhu Murthy, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE), as the Special Guest, while Shri Mayur Pattnala, Founder & Global CEO, Nirman Organization, attended as the Chief Guest and was conferred the prestigious Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to

innovation, entrepreneurship and technology.

The Hon'ble Chancellor was ceremonially received by the Vice-Chancellor and accorded a Guard of Honour, followed by the academic procession. The programme commenced with the National Song and National Anthem. With the permission of the Chancellor, **Prof. V. V. Subba Rao, Vice-Chancellor, JNTU-GV** formally declared the First Convocation open and presented the University Report, highlighting the University's remarkable achievements in academics, research, innovation, infrastructure development and its vision for the future.

A defining moment of the convocation was the conferment of the **Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa)** upon **Shri Mayur Pattnala, Founder & Global CEO, Nirman Organization**. The citation detailing his distinguished accomplishments was presented by the Vice-Chancellor, following which the Hon'ble



Chancellor conferred the honorary doctorate amidst thunderous applause from the gathering.

The graduating students took the Convocation Oath administered by the Vice-Chancellor, after which the Hon'ble Chancellor formally admitted the eligible candidates to their respective degrees. As part of the ceremony, the Chancellor also launched the digital issuance of original degree certificates through the University's **Block-

chain-based Tamper-Proof Original Degree System**, reaffirming JNTU-GV's commitment to secure, transparent and technology-driven academic governance.

The Hon'ble Chancellor presented **15 University Gold Medals** to meritorious students in recognition of their exceptional academic performance across various disciplines. The achievements of the medal recipients were warmly applauded by the distinguished gath-

ering. Shri Nara Lokesh, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, Information Technology, Electronics & Communications and Real Time Governance, Government of Andhra Pradesh, who was originally scheduled to attend the convocation as the Special Guest of Honour, could not participate owing to his preoccupied official Government engagements.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. M. Madhu Murthy, Chairman, APSCHE, congratulated the graduating students and appreciated JNTU-GV for its rapid academic progress. He encouraged the graduates to embrace innovation, strengthen their research capabilities and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of higher education and national development.

In his inspiring address, Shri Mayur Pattnala, Founder & Global CEO, Nirman Organization, urged the graduates to dream beyond boundaries, cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset, pursue innovation with determination and leverage

technology to create sustainable solutions for society.

Delivering the Convocation Address, **Hon'ble Governor and Chancellor Shri S. Abdul Nazeer** congratulated the graduates, research scholars and gold medalists on their academic accomplishments. He exhorted the young graduates to uphold professional ethics, integrity, discipline and social responsibility while dedicating their knowledge and skills to nation-building and the welfare of society.

The ceremony concluded with the felicitation of the dignitaries, followed by the vote of thanks, the formal dissolution of the convocation, the National Song and National Anthem, and the ceremonial departure of the Hon'ble Chancellor along with the academic procession. The successful conduct of the First Convocation marked a historic milestone in the journey of JNTU-GV and reflected the University's steadfast commitment to academic excellence and holistic development.



SSG Annual Sports Meet

Sports play vital role in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being and team spirit:Mahesh Chandra Laddha

Amaravati : The annual sports meet of Special Security Group (SSG) Andhra Pradesh Intelligence department held with great enthusiasm at the SSG Grounds in Mangalagiri. Additional Director General of Police (Intelligence) Mahesh Chandra Laddha attended the event as the chief guest. IG (PHD) D. Ramakrishna and other senior police officers were also present.

The annual sports meet, organised under the supervision of SSG Director A. Jagadish and SP Chennupati Bhadrayya, featured competitions in 25 sporting disciplines.

As part of the event, Intelligence Chief Mahesh Chandra Laddha inaugurated the Tug of war competition. S. Kamalendra Rao, who secured first place in six different events, emerged as the overall champion of this year's annual sports meet.

Addressing the gathering, Mahesh Chandra Laddha said that sports play a vital role in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being and team spirit among personnel. Cultural performances organised on this occasion amidst festive atmosphere .

Kharge alleges Rs 1,200 crore ethanol-linked rice scam in Madhya Pradesh

Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that rice meant for ethanol production was diverted in Madhya Pradesh. He said the case shows deeper corruption and a breakdown of accountability under BJP rule. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday alleged that Madhya Pradesh has become the "epicentre of corruption and loot" under the BJP after reports emerged of an alleged ethanol-linked rice scam in the state. In a post on X, he also questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the issue and alleged that accountability in public life had been damaged under the BJP's rule. Kharge cited media reports which alleged that rice meant for ethanol production was being diverted back into the Public Distribution System in Madhya Pradesh. According to the reports, the state government has set up a Special Investigation Team to probe a suspected multi-crore fortified-rice diversion racket, in which subsidised grain supplied to approved ethanol plants was allegedly sold to private millers and then recycled into government warehouses.

NEXT DOOR
10 from Tamil Nadu, 5 from Andhra, Kerala: Vietnam tragedy kills 15 south Indians

The Vietnam boat tragedy sent shock waves across southern India after it emerged that all 15 tourists killed in the accident were from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. As families awaited more details from Vietnam, governments in the three states moved swiftly to coordinate with authorities, assist survivors and support the relatives of those who lost their loved ones. An island-hopping tour through the turquoise waters of Vietnam's Phu Quoc Island turned into a nightmare on Saturday afternoon when a speedboat carrying 32 Indian tourists capsized in rough seas, leaving at least 15 people dead and several others trapped in-

side the overturned vessel before they were rescued. The speedboat overturned about 400 metres off Hon May Rut Ngaoi while ferrying tourists from May Rut Islet to An Thoi Port on Phu Quoc Island at around 1 pm (local time), according to Vietnamese news outlet VN-Express.

SOUTH INDIA UNITED IN TRAGEDY

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay expressed grief over the loss of lives and said officials had been directed to coordinate with Tamil Nadu House in New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in Vietnam to provide assistance to affected families. He also instruct-



ed officials to ensure medical support for the injured and facilitate the repatriation of the mortal remains of those who died. Of the 15 people killed in the accident, 10 were from Tamil Nadu, according to state authorities. Among those who lost their lives were 44-year-old Murugaprabhu from Dindigul and 47-year-old Alaguraj from Kirapatti. 44-year-old Murugaprabhu from Dindigul and

47-year-old Alaguraj from Kirapatti. Three tourists from Andhra Pradesh were also killed in the tragedy. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said 19 tourists from the state were among those travelling on the ill-fated boat and directed officials to coordinate with authorities, provide assistance and make arrangements for bringing back survivors. Among the victims from

Andhra Pradesh were 41-year-old Ravi Teja from Hindupuram and Sridhar, a mobile shop owner from Kadapa. One tourist from Anantapur town who had travelled on the trip was reported to be safe. In Kerala, Chief Minister VD Sathesnan directed the Non-Resident Keralites Affairs (NORKA) department to coordinate with the Vietnam Embassy and the Ministry of External Affairs after two residents of Kerala were reported dead in the accident. Officials at Kerala House were also asked to assist with the response. The two victims were identified as AC Thomas (57) and his wife Loveni Thomas (56), residents of Kottarakkara in Kollam district.

AC Thomas (57) and his wife Loveni Thomas (56)
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also expressed shock over reports of tourists from the Telugu states being affected and directed officials to coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in Vietnam to expedite relief measures and gather more details.

ROUGH SEAS HAMPERED RESCUE

Earlier in the day, rough seas initially hampered rescue operations, with several tourists trapped inside the overturned boat. Local eyewitnesses said the challenging conditions made it difficult for rescuers to reach those

inside until authorities arrived. Nearby boats rushed to the scene and began pulling survivors from the water. The rescue effort was later reinforced after the Border Guards deployed two vessels and 35 officers and soldiers, allowing the operation to gather pace. Within a few hours, rescue teams located all 32 passengers. At least 15 people were confirmed dead, while the remaining tourists survived the accident. The company operating the speedboat said the driver, in his mid-50s, had years of experience ferrying passengers on the route, even as authorities continued investigating the circumstances behind the deadly accident.

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Special Training for Government Officials

HYDERABAD, JULY 11

Government takes a major step to make Telangana a national model in digital governance
Planning Department and TG MATH launch AI Upskilling Programme

The Telangana Government is preparing to embrace technology in line with changing times and effectively address future challenges. As part of its administrative reforms, the government has initiated the integration of advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the government machinery with the goal of delivering public services more efficiently, transparently, and effectively. With the vision of building a strong foundation today for tomorrow's needs, the Telangana Government

is moving forward under the leadership and foresight of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. The Planning Department, in collaboration with TG MATH (Telangana Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub), is organizing AI Upskilling and Capacity Building programmes for officials and employees across various government departments. Through these training programmes, participants will receive practical training

and comprehensive knowledge in Practical AI and Generative AI. The initiative aims to enhance digital governance, improve the delivery of government services to citizens, and position AI as a game-changing tool in public administration. TG MATH is a prestigious institution jointly established by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, and the Government of Telangana. It has been recognized as one of India's leading Arti-

ficial Intelligence Centres of Excellence. Working closely with the Planning Department, TG MATH plays a key role in promoting AI innovation across the state. It has already supported more than 180 AI startups, helping transform innovative ideas into solutions that contribute to economic growth and social development. Expanding industry partnerships and promoting the responsible use of AI are among the organization's primary objectives.

The Telangana Government aims to position the state as a national leader in the field of Artificial Intelligence. It believes that this training initiative is not merely about enhancing skills but also represents another significant step toward making Telangana a model state for digital governance in India. The government expects these efforts to expand the use of AI in future governance and deliver better outcomes and public services for citizens.



5 women die in 6 days after C-section, Rajasthan hospital under scanner

Mahatma Gandhi Hospital in Rajasthan's Bhilwara has come under scrutiny after five women died within six days at its Maternal and Child Health (MCH) wing following Caesarean deliveries, triggering allegations of medical negligence and raising fresh concerns over patient safety in the state's public health-care system.

for routine procedures and three reserved for emergencies. Since each surgical set requires at least three hours for sterilisation before being reused, concerns have been raised that the volume of surgeries may be exceeding the hospital's operational capacity, potentially increasing the risk of infection. Adding to the concerns, the operation theatre's culture report returned positive, prompting questions over infection control protocols. However, it remains unclear whether the findings have any direct connection with the maternal deaths. Hospital Superintendent Dr Arun Gaur dismissed claims that infection caused the deaths, stating that microbiological sampling from operation theatres and intensive care units is a routine practice. He said disinfection and sterilisation are carried out continuously in accordance with the Infection Control Committee's guidelines and that if any sample fails to meet prescribed standards, the concerned operation theatre is immediately taken out of service. According to him, the affected OT has remained closed for the past three days for sterilisation and fumigation, and surgeries will resume only after fresh samples return negative. A special committee comprising experts from the departments of Microbiology, Surgery, Gynaecology and Anaesthesia has been constituted to investigate the recent maternal deaths. Bhilwara District Collector Jasmeet Singh Sandhu also inspected the hospital and, after reviewing available reports, ruled out infection as the cause, stating that the women died due to different medical reasons and that all necessary precautions were being followed. The Bhilwara deaths come amid a series of similar incidents in Rajasthan. In May, five women died after childbirth at a government hospital in Kota, while in June six women developed kidney failure after Caesarean deliveries at a government hospital in Bikaner, with two later succumbing during treatment.

The deaths have also drawn attention to the hospital's infection control measures after the operation theatre's culture report returned positive, although authorities maintain there is no confirmed link between the report and the fatalities. Hospital officials have rejected allegations of negligence, asserting that the deaths resulted from medical complications and not infection. The latest victim, Sangeeta Jinagar (32), a resident of Potla, died on Friday after her condition deteriorated following a Caesarean delivery. She was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) but could not be saved despite treatment. Her death sparked protests by family members, who accused the hospital of negligence in providing timely and proper medical care. Her death followed those of Shimla Gurjar on July 5, Phori Devi on July 7, Isha Pandey on July 8 and Divya on July 9. In each case, the women reportedly developed complications after undergoing Caesarean sections, were admitted to the Medical ICU and later died during treatment. Their families have levelled similar allegations, blaming the hospital administration and doctors for lapses in care. The latest deaths have taken the number of maternal fatalities at Mahatma Gandhi Hospital since March to nine, with five occurring during the first 11 days of July alone. The series of deaths has intensified questions over the hospital's handling of obstetric cases and the overall quality of healthcare being provided. The controversy has also highlighted concerns over the hospital's surgical workload. Around 30 to 40 Caesarean deliveries are reportedly performed every day, despite the hospital having only eight surgical instrument sets—five meant

for routine procedures and three reserved for emergencies. Since each surgical set requires at least three hours for sterilisation before being reused, concerns have been raised that the volume of surgeries may be exceeding the hospital's operational capacity, potentially increasing the risk of infection. Adding to the concerns, the operation theatre's culture report returned positive, prompting questions over infection control protocols. However, it remains unclear whether the findings have any direct connection with the maternal deaths. Hospital Superintendent Dr Arun Gaur dismissed claims that infection caused the deaths, stating that microbiological sampling from operation theatres and intensive care units is a routine practice. He said disinfection and sterilisation are carried out continuously in accordance with the Infection Control Committee's guidelines and that if any sample fails to meet prescribed standards, the concerned operation theatre is immediately taken out of service. According to him, the affected OT has remained closed for the past three days for sterilisation and fumigation, and surgeries will resume only after fresh samples return negative. A special committee comprising experts from the departments of Microbiology, Surgery, Gynaecology and Anaesthesia has been constituted to investigate the recent maternal deaths. Bhilwara District Collector Jasmeet Singh Sandhu also inspected the hospital and, after reviewing available reports, ruled out infection as the cause, stating that the women died due to different medical reasons and that all necessary precautions were being followed. The Bhilwara deaths come amid a series of similar incidents in Rajasthan. In May, five women died after childbirth at a government hospital in Kota, while in June six women developed kidney failure after Caesarean deliveries at a government hospital in Bikaner, with two later succumbing during treatment.

The findings of the Bhilwara probe are now expected to determine whether any systemic lapses or procedural shortcomings contributed to the latest deaths and whether further action will be taken against those found responsible.

M Launches “Uningthou Uyok”
Plantation Drive at Olympian Park

IMPHAL, 11 JULY, 2026



Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand on Friday launched the “Uningthou Uyok” plantation drive at the SEEDS Complex, Olympian Park, Imphal West District.

The initiative was organized jointly by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, SEEDS, and the “Editors’ Guild Manipur under the department’s “Ching-Pat-Turel” campaign. The programme aims to promote environmental conservation through the plantation of Uningthou, the State Tree of Manipur. Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister planted an Uningthou sapling. During his address, he recalled the incidents of May 13 last, when three pastors lost their lives in an ambush by unidentified persons. He said that around 18 people were subsequently captured

at Leilon Vaiphei by suspected Kuki militants. Of them, 12 were later released while six were abducted. He said that he had visited Makhnan village along with Meitei and Naga MLAs to meet the affected families, where the victims identified five individuals allegedly involved in the incident. Based on the names provided by them, two suspects have already been apprehended, he added. Responding to a

question on the remaining suspects, the Chief Minister said that it is the responsibility of the Government and law enforcement agencies to ensure their arrest, and that necessary instructions have already been issued. Earlier, the Chief Minister launched “Uningthou Uyok”, a tree plantation programme under the Department of Environment and Climate Change’s “Ching-Pat-Turel” campaign at

the SEEDS Complex, Olympian Park, Imphal West District. The initiative aims to promote environmental conservation through the plantation of Uningthou, the State Tree of Manipur. The programme was organised jointly by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, SEEDS and the Editors’ Guild Manipur. Shri Yumnam Khemchand also planted an Uningthou sapling as part of the programme. Following the programme, the Chief Minister inspected various facilities at Olympian Park and reviewed the condition of its infrastructure. He expressed concern over the state of affairs in the park, including issues related to water supply and maintenance, and directed the concerned officials to take necessary measures for their restoration and improvement at the earliest so that the park can be revived for public use.

Regarding the reopening of

Olympian Park, the Chief Minister observed that while people are still hesitant to visit places perceived as risky, the prevailing situation is gradually improving with the return of peace. He expressed hope that the park would be reopened to the public in the near future. MLA Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh, Managing Director of the Manipur Police Housing Corporation Limited (MPHCL Ltd.) L. Kailun, Deputy Commissioner of Imphal West Mayanglambam Rajkumar, Director of Environment and Climate Change Dr. T. Brajakumar, All Manipur Working Journalist’s Union President Asem Bhakta Singh, General Secretary AMW-JU Kweirapam Naoba, Manipur Hill Journalist Union

Peter Adani, members of Editor’s Guild Manipur, senior officials and other dignitaries attended the programme, among others.

PM Awas Yojana Under Scanner

Allegedly Ineligible Beneficiaries Get Houses, Eligible Villager Waits Since 2023

Koti Banal resident Sardar Singh Rawat alleges serious departmental negligence; documents indicate his case was examined, yet housing benefit remains pending

Complaints over exclusion of eligible families and inclusion of allegedly ineligible beneficiaries also dominate public grievance camp in Barkot

SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot, Uttarakashi, Uttarakhand : Serious questions have been raised over the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in Naugaon block of Uttarakashi district, with allegations that some people owning permanent, concrete-roofed houses have received benefits while genuinely needy families living in inadequate housing continue to wait. Sardar Singh Rawat, a

resident of Koti Banal village, has alleged that he has been making rounds of government offices since 2023 in the hope of getting a house sanctioned under the scheme, but has yet to receive the benefit. According to documents provided by Rawat, his case was taken up for inquiry in 2023. The inquiry report reportedly recorded that agriculture was his primary source of livelihood, his family consisted of five members, he had only one room for accommodation, and



private land was available for construction of a house. The report also stated that his house would be geo-tagged once the housing portal opened. Despite this, Rawat claims that he has continued to wait for the benefit for nearly three years.

Allegations Raise Questions Over Beneficiary Selection

Rawat alleged that while genuinely needy families living in kutcha or inadequate houses are being left out, some allegedly ineligible persons with permanent concrete-roofed houses have received housing benefits. The allegations have raised questions over the transparency of beneficiary identification, verification and selection under the housing scheme. Rawat has demanded that the entire process be investigated and that responsibility be fixed if any irregularities are established.

PMAY Complaints Dominate Barkot Public Grievance Camp

The issue has gained fur-

ther attention after several complaints related to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana were raised during the recently organised “Jan-Jan Ki Sarkar, Jan-Jan Ke Dwar” public grievance camp in Barkot. A significant number of complainants reportedly approached District Magistrate Prashant Arya with grievances concerning the housing scheme, including allegations that eligible families had been left out while allegedly ineligible beneficiaries had received houses. The complaints have brought the implementation and verification process under scrutiny, with affected villagers seeking a transparent inquiry into beneficiary selection.

Appeal to Chief Minister

and District Magistrate
Sardar Singh Rawat has appealed to the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and District Magistrate Prashant Arya to examine his case and sanction a house for him if he fulfils the prescribed eligibility criteria.

The case has raised a key question: If Rawat's housing and family circumstances were recorded during an official inquiry in 2023, why has his claim remained unresolved for years? With similar complaints emerging from other villagers, affected families are now hoping that the district administration will conduct a fair investigation and ensure that the benefits of the housing scheme reach those who are genuinely eligible.



EDITORIAL.

G'day Chennai:
The Big Bash Breaks
New Ground

Cricket has always been a powerful vehicle for diplomacy, but the announcement that Australia's Big Bash League (BBL) will launch its 2026–27 season at Chennai's M.A. Chidambaram Stadium represents a bold paradigm shift. Unveiled by Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Anthony Albanese as part of the “G'day Namaste” bilateral initiative, the December 12 season opener between the Melbourne Renegades and the Perth Scorchers marks the first time a BBL match will be played outside Australia. This is more than just a promotional exhibition; it is a calculated, strategic foray into the epicenter of global cricket commercialism. For Cricket Australia (CA), taking its premier domestic T20 product to India makes perfect sense. The subcontinent's appetite for short-form cricket is insatiable. Interestingly, CA's data revealed that Indian television viewership for the BBL last summer actually outpaced broadcast numbers for the iconic Ashes Test series by 50 percent. By planting its flag in Chennai, the BBL is seeking to convert passive television viewers into active brand loyalists. More importantly, it acts as a showcase for potential Indian private investment, a vital necessity as the BBL flirts with privatization to compete financially with newer, high-paying leagues in South Africa and the UAE.

Selecting Chennai—historically known as Chempauk—is an inspired choice. The 38,000-capacity venue is home to the IPL's most revered franchise, the Chennai Super Kings. While local fans are traditionally wrapped in CSK yellow, Chempauk boasts arguably the most knowledgeable and appreciative cricket audience in the country. They have famously given standing ovations to victorious visiting Pakistani teams in the past; they will undoubtedly embrace the high-octane entertainment, pyrotechnics, and distinct “family festival” flavor that defines the Australian Big Bash. Furthermore, seeing familiar faces like Perth's Mitchell Marsh—who have already built a deep resonance with Indian fans through their IPL stints—will bridge any initial cultural gap. Naturally, the venture is not without its risks. Staging a high-profile cricket match in Chennai in mid-December places it squarely at the tail-end of the unpredictable northeast monsoon, a period historically prone to heavy rain and flooding. With no official reserve day scheduled, organizers are already tweaking playing conditions to allow extended cut-off times. There is also the minor logistical quirk of the local 2:40 PM start time overlapping with the fourth day of the Australia-New Zealand Test match in Perth.

Yet, the symbolic and structural rewards far outweigh these operational hurdles. This historic fixture creates a fascinating precedent for reciprocal sporting diplomacy. As Cricket Australia executives have already hinted, a successful BBL debut on Indian soil could comfortably pave the way for a future, long-rumored regular-season IPL match to be hosted Down Under.

As global sports leagues like the NFL and NBA increasingly export regular-season games to Europe and Asia to capture international markets, cricket is finally evolving to follow a similar globalized blueprint. When the Renegades and Scorchers walk out under the Chennai sky this December, they will be doing more than just playing for points. They will be writing the opening chapter of a highly integrated, borderless future for domestic T20 cricket.



GHAZAL

A ghazal
is not written.
It awakens.
Not in ink
but in the pulse
that teaches ink to breathe.
Not in language
but in the silence
from which every language is born.
It is the unseen river
flowing beneath history,
the secret music
inside every beating heart.
When hunger
first carved
its alphabet upon the human soul...
When an unborn child
listened to eternity
through the rhythm
of a mother's heartbeat...
When a farmer's plough
signed tomorrow
upon the waiting earth...
When a seed,
buried in the cathedral of darkness,
answered the grave
with a green resurrection...
When the sculptor's chisel
did not break the stone,
but released
the angel hidden inside it...
When clay,
in the patient hands of the potter,
became a cup
large enough to hold another's
thirst...
When the spider,
after every shattered heaven,
stitched hope
with threads invisible to despair...
When a lamp
burned away its own name
to leave only light...
When mountains
learned the language of stillness,
when rivers
memorised the art of journey,
when clouds
became scriptures of mercy,
when forests
breathed ancient hymns,
when the wind
sang without a tongue,
when fields
wore emerald dreams,
when harvests
laughed in gold,
and the earth
opened her weathered palms
to bless every living footstep...
When the drumbeat,
the dancer's anklets,
the bells of patient oxen,
the unwavering footsteps of a soldier,
the sacred sweat of a labourer,
a mother kissing her child,
the sweetness hidden in that kiss,

and the laughter of an infant
merged
into one eternal heartbeat
calling humanity
home...
When tears
forgot grief
and remembered compassion...
When suffering
forgot despair
and remembered courage...
When sacrifice
forgot reward
and remembered grace...
When love
forgot possession
and remembered eternity...
When one human being
looked into another
and found
not a stranger,
not an enemy,
not a nation,
not a religion,
not even a face—I
but another reflection
of the same immortal light...
That
is a Ghazal.
It is
the rain remembered by deserts.
The fragrance remembered by
flowers.
The sky remembered by birds.
The shore remembered by rivers.
The dawn remembered by darkness.
The prayer
remembered by silence.
When every whisper of nature,
every wound of time,
every drop of sweat,
every grain of hunger,
every act of kindness,
every unfinished dream,
every impossible hope,
every trembling prayer,
every breath of love
becomes
one river, one rhythm,
one heartbeat, one endless song
there are
no borders, no names,
no crowns, no chains,
no victories, no defeats.
Only Love
becoming Light.
Compassion
becoming Breath.
Humanity
becoming Eternal.
And the name
the universe
has whispered
to that infinite music
since the beginning of time
Ghazal

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



OPINION
Ethanol Gamble: 30% Less Energy
INDIA NEEDS MULTI-FUEL SECURITY

India's ethanol push is no longer just about blending petrol. With proposals to extend its use to aviation, the debate has intensified over whether the country is rushing into a fuel whose costs may outweigh its benefits. Concerns range from damage to existing vehicles and lower fuel efficiency to groundwater depletion, food security, the diversion of crops from the food chain and severely low energy density.

Many experts believe the real future of biofuels lies not in food crops but in converting crop residues, municipal waste and other biomass into cleaner fuels. The E10 or 100 millilitre ethanol per 10 litre of petrol, could be a myth with its low burning capacity – energy density and high-water content, though it could boost profits of distilleries. It's doubtful if it could give the required thrust to a car or now as planned for aircraft as well by the government.



Even the push for ethanol for cars is yet not cleared by any lab or study. As per government's admission in court, it is doing a mass experiment with it and it's not clear with whose legal sanction. Intriguing is the recent press conference by three auto companies - Maruti Suzuki, Toyota Kirloskar, and Hero MotoCorp. They mislead the public. Toyota owners' manual contradicts what the company affirms. It does not give clean chit to ethanol. This apart a number of auto companies want guarantees for ethanol use.

India's ethanol blending programme with unproven energy security, is reshaping crop priorities, with farmers favouring maize over pulses and oilseeds, risking food security. The Economic Survey 2025-26 has warned of increased dependence on edible oil imports and food price volatility, highlighting a conflict between energy and food self-reliance.

Diverting sugarcane, rice and maize to ethanol production risks raising food prices, reducing food security and worsening groundwater depletion. Expanding maize cultivation has

displaced pulses and oilseeds, increasing dependence on edible oil imports. Higher maize demand has also raised livestock feed costs, hurting poultry and dairy sectors. Diverting surplus rice and sugarcane may strain the public distribution system, while water-intensive ethanol crops further aggravate India's growing water crisis.

Additionally, when the ethanol in E10 absorbs too much atmospheric moisture (especially in humid environments or if a car sits idle), it triggers phase separation. The ethanol and water bond together, sinking to the bottom of the fuel tank. It corrodes the engine, cause sputtering, stalling, and significant damage to fuel injectors and metal parts.

The ethanol blending move calls for immediate withdrawal till detailed prolonged tests are done in government labs. The government has not clarified how a half-baked idea is forcefully implemented without a study or Lab clearance. No formal clearance has yet been accorded.

Why India Does Not Follow
Brazil Transition

Brazil built its ethanol ecosystem over five decades, driven by the 1973 oil crisis. (In 1930, it allowed a blending law). The government initiated the Proálcool programme in 1975, introduced mass-produced ethanol-only cars by 1979, and launched flex-fuel (E27, E35 E100, 25 to 30 percent cheaper) vehicles (FFVs) in 2003. This phased approach allowed simultaneous upgrades to fuel pumps, vehicle engines, and sugarcane production. It worked with auto giants for developing fully ethanol compliant engine. It never till today made any bit compulsory. Above all Brazil worked step by step.

India is seemingly in hurry without a preparation and scientific approach. Implementation of critical tech should be easy and never be coercive. Here profit, unfortunately, alone seems the inspiration. India forced a blanket blend without price reductions, creating dissatisfaction due to the resulting 5–12 percent drop in fuel mileage and ethanol-water blend costs the same as petrol, ensuring higher profits to distilleries.

Ethanol-Water damages: ARAI

The ARAI study on E20 (20% ethanol) does not suggest a blanket disapproval but presents a mixed picture. While engines generally survive, testing by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) found that prolonged use of E20 in older vehicles designed for E10 can accelerate deterioration of rubber fuel-system. Over 90 percent of vehicles in India are not E20 compliant. The mileage loss has a cost.

India's installed ethanol production capacity is 1,810 crore litres annually, spanning 499 operational distilleries. Driven by grain feedstocks like maize, producers average an estimated profit of Rs 20 to 25 per litre. Distilleries have cumulatively earned over Rs 1.96 lakh

crore. Reducing the price of government rice to Rs22.5 per kg has widened ethanol producers' margins, with production costs of Rs38–42 per litre versus a government-fixed price of Rs60–65.

Best Residues, Wastes

Whether ethanol is a clean fuel depends on its full lifecycle, not just tailpipe emissions. Ethanol is only one part of India's broader biofuel strategy, alongside compressed biogas, sustainable aviation fuel, renewable diesel and bioethanol for hard-to-decarbonise sectors. The next generation biofuels have to be made from farm residues, municipal waste and other non-food biomass, stubble and methane emissions.

What's Ethanol Hurry?

Nothing adequately explains the extraordinary rush towards ethanol. India needs a cafeteria approach to energy, offering multiple fuel options rather than replacing one form of dependence with another. The experience of the US-Iran conflict, which exposed the country's vulnerability to disruptions in petroleum supplies despite widespread adoption of LPG and petroleum-based fuels under schemes like Ujjwala, underscored the risks of over-reliance on a single energy source. Energy security lies in diversification—not in putting too many eggs in one basket.

Ethanol alone will not deliver India's climate goals. Neither will electric vehicles. India's clean energy future will be built on an ecosystem where renewable electricity, electric mobility, green hydrogen and advanced biofuels complement one another rather than compete.

The push for ethanol seems misplaced. Ethanol is only one component of a much broader ecosystem. The carbon footprint math gets complicated because ethanol has roughly 33 percent less energy density leading to a vehicle has to burn more volume than petrol - inflating the emissions and cost-per-mile story. Savings on forex is more a myth.

The electric vehicle progress is uncertain. But aviation, shipping, heavy commercial vehicles and several industries will continue to require liquid and gaseous fuels for decades. The ethanol could be a reserve fuel but not a regular one as its actual costs and environmental hazards are high. It would be more expensive than petrol and never match petroleum fuels.



SHIVAJI SARKAR

WILL INDIA BECOME
A DEVELOPED NATION LIKE THIS?

The dream of becoming a developed nation by 2047 is not merely a government objective; it represents the aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians. It promises to make India the world's third-largest economy, with modern cities, world-class infrastructure, and a better quality of life. Yet every monsoon holds up a mirror to this dream, one that reflects not shining claims of progress, but waterlogged roads, hours-long traffic jams, overflowing sewers, collapsing roads, and helpless citizens. The real question is not how much it rained. The real question is whether our urban infrastructure is still incapable of withstanding even normal monsoon rainfall. This year, the monsoon covered the entire country on schedule. While this was welcome news for farmers, it also brought back the familiar urban crisis. In Delhi, just a few hours of rainfall submerged underpasses, caused massive traffic congestion on major roads, and brought normal life to a standstill in several areas. In Gurugram, nearly 115 mm of rainfall brought traffic on NH-48 and Sohna Road to a halt for hours. The city is known for its IT companies and towering skyscrapers, but every monsoon proves that its greatest weakness is not the weather, it is its drainage system.

Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, is no different. Areas such as Gomti Nagar, Ashiyana, Jankipuram, Aliganj, and several newly developed colonies witness the same scenes every year. Roads inaugurated only a few months earlier begin to deteriorate after the first spell of heavy rain. In some places, the asphalt washes away; elsewhere, potholes appear, and in many areas, entire stretches of road cave in. The city has expanded rapidly, but its drainage infrastructure has not kept pace.

New residential colonies continued to emerge without adequately addressing one fundamental question: where will the rainwater go? The root of the problem is not heavy rainfall alone; it lies in our approach to development. In India, preparations for digging up a road often begin even before it is completed. Today, a sewer line is laid; a few months later, a gas pipeline follows; then electricity cables are installed, followed by fiber-optic networks. Every department works independently, but none follows a coordinated plan. As a result, roads built at the cost of millions of rupees are repeatedly dug up and reconstructed, while ordinary citizens ultimately bear the cost of poor-quality infrastructure. In developed countries, underground utilities are planned in an integrated manner before roads are constructed. In India, roads are often built first, while planning comes later.

The biggest weakness in this entire system is the absence of accountability. Municipal corporations claim to have cleaned drains, the Public Works Department claims to have built quality roads, development authorities claim to have created modern townships, and water authorities claim to have improved sewer systems. Yet when it rains, every department blames another. How many engineers are suspended when roads collapse after the first rainfall? How many contractors are blacklisted? How many officials are held accountable? The public can hardly recall any such examples. That is why the same mistakes are repeated every year, followed by another round of promises. Corruption remains one of the strongest roots of this crisis. If a road designed to last ten years deteriorates within a single year, it is not merely a technical failure it is a waste of public money. If crores of rupees are spent on

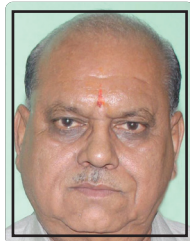
cleaning drains, yet streets become flooded after the first rainfall, the conclusion is obvious: either the work was not carried out honestly, or oversight failed completely. The greatest obstacle to development is not a shortage of resources but the misuse of available resources.

A recent World Bank report states that India's urban population could reach nearly 950 million by 2050, while more than half of the urban infrastructure required by then has yet to be built. The report also warns that unless Indian cities are made resilient to climate change, urban flooding alone could result in annual losses worth billions of dollars. Delhi and Lucknow are among the 24 cities examined in the report. Climate change has further intensified this crisis. Episodes of extremely heavy rainfall within short periods are becoming increasingly common. At the same time, cities have destroyed their own natural drainage systems by encroaching upon streams, ponds, wetlands, and traditional rainwater channels. Places where rainwater once naturally seeped into the ground are now covered with concrete. Areas that once served as drainage pathways are occupied by high-rise buildings. When nature's drainage routes are blocked, water inevitably creates its own path and that path is usually our roads.

A developed India cannot be defined solely by bullet trains, metro systems, or expressways. A truly developed India is one where an ambulance carrying a pregnant woman is not trapped in traffic because of rain; where schoolchildren do not have to wade through filthy floodwater; where shopkeepers are not forced to shut down their businesses because of waterlogging; and where people are not compelled to flood social media with images of submerged capital cities after the first rainfall. The time has come not merely for

announcements but for systemic reform. Every city must have a scientifically designed drainage master plan. Coordination among all utility agencies should be mandatory before road construction begins. Contractors must be legally bound by strict quality guarantees. If a road fails after the first rainfall, payments should be withheld and the officials responsible must be held personally accountable. Old ponds, natural drains, and traditional rainwater channels should be restored. Municipal bodies must undergo regular social and technical audits.

Unless corruption is confronted with uncompromising determination, every monsoon will continue to wash away the claims of development. The year 2047 is not far away. Every passing monsoon reminds us that the path to a developed India does not run through parliamentary declarations alone, it runs through the streets that ordinary citizens use every single day. If Delhi, Lucknow, and cities across the country continue to come to a standstill after the first rainfall every year, then the problem lies not in the clouds, but in our policies. The dream of becoming a developed nation will become a reality only when the monsoon brings relief instead of fear, resilience instead of disruption, and confidence instead of hardship.



AJAY KUMAR
Senior Journalist,
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NIA Chargesheets 8 in Ambala IED Blast Case

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted eight accused, including Pakistan-based gangster-turned-terrorist Shehzad Bhatti, in connection with the January 2026 IED car bomb blast at the Baldev Nagar Police Station in Ambala, Haryana. The other accused named in the chargesheet are Karamjit Singh alias Tony, Akash, Soureb alias Sobi alias Sourab, Raman Kumar, Satyam, Sukhdev Singh alias Sukha, and Amarjeet Singh alias Ambi. The chargesheet, filed before the Special NIA Court in Panchkula, alleges that the accused conspired to target police establishments and spread terror. According to the NIA, Shehzad Bhatti recruited and radicalised operatives through social media and encrypted communication platforms, while local modules arranged logistics, procured explosives, and executed the attack under his direction. The NIA said the investigation into the case is continuing.

BJP offered my party MLA Rs 20-30 crore: Omar Abdullah's 'Operation Lotus' charge

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah attacked the BJP-led Centre and asked it not to mistake his patience for weakness on the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir, and demanded clarity on what it meant by the "appropriate time" for taking that step. Is "Operation Lotus" brewing in Jammu and Kashmir? That is the million-dollar question after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah alleged that the BJP had attempted to lure National Conference MLAs to bring down his government. Addressing a rally in Srinagar on Saturday, Abdullah claimed that a BJP leader and a Supreme Court advocate had approached one of his MLAs, allegedly offering him Rs 20-30 crore, a ministerial berth and restoration of statehood in exchange for switching sides. "They offered him Rs 20-30 crore, a ministerial position and restoration of statehood. But they failed to purchase even one of our MLAs," Abdullah said.

Ram Mandir Theft a Disgrace: Nripendra Mishra

At a meeting, Mishra said the focus had shifted to temple management, with a high-level panel selecting a CEO candidate before the trust reviews governance reforms on July 22. Ram Temple Construction Committee chairman Nripendra Mishra on Saturday described the donation theft at the Ayodhya temple as a "disgraceful blot", saying everyone connected with it felt deeply humiliated and let down. He also said the temple management system would be improved to prevent such incidents from happening again. Speaking ahead of the second day of the committee's meeting, Mishra said the issue now related to temple management. He also referred to steps being taken within the trust, including the setting up of a high-level panel to suggest a name for the appointment of a chief executive officer, while the trust is due to meet again on July 22 to discuss measures to improve the management system. Mishra, who arrived in Ayodhya on Friday for the first day of the Ram Temple Construction Committee's meeting, told reporters, "This (alleged

HOMELAND

Double Crisis Grips Syanachatti

SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand : Monsoon rains have intensified the crisis along the Yamunotri National Highway, the lifeline of the famous Yamunotri shrine, with recurring landslides and debris repeatedly disrupting traffic at Syanachatti, Hanumanchatti and Jangalchatti. The situation is particularly alarming at Syanachatti, where the hillside has been continuously giving way for nearly a week, affecting road connectivity. At the same time, the swollen Yamuna River is flowing dangerously close to several buildings in the market area, triggering concern among local residents. With debris tumbling down the hillside on one side and the rising Yamuna threatening structures on the other, Syanachatti market is facing a double crisis. Repeated landslides have disrupted vehicular movement, while the strong river current has raised serious concerns over the safety of buildings situated along the riverbank. Taking note of the gravity of the situation, District Magistrate Prashant Arya, accompa-

Hillside Crumbles Above, Swollen Yamuna Laps at Buildings Below
Landslides disrupt Yamunotri Highway for nearly a week; traffic repeatedly affected at Syanachatti, Hanumanchatti and Jangalchatti
DM Prashant Arya inspects disaster-hit areas; orders completion of valley bridge within a week, more machinery for Yamuna channelisation and solar lights along affected footpath



nied by officials from various departments, carried out an extensive on-site inspection of the disaster-affected area. He reviewed landslide-prone stretches, the rising water level of the Yamuna, road conditions and other vulnerable locations, and directed officials to undertake necessary works on a war footing. **Valley Bridge to Be Completed Within a Week** During the inspection of the Kupda motor road, the

District Magistrate directed the authorities to complete the under-construction valley bridge within one week. He also instructed officials to restore the motor road at the earliest to ensure safe and uninterrupted connectivity for residents of the affected area. **More Machinery for Yamuna Channelisation** In view of the rising water level and strong current of the Yamuna at Syanachatti, the District Magistrate directed

the Irrigation Department to deploy additional machinery for channelisation work. Officials were asked to accelerate protection works at vulnerable locations and maintain constant monitoring of the situation to minimise risks during the monsoon.

Solar Lights to Be Installed Along Affected Footpath

To ensure safer movement of residents through the disaster-affected area, the District Magistrate also ordered the installation of solar lights along the pedestrian route.

He directed all concerned departments to remain on high alert throughout the monsoon and ensure an immediate response to any disaster-related emergency. The DM also stressed close coordination among departments, regular monitoring of vulnerable locations and immediate deployment of machinery and other resources whenever roads are blocked. Recurring landslides at Syanachatti, Ha-

numanchatti and Jangalchatti continue to pose a major challenge along the Yamunotri National Highway. With the hillside repeatedly crumbling and the swollen Yamuna flowing perilously close to buildings, the administration now faces the crucial task of maintaining connectivity while accelerating relief, restoration and protection works across the vulnerable region.

During the inspection, the District Magistrate was accompanied by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Brijesh Kumar Tiwari, NH Executive Engineer Manoj Rawat, Irrigation Department Executive Engineer Panni Lal, PWD SDO Juhveer Tomar, District Disaster Management Officer Shardul Gusain, District Information Officer Karmveer Sharma, Irrigation Department SDO B.R. Bijalwan, Electricity Department SDO Ajay Semwal and NH Junior Engineer Brijmohan Nautiyal, besides several other officials and employees.



NFR Records Consistent Freight Performance with 1025 Rakes Unloaded in June

MALIGAON, 11 JULY, 2026

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) maintained its strong freight momentum in June 2026 by registering an impressive performance. During the month, a total of 1,025 freight rakes were unloaded across the zone, reflecting a strong and encouraging freight operations.

NFR continued to ensure the uninterrupted transportation of essential and industrial commodities throughout June 2026. Commodities such as food grains, food-grade items, fertilizers, sugar, coal, salt, tank wagons and other goods were handled efficiently at various goods sheds across the zone, enabling timely distribution and reinforcing the reliability of its freight services.

A significant share of the freight traffic was dedicated to meeting the requirements of the Northeastern states. Assam accounted for the highest unloading with 589 rakes, comprising

272 rakes of essential commodities and 317 rakes of non-essential commodities, underscoring the vital role of Railways in supporting public distribution systems, industrial activities and daily consumer needs. During the same period, 68 rakes were unloaded in Tripura, 22 rakes in Nagaland, 20 rakes in Manipur, 8 rakes in Arunachal Pradesh and 5 rakes in Mizoram.

In addition, West Bengal recorded the unloading of 184 rakes, while Bihar accounted for 129 rakes comprising both essential and non-essential commodities, further strengthening regional supply chains, trade connectivity and economic activities across the region.

The continuous movement of essential and other commodities is vital for meeting people's daily needs while supporting and strengthening the region's economic activities. Effective monitoring at every level has further helped reduce turnaround time and improve overall unloading efficiency.

Youngest Nobel Laureate - Malala Yousafzai

(On the occasion of "Malala Day" on 12 July)

Global icon, Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist for female education, and the youngest Nobel laureate. He was born on 12 July 1997 in Mingora, Pakistan. When the Taliban took over her home town in 2007, they banned girls from going to school, listening to music and watching television. Malala bravely spoke out and began writing for BBC Urdu in 2009 to share her story and support girls' education. In 2012, she was shot by Taliban gunmen but survived the attack, gaining global attention. Her family shifted to the UK to receive the treatment for her wounds and settled there only. On her 16th birthday in 2013, Malala gave a powerful speech at the United Nations, calling for every child. That day became known as "Malala Day", celebrated annually on 12 July. She later received the Nobel Peace Prize and continues to fight for girls' rights' education and equal rights through the 'Malala Fund'. Malala story inspires millions and highlights the importance of education for all.

Youngest Nobel Laureate - Malala:

Malala Yousafzai advocated for girls' education and women's rights, stood up to injustice even after surviv-

ing a life-threatening attack. Her voice sparked a powerful movement for equality and learning. She wrote her autobiography titled "I Am Malala", reflected on how fame can drive meaningful change or distract from it. Malala, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner at the age of 17 years, known worldwide for her fighting spirit to advocate for gender equality, especially in education and rights. She is a brave fighter, powerful messenger of girls' education, remembered for her courage, ready to extend her helping hand to deprived, and a special girl. This Malala Day focus on her core mission of empowering the girls, defending the right to education, and addressing inequalities. Malala said in her speech "One Child, One Teacher, One Book, One Pen can Change the World", which words are inspiring people all over the globe. She convincingly quotes that one book, one pen are our most powerful weapons to erase the challenges to move smoothly forward. She believes that the three important powers in the world are sword, pen and women. Malala said about day on her name, "It is not my day. Today is the day of every boy, girl, and women who raised their voice for their rights".

Haryana CM Launches Upgraded 'Track and Trace'



Haryana Chief Minister Shri Nayab Singh Saini launching the online services of the Excise and Taxation Department during the Vision 2047 meeting in Chandigarh on July 11, 2026.

CHANDIGARH, JULY 11

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday launched the upgraded 'Track and Trace' system and eight online excise services, taking yet another major step towards the digital transformation of the State's excise administration. The new initiatives are aimed at strengthening transparency through technology-driven governance, enhancing regulatory oversight, safeguarding government revenue and promoting ease of doing business. The Chief Minister launched these services while reviewing the Haryana Vision-2047 roadmap of the Excise and Taxation Department. He also assessed the progress of

sankalps and the progress made by the department in executing the projects and works of Chief Minister's announcements. As part of the initiative, the Haryana Government has introduced an upgraded QR code-based 'Track and Trace' system for liquor. Under the system, every movement of each bottle of liquor, from distilleries and bottling units to wholesale distribution and retail sale will be closely monitored and uniquely identified. The mechanism will enable better tracking of inventory movement, ensure compliance with excise laws, curb the circulation of illicit liquor and promote fair and transparent trade. The upgraded system will also enable the Excise Depart-

ment to undertake real-time monitoring of the entire supply chain, strengthen enforcement against tax evasion and smuggling, support data-driven decision-making and safeguard State revenue. The technology-driven initiative launched by the Chief Minister reflects the Government's commitment to leveraging digital governance for transparent administration, effective regulation and sustained growth in excise revenue. Further advancing the digitisation of excise regulatory processes, the Chief Minister also launched eight new online excise services, significantly expanding the scope of paperless and online delivery of licences and regulatory approvals.

Punjab offers cashless monsoon illness treatment under Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana

The Punjab government has said the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana (MMSY) is providing cashless treatment to eligible families for monsoon-related illnesses, including dengue, malaria, acute fever, viral hepatitis and gastroenteritis, as cases begin to rise during the rainy season.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh said the government has strengthened disease surveillance, hospital preparedness and diagnostic facilities to deal with the seasonal rise in mosquito-borne and water-borne diseases. He also urged people to take precautions and to seek medical attention at the earliest sign of fever.

"Eligible beneficiaries under the MMSY can receive timely cashless treatment without worrying about hospital expenses," the minister said. He asked people to prevent mosquito breeding by removing stagnant water, using mosquito repellents and wearing full-sleeve clothes.

The statement cited the case of 32-year-old Balwinder Kaur from Amritsar, who recently received treatment worth Rs 8,400 under the scheme after being admitted with a high fever. She said hospital staff helped her register under the scheme and that the financial support allowed her to focus on recovery without worrying about medical bills.



In New Zealand, PM Modi spotlights govt's efforts to preserve and honour Sikh legacy

AUCKLAND

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted the unparalleled sacrifices made by Sikh Gurus for humanity and the country while putting in focus the continuous efforts made by his government to preserve the rich Sikh heritage in the country.

Addressing the huge gathering of Indian diaspora in Auckland at the 'Kia Ora Modi' event just before concluding his visit to New Zealand, PM Modi reflected on bringing back the sacred forms of Guru Granth Sahib from Afghanistan, celebrating 'Veer Bal Diwas', resolving FCRA-related problems with service at Sri Harmandir Sahib, constructing a ropeway to Sri Hemkunt Sahib and preserving sacred Jode Sahib at Takht Sri Patna Sahib.

"There is another aspect to India's growth: our heritage. India places as much impor-

tance on its economy and ecology as it does on its heritage. Friends, the sacred forms of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji are an example of how India works. When a crisis struck Afghanistan, we brought the sacred forms of the Guru Granth Sahib to India with full respect," said PM Modi.

He mentioned that the great Sikh Gurus have given the message of service, courage, equality, and compassion to all humanity and Gurudwaras across the world have served as centres of service.

"If someone comes hungry, they receive food. If someone is in distress, they receive support. In this context, some brothers and sisters from the Sikh community informed us that they were facing some FCRA-related problems with service at Sri Harmandir Sahib. We immediately resolved that issue," said PM Modi.

He then highlighted the issues faced by devotees to



reach Sri Hemkunt Sahib and the various government initiatives to resolve long-pending problems.

"It is located high in the Himalayas. It remains surrounded by snow-capped peaks for much of the year. If someone wishes to visit there, the route is very difficult, and very few people are able to do so. Our Sikh brothers and sisters, in particular, travel there. To facilitate the visit, especially for

learning about the sacrifices of the four Sahibzadas and Mata Gujri. Veer Bal Diwas has instilled unwavering courage in the hearts of countless children and youth across India," said Prime Minister Modi.

He also spoke about the role played by the family of Union Minister Hardeep Puri to preserve Sikh heritage.

"I would also like to talk to you about the sacred Jode Sahib. I have a colleague in my government, Hardeep Puri. The Puri family's ancestors were servants of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Hardeep Puri Ji told me that his family has preserved the Jode Sahib of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Mata Sahib Kaur Ji for 300 years. Puri Sahib's ancestors brought them safely to Delhi during Partition. His family wanted to hand over the sacred Jode Sahib to the Sikh community so that more and more people could see them," stated PM Modi.

"Then we formed a committee, consulted experts familiar with Sikh traditions, and decided to take this sacred couple to the place where Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji's feet first touched the sacred land, where he was born — our Sri Patna Sahib. I am very happy that this sacred couple is now on the sacred land of Patna Sahib, and it is my good fortune to have witnessed that sacred occasion, to have been present there. I would also urge you to visit Patna Sahib whenever you visit India," he added.

Highlighting the "incredible enthusiasm and affection" at the diaspora event held in Auckland, Prime Minister Modi thanked the Indian community in the country and also his counterpart from New Zealand, Christopher Luxon, for making it a "memorable experience". "The Indian community in New Zealand is one of the strongest pillars of our friendship.



Indian Ambassador Abhishek Singh presents credentials to Benin Prez

ABUJA

India's Ambassador to Benin, Abhishek Singh, formally presented his Letter of Credence to Romuald Wadagni, President of Benin, at the Presidential Villa in Cotonou, the Indian High Commission to Nigeria stated on Saturday.

The High Commission said that Abhishek Singh formally presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador of India to President Wadagni at the Presidential Villa in Cotonou on 10 July 2026. President Wadagni graciously received Singh and extended his congratulations and best wishes for the assumption of his duties.

Upon assuming his duties, Singh reiterated India's commitment to further strengthening its partnership with Benin and expressed confidence in the continued advancement of bilateral cooperation across diverse sectors.

The High Commission added that it remains committed to fostering and strengthening the bilateral

partnership between India and Benin in the days to come. The High Commission in Abuja is concurrently accredited to Benin and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Ambassador also met with President Wadagni and discussed issues of bilateral importance. His tenure, it said, will further strengthen India-Benin ties.

On Thursday, Singh met Olushegun Adjadi Bakari, Minister of Tourism and Foreign Trade, who is in charge of African Integration, Industry, and the Promotion of Private Investment. The High Commission wrote on X that Singh held productive discussions with Bakari on further expanding India-Benin bilateral cooperation, with a focus on enhancing trade and investment in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, digital payments, tourism, and other sectors of mutual interest.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Kerala couple among 15 Indians killed in Vietnam boat tragedy

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

What began as a dream holiday ended in heartbreak for a couple from Kerala after they were among 15 Indian tourists killed when a speedboat capsized off Vietnam's picturesque Phu Quoc Island on Saturday. The victims were identified as A.C. Thomas (57), owner of the Victory Group of Industries, and his wife Loveni Thomas (56), both natives of Kottarakkara in Kollam district.

Their deaths have been confirmed, sending shockwaves through their hometown and the wider business community. The accident occurred around 1 p.m. local time near Hon May Rut Ngaoi Island, when the tourist speedboat, owned by Ocean Pier Island Company, overturned in rough seas.

Preliminary reports indicate that the vessel encountered strong winds and turbulent waters before capsizing barely 400 metres into its return journey from the island to An Thoi Port.

There were 36 people on board, including 32 Indian tourists and four crew members. While 21 passengers were rescued with the help of nearby boats and Vietnamese rescue teams, 15 Indian tourists lost their lives. Several survivors remain hospitalised, with some reported to be in critical condition. Among the deceased were tourists from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala.

Japan sees India as indispensable partner in Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Report

OTTAWA

The recent visit of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi was intended to convey that India is indispensable to Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) vision, particularly at a time when US President Donald Trump has signalled his apparent distaste for both the FOIP and the Quad, a report has stated.

It noted that Takaichi's revised FOIP reflects this approach by placing greater emphasis on economics while also integrating maritime security, connectivity, and industrial value chains linking the Bay of Bengal with India's Northeast. As a result, the report said, security cooperation extends beyond naval collaboration to a hybrid strategy capable of competing with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the Indian Ocean.

"Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to India can be seen as a shift from diplomatic optics to tangible security building, but it also signifies something else. They've moved markedly closer together but also slightly farther away from Trump and the United States. Takaichi arrived in New Delhi with a narrow list of things to do: tap India as a key partner in Japan's economic security strategy as supply chains fragment and US commitment looks shaky," according to a report in Canada-based Geopolitical Monitor. "Second, she moved



on a declaration of economic security, a joint statement on energy resilience, anchored in projects on critical minerals, semiconductors, upstream oil and gas, and green fuels such as large-scale green ammonia production in India. Seen in light of the 2025 Japan-India Joint Vision for the Next Decade, it also hedges against China-centred supply chains," it added.

The report noted that one of the most significant outcomes of the visit was the growing focus on industry, with semiconductors and critical minerals emerging as key pillars of bilateral cooperation. As Japan seeks to reduce its dependence on China, it said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is positioning India as a democratic, large-scale manufacturing al-

ternative for the United States and other global markets.

The signing of nearly 120 private-sector MoUs reflects the increasing economic necessity driving the partnership between India and Japan.

Highlighting energy as another key area of cooperation, the report further said, "With Trump scrambling to contain his own damage caused by the interruption of oil supply from the Strait of Hormuz, energy resilience became a major issue, as it was with other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) partners. As West Asia is now keenly aware of maritime chokepoints, Japan's POWER Asia (Partnership on Wide Energy and Resources Resilience Asia) initiative and India's inter-

Khalistani extremist networks driving transnational crime: Report

WASHINGTON

The Khalistan movement, as an ethno-religious state project, enjoys little support in India's Punjab, where Sikhs continue to prosper within the world's largest democracy. Overseas, however, some of its most vocal advocates have increasingly been linked to organised crime. The Khalistan flag displayed in California's Stockton isn't a symbol of liberation, but the banner of criminal networks, a report has stated.

"This week, the FBI's 'Operation Hard Ball' delivered a stark reminder of the transnational threat lurking in plain sight within certain segments of the Indian diaspora. In raids across California, including Stockton, agents dismantled parts of the notorious Lawrence Bishnoi crime syndicate—arresting suspects on charges ranging from drug trafficking and extortion to racketeering and targeted killings. Among the evidence: a Khalistan flag flying at one of the raided properties in Stockton, a city long identified as a hotbed of extremist Khalistani criminal activity," according to a report in Khalsa Vox. "Photographs from the operation show law enforcement surrounding homes, making arrests, and uncovering the paraphernalia of a violent enterprise. It was the visible intersection of organised crime and separatist symbolism," it added.

Global rights group revives focus on religious persecution of minorities during 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War



DHAKA

While Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War against Pakistan has long been associated with mass killings, displacement and systematic repression, Brussels-based Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF) said that the religious dimension of the violence remains insufficiently recognised. The organisation noted that Hindu communities were disproportionately targeted and persecuted on the basis of their religious

identity, a report has stated.

The debate over formally recognising the violence committed by the Pakistani forces during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War as genocide has resurfaced at the United Nations following a statement by HRWF on July 3. Although the issue is not new, its renewed prominence reflects a broader shift in global human rights discourse, with increasing emphasis on addressing historical injustices that continue to shape present-day vulnerabilities,

according to a report in Eurasia Review. "Commenting as the 62nd session of the UN Human Rights Council took place, HRWF director Willy Fautre framed the issue not as a matter of retrospective classification, but as a pressing concern for present-day religious freedom. His intervention highlights an increasingly prominent idea within global governance—that accountability for past atrocities is inseparable from the protection of rights today," it added. The report noted that

the failure to fully recognise the religious aspect of the 1971 atrocities continues to have repercussions in the present.

Citing HRWF, it said that "the absence of formal recognition contributes to a fragmented historical narrative", leaving experiences of minority communities at risk of being overlooked and undermining the efforts to strengthen protections for them. According to the report, religious minorities in Bangladesh—including Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians—continue to face persistent challenges, ranging from "land dispossession to periodic outbreaks of communal violence".

HRWF Director Fautre argued that addressing the vulnerabilities requires confronting their historical roots.

"Recognition, in this context, is not simply symbolic. It functions as a mechanism of prevention. By formally acknowledging that the violence of 1971 included systematic persecution on religious grounds, the international community would reinforce norms against identity-based violence.

PoK unrest challenges Pakistan's Kashmir narrative, says Report

NEW YORK

While Pakistan has long projected itself internationally as the representative of Kashmiri Muslims, the ongoing unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) appears to challenge that narrative, a report has stated.

Protesters chanting "Pak Forces Out" have underscored growing discontent, making the demonstrations politically significant not only because of their scale but also because Muslim Kashmiris are directing their anger at Pakistan itself. Pakistani paramilitary forces opened fire on protesters in the principal PoK towns of Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot in June this year, a report in the New York-based think tank Gatestone Institute highlighted.

"The protesters were not armed rebels. They were ordinary Muslim residents—traders, students, lawyers, transport workers, and women—demanding cheaper electricity, affordable wheat flour, and fairer treatment from the



authorities that rule them," it noted. The report noted that the protest began in May 2023 with protests over soaring electricity tariffs and flour shortages, led by the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC)—a coalition of traders, lawyers, transporters, students, and civil society groups. The committee subsequently unveiled a 38-point charter of demands, including subsidised essential commodities and reforms to the local electoral system.

"Years of economic frustration boiled over when

residents complained that although their territory generates substantial hydroelectric power, they were being charged electricity rates they considered unfair while also struggling with rising food prices and shortages," it added. What began as an economic protest, the report said, has now evolved into a broader challenge to the Pakistani authorities in the occupied territory, amid the escalating unrest that left dozens dead.

"Pakistan's response has been harsh. The Awami Action Committee was banned

on June 5 under anti-terror provisions. Its leaders face sedition charges. Internet and mobile communications were suspended. Federal paramilitary forces were deployed," it added. According to the report, the demonstrations by Muslim Kashmiris in PoK reflect a strong popular rejection of the "two-nation theory," highlighting the failure and unsustainability of Pakistan's founding ideology.

Despite Pakistan's long-standing claim that it is the rightful guardian of Kashmiri Muslims and that the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir belongs to it, the report said, growing voices in PoK are rejecting that narrative, asserting that Pakistan is not their protector and that they would be better off without it.

The contrast is particularly notable as Muslims in the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir enjoy greater political rights, economic opportunities, and development than those living in PoK.



Bengal Clears
Fast-Track
for 100 Cr+
Investments

DANKUNI (WB): (JUL 11)

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenudh Adhikari on Saturday announced that his government would introduce a single-window clearance mechanism for investment proposals of Rs 100 crore and above, asserting that land availability would not be a constraint for industries in the state. Speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of Lux Industry Ltd's new facility, touted as one of Asia's largest garments manufacturing plants, at Dankuni in Hooghly district, Adhikari said the government was committed to creating a business-friendly environment and attracting fresh investments. "There will be a single-window clearance system for investment proposals worth Rs 100 crore and above. Land availability will not be an issue for industry," he said, laying the foundation stone for the Rs 600-crore plant.

Atanu
Chakraborty's
payout from
HDFC Bank rose
3.5 pc to Rs 1.07 cr
in FY26

MUMBAI: (JUL 11)

HDFC Bank's Hex-chairman Atanu Chakraborty's overall earnings grew 3.53 per cent to Rs 1.07 crore in FY26, as per disclosures made by the country's largest private sector lender on Saturday. Chakraborty, a career bureaucrat who quit flagging concerns on ethics and governance towards the end of the fiscal, earned Rs 1,07,25,269 in sitting fees and remuneration in FY26, as per the annual report of the bank for the fiscal year. This was higher than the Rs 1,03,58,871 earned in FY25, as per the annual report for the previous fiscal.

HDFC Bank
MD Exit Raises
Governance
Concerns

NEW DELHI: (Jul 11) HDFC Bank MD and CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan on Saturday said abrupt resignation of part-time chairman Atanu Chakraborty was a challenging event and it led to questions about governance standards at the bank. Chakraborty resigned as a part-time chairman of the country's biggest private sector lender on March 18, more than a year before his term came to an end, citing ethical concerns.

This is the first time a part-time chairman of HDFC Bank has left midway, raising concerns about its functioning.

LTM profit
jumps 17 pc to Rs
1,468 cr in Apr-
Jun quarter

MUMBAI: (Jul 11) IT Services company LTM on Saturday reported a 17.1 per cent jump in its June quarter net profit to Rs 1,468.6 crore compared to the year-ago period. The company, promoted by EPC major Larsen & Toubro, had reported a net profit of Rs 1,254.6 crore in the year-ago period, and Rs 1,387.3 crore in the March quarter. Its overall revenue grew 18 per cent on-year in rupee terms to Rs 11,608 crore during the reporting quarter, and was up 2.8 per cent when compared with the March quarter.



MONEY MATTERS

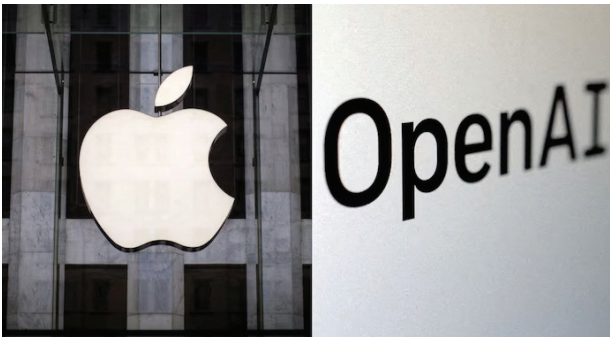
Apple sues OpenAI, ex-employees over trade secrets theft

Apple has sued OpenAI and two former employees, alleging misuse of trade secrets for consumer hardware. The case sharpens tensions between partners as both companies push deeper into AI devices.

Apple has sued OpenAI, its commercial arm, the OpenAI Foundation, io Products, and two former employees, alleging they misappropriated the iPhone maker's trade secrets to accelerate OpenAI's expansion into consumer hardware.

The lawsuit, filed on Friday in the US District Court for the Northern District of California, accuses OpenAI of orchestrating a broad effort to systematically acquire and exploit Apple's confidential information through former employees, recruiting practices, and supplier relationships.

OpenAI did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The legal battle marks a dramatic escalation in tensions between the two companies as competition intensifies in the artificial intelligence sector. The dispute also underscores a broader contest over the future of AI-powered consumer devices



that may operate without traditional apps or operating systems. Analysts believe OpenAI is working on a phone or another consumer device that could eventually compete with Apple's iPhone.

"Apple sees OpenAI moving from partner to potential rival, while OpenAI is trying to reduce its dependence on the iPhone and build a direct relationship with consumers," said PP Foresight analyst Paolo Pescatore. "Even if the allegations are not proven, the lawsuit could delay OpenAI's hardware ambitions and further weaken what is already becoming an increasingly fragile partnership." The lawsuit comes shortly after OpenAI successfully fended off a legal challenge from Elon Musk's xAI. Apple named Chang Liu, a former senior system electrical engineer,

and Tang Yew Tan, Apple's former vice president of product design for the iPhone and Apple Watch, as defendants. Neither immediately responded to requests for comment. According to the complaint, Liu failed to return a company-issued work laptop and later exploited an authentication bug to access Apple's internal network, downloading "dozens of Apple's confidential hardware-related files." Apple also alleged that Tang, who now serves as OpenAI's hardware chief, "methodically" used Apple's confidential information to benefit OpenAI by emailing himself information about Apple suppliers and internal industry summaries before leaving the company. According to his LinkedIn page, Tang spent most of his 24-year career at Apple working on the iPhone.

The company further alleged that Tang encouraged Apple employees to bring Apple parts to OpenAI job interviews for "show and tell" sessions. Apple cited an incident in its filing in which one OpenAI job candidate allegedly remarked that he "didn't even know we could take those from the office." Apple claimed it contacted OpenAI in February to raise concerns that its confidential information was making its way to the AI company and requested discussions on the matter. According to the complaint, OpenAI did not respond. The iPhone maker said more than 400 former Apple employees now work for OpenAI, adding that while many of them possess knowledge of Apple's confidential information, that does not give OpenAI the right to use it. "That OpenAI now employs people who were once entrusted with Apple's trade secrets does not entitle OpenAI to use that information to jumpstart its hardware efforts," Apple wrote in its complaint. Apple also accused OpenAI employees of seeking confidential information from Apple suppliers. In one instance, the company alleged that a supplier carried out what Apple described as a secret metal

finishing technique because it believed OpenAI had Apple's authorisation to use the process. The lawsuit comes despite an existing partnership between the two companies. In 2024, Apple integrated its Apple Intelligence features across its apps, including Siri, and brought OpenAI's ChatGPT to Apple devices. The partnership allows users to access ChatGPT through Siri, while iPhone users can also subscribe to ChatGPT memberships directly from the iOS settings menu. Apple rolled out a long-delayed overhaul of Siri last month, two years after first announcing major upgrades that faced repeated delays. OpenAI has also expanded its hardware ambitions through its \$6.5 billion acquisition of hardware startup io Products, founded by former Apple designer Jony Ive, last year. Apple named io Products as a defendant in the lawsuit, though Ive is not named in the case. A person familiar with the matter had told Reuters in May that OpenAI was exploring legal options against Apple, including notifying the technology giant of a possible breach of contract, although it was not certain that a full lawsuit would be filed.

Singareni Moves towards Coal Gasification Preparations

Underway for Underground.. Coal Gasification Pilot Project

SCCL CMD Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti Discusses Coal Gasification Initiatives with Dr. Srikanth Nagulapalli, Director General of Hydrocarbons

SINGARENI BHAVAN, JULY 10, 2026 :

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is comprehensively exploring opportunities to enter the coal gasification sector in line with the State Government's vision of transforming the company into a diversified energy enterprise, said SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti.

During a meeting held at Singareni Bhavan on Friday evening with Dr. Srikanth Nagulapalli, Director General of the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, the CMD briefed him on the initiatives being taken by SCCL in the



field of coal gasification. Speaking on the occasion, the CMD said that Engineers India Limited (EIL) had carried out a feasibility study for establishing a 400 tonnes per day Ammonium Nitrate Melt Plant at the Singareni Thermal Power Plant (STPP) premises. He noted

that, at present, the project's return on investment is not sufficiently encouraging. Therefore, SCCL is exploring various alternatives to improve the project's viability, including enhancing the plant capacity, availing the Central Government's Viability Gap Funding (VGF)

support, and adopting indigenous technologies. He further informed that a team of SCCL officials will visit major coal gasification projects, including Talcher, MCL-BHEL, and JSPL, later this month to study their operations. Simultaneously, techno-economic studies are also underway to assess the feasibility of surface coal gasification projects in the Bheemana, Chennai South, and Naini areas.

With regard to Underground Coal Gasification (UCG), the CMD stated that SCCL has identified five deep coal blocks in the Bellampalli and Ramagundam regions as potential sites. Preparations are currently in progress to undertake the first pilot project in the Bellam-

palli Dip-side Block, including drilling operations. The project will be implemented under the technical guidance of scientists from the Central Mine Planning & Design Institute/CSIR-CIMFR.

The meeting was attended by Directors Sri. L. V. Suryanarayana (Operations), Sri. K. Venkateswarlu (Projects & Planning), and Sri. Gowtham Potru (Personnel & Finance); Executive Director (Coal Movement) Sri. B. Venkanna; General Manager (Coordination & Marketing) Sri. T. Srinivas; General Manager (Projects Planning) Sri. G. Devender; General Manager (Business Development) Sri. Ramdas; General Manager (R&D) Sri. Venkataramana, along with other senior officials.

MEDICOVER CANCER INSTITUTE SUCCESSFULLY TREATS ADVANCED STAGE LIVER CANCER PATIENT WITH IMMUNOTHERAPY

HYDERABAD, JULY 11

A patient diagnosed with advanced-stage metastatic liver cancer has shown an excellent response to advanced immunotherapy and targeted therapy at Medicovert Cancer Institute, highlighting the significant progress made in the treatment of complex liver cancers.

Dr. A. Venugopal, Senior Consultant Medical Oncologist & Hemato-Oncologist, Medicovert Cancer Institute, said that patients diagnosed with advanced-stage liver cancer previously had very limited treatment options.

However, the advent of modern immunotherapy and targeted therapy has significantly improved outcomes and offered renewed hope to many patients.

A 56-year-old woman, Mrs. Jayalakshmi, from Mustabad in Rajanna Sircilla district, presented to Medicovert Cancer Institute with severe swelling and pain on the right side of her chest.

Comprehensive investigations, including MRI, FNAC, and PET-CT scans, revealed Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC), the most common



form of liver cancer, with metastasis to the right seventh rib and the D10 vertebra.

Following a thorough multidisciplinary evaluation, the oncology team initiated treatment with Atezolizumab-based immunotherapy combined with Bevacizumab targeted therapy, one of the internationally accepted first-line treatment approaches for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma.

After completing six cycles

of treatment, a follow-up PET-CT scan demonstrated remarkable clinical improvement. The scan showed no evidence of metabolically active cancer in the liver, while the metastatic lesions in the rib and spine had regressed significantly.

Encouraged by this excellent response, the patient successfully received her seventh cycle of treatment. She tolerated the therapy well without any major adverse effects and is currently in good health.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. A. Venugopal said, "Many people believe that advanced-stage liver cancer leaves little hope for recovery. However, recent advances in immunotherapy and targeted therapy have transformed the treatment landscape, enabling us to achieve meaningful disease control and improved quality of life, even in patients with metastatic disease. Every cancer patient requires an individualized treatment approach based on

the type, stage, and overall health condition.

Early diagnosis, timely consultation with specialists, and appropriate treatment can make a significant difference in patient outcomes." Medicovert Cancer Institute continues to offer comprehensive, evidence-based cancer care through advanced diagnostics, multidisciplinary expertise, and cutting-edge treatment modalities, providing patients with access to world-class oncology services.

Govt considers pilot AI data trust at IIT Hyderabad: Ashwini Vaishnaw

HYDERABAD, JULY 11



The government is considering launching a pilot project to establish sector-specific data trusts at IIT Hyderabad to make high-quality Indian datasets available for artificial intelligence (AI) development, while ensuring secure and responsible access, Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday. Speaking during an interaction with industry leaders here, Vaishnaw said the proposal emerged from discussions with industry representatives, who suggested setting up data trusts in Indian educational institutions. Welcoming the suggestion, the minister said the government could begin with a pilot project at IIT Hyderabad in partnership with industry. Under the proposed framework, the data trusts would securely host sector-specific Indian datasets with clearly defined usage policies. The datasets would be made available to startups, researchers and companies developing AI applications, while ensuring responsible use and appropriate safeguards.

Vaishnaw said such initiatives could strengthen India's AI ecosystem by improving access to trusted domestic datasets, which remain a key

requirement for building indigenous AI models and applications. The minister also highlighted the rapid growth of India's electronics manufacturing sector, saying production has crossed Rs 13 lakh crore. He said electronics has emerged as India's third-largest export category, while mobile phones have become the country's largest individual export product, reflecting India's emergence as a trusted global manufacturing and technology hub. Last month, Vaishnaw said India is moving towards becoming a trusted global partner in electronics manufacturing as he inaugurated global manufacturing company Jabil's advanced manufacturing facility in Maharashtra. "India to be a trusted global partner in everything electronics. Inaugurated Jabil's new advanced manufacturing facility with Maharashtra CM Dev Fadnis. This high-tech plant will manufacture components of AI data centers, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World', Vaishnaw said.



DMRC MD Vikas Kumar inspects Blue Line stations during night-long visit

NEW DELHI, JULY 11

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's (DMRC) Managing Director Vikas Kumar conducted an inspection on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday to review infrastructure and passenger amenity enhancement works at various stations along the Blue Line corridor, an official said. He inspected and reviewed station remodelling works, installation of new escalators, realignment of AFC Gates and other passenger-centric infrastructure upgrades aimed at improving the overall commuter experience, an official statement said. Anuj Dayal, DMRC Principal Executive Director, said that some of the stations inspected by Managing Director Vikas Kumar included Dwarka Sector-14, Dwarka Mor, Rajouri Garden, Karol Bagh, R K Ashram, Indraprastha and Noida City Centre. The Managing Director instructed the officials to ensure that public convenience and safety remains the highest priority while executing all developmental/upgradation works. He also emphasised the need for maintaining quality, timely execution and minimal inconvenience to commuters. Such detailed night inspections are regularly carried out after operational hours to closely monitor the progress of all passenger-related facilities without disrupting metro services, Dayal added. The night inspection started at midnight

(12 p.m.) from Dwarka Sector-21 station and concluded at Noida City Centre station at 5 a.m. on Saturday. The Managing Director said that the DMRC undertakes majority of its maintenance/infrastructure enhancement activities on operational lines in limited time available during night hours only without any inconvenience to passengers/disruption to normal services. Earlier last month, the DMRC started construction work at the Central Secretariat Metro Station for the Central Vista Corridor in the heart of the national capital. Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, was present on the occasion along with senior officials from the Ministry and DMRC. The station is being developed under Phase V(A) as an extension of the existing Magenta Line from Janakpuri West to RK Ashram Marg. The Central Secretariat station will become a triple interchange station, where the new Magenta Line station will seamlessly connect with the existing Yellow Line and Violet Line. This unique facility will significantly benefit government employees and commuters accessing the Lutyens' Zone and surrounding administrative districts. The corridor spans 9.913 km with nine underground stations, namely Shivaji Stadium, Yuge Yugeen Bharat, Central Secretariat, Kartavya Bhawan, India Gate, War Memorial-High Court, Baroda House, Bharat Mandapam, and Indraprastha.

UP: Bird strike on Dubai-Lucknow plane, authorities say flight not impacted

LUCKNOW: (Jul 11) Airport authorities found indications of a bird strike on a Dubai-Lucknow plane that landed here Saturday morning but said it had no impact on the flight or the safety of passengers. According to the airport sources, Flydubai

flight FZ443 landed safely at Lucknow Airport at 7.11 am on Saturday with 164 passengers on board. "During the routine post-landing technical inspection, indications of a bird strike were observed on the aircraft," a source said.





Winter Brings A Predictable Rise In Respiratory Diseases

Every seasonal transition creates favourable conditions for the spread of respiratory infections. Lower temperatures encourage people to spend more time indoors, increasing close contact and allowing viruses to spread more easily. At the same time, cold weather can irritate the airways, making breathing more difficult for people already living with asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and other chronic lung conditions. Hospitals routinely record a sharp increase in patients suffering from influenza, viral pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma flare-ups, COPD exacerbations, and other respiratory illnesses during the winter months. Older adults, young children, pregnant women, and individuals with existing lung or heart diseases are particularly vulnerable. While these seasonal patterns repeat every year, doctors emphasise that many serious complications could be prevented if patients sought medical care earlier rather than waiting for symptoms to become severe.

Hospitals Start Preparing Long Before Winter Arrives

Contrary to public perception, hospitals do not wait until October or November to prepare for winter. Planning often begins several months earlier, sometimes as early as July. One of the biggest lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic was the importance of maintaining a reliable oxygen supply. Hospitals now regularly inspect oxygen storage systems, pipelines, backup cylinders, and emergency infrastructure well before respiratory illnesses begin to increase. Healthcare facilities also evaluate bed availability and identify areas that can be converted into respiratory care units if patient numbers rise significantly. Intensive Care Units (ICUs), High Dependency Units (HDUs), and emergency departments are reviewed to ensure they can handle an increased number of patients requiring respiratory support. Medical stores are stocked with essential medicines, including antibiotics, antiviral drugs, bronchodilators, nebulisation medicines, corticosteroids, oxygen delivery equipment, and emergency respiratory supplies. These measures help prevent shortages during peak demand. Hospital administrators also revise staffing schedules, strengthen emergency response systems, update treatment protocols, and conduct training sessions for doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, and emergency personnel. Such advance planning allows hospitals to continue providing timely treatment without compromising patient care during seasonal surges.

Don't Wait For Winter

Why Early Action Is Critical For Asthma And COPD Patients

As temperatures begin to drop every year, hospitals across India prepare for a predictable rise in respiratory illnesses. Seasonal viral infections, influenza, pneumonia, asthma attacks, and worsening chronic lung diseases become far more

common during the colder months. While most people notice the increase only when hospitals become crowded, medical institutions begin preparing much earlier to ensure they are ready to manage the surge. Respiratory specialists say

that although winter-related illnesses are expected, one issue continues to cause concern—many patients wait too long before seeking treatment. People often dismiss persistent cough, fever, or breathing difficulties as "seasonal problems" and

delay consulting a doctor until their condition has significantly worsened. According to Dr. Manish Kumar Aggarwal, Principal Director of Chest Diseases and Interventional Pulmonology at Max Hospital, Shalimar Bagh,

early medical intervention can prevent many severe complications. After nearly 25 years of treating patients with chest diseases, he says hospitals are prepared every winter, but patient awareness and timely action remain equally important.

risk of respiratory illnesses during winter:

- Continue prescribed asthma and COPD medications without interruption.
- Use inhalers exactly as instructed by healthcare providers.
- Wear masks when pollution levels are high.
- Avoid unnecessary outdoor exposure during periods of poor air quality.
- Wash hands frequently to reduce viral transmission.
- Stay hydrated to help maintain healthy airways.
- Eat a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables to support immunity.
- Avoid smoking and second-hand smoke exposure.
- Maintain regular physical activity as advised by doctors.
- Receive recommended vaccinations for influenza and pneumonia.
- Schedule routine medical reviews before winter begins.

These simple precautions can significantly reduce the likelihood of severe illness.

Family Awareness Can Save Lives

Family members play an important role in ensuring early medical care. Many elderly patients, particularly those living alone, may underplay their symptoms or hesitate to visit hospitals. Family members should encourage medical consultation whenever breathing difficulties, prolonged fever, or worsening cough develops. Monitoring oxygen levels using pulse oximeters, especially in individuals with chronic lung diseases, can also help identify early deterioration. Supporting loved ones in attending follow-up appointments and ensuring medications are taken regularly can prevent avoidable emergencies.

Early Treatment Means Faster Recovery

Doctors consistently observe better outcomes among patients who seek medical attention promptly. Respiratory infections identified during their early stages are often easier to treat, reducing the need for hospital admission or intensive care. Timely treatment allows antibiotics, antivirals, oxygen therapy, and supportive care to begin before severe complications develop. Patients who delay seeking treatment frequently require longer hospital stays, more aggressive therapies, and extended recovery periods. According to Dr. Aggarwal, patients who arrive even a day earlier often recover much faster than those who wait a week hoping symptoms will disappear.

Healthcare institutions invest months preparing for winter respiratory disease surges through better planning, improved infrastructure, adequate medicine supplies, trained healthcare workers, and enhanced emergency response systems.

Asthma And COPD Patients Need Extra Caution

Individuals with asthma and COPD face a much greater risk during winter because their lungs are already sensitive. Cold air can trigger airway narrowing in asthma patients, leading to wheezing, coughing, chest tightness, and breathlessness. Viral infections often worsen these symptoms, resulting in severe asthma attacks that may require hospitalisation. Similarly, people with COPD frequently experience exacerbations during winter. Respiratory infections can rapidly increase mucus production, worsen coughing, reduce oxygen levels, and make even simple daily activities exhausting. Doctors advise patients with chronic lung diseases to continue taking prescribed medications throughout the year rather than stopping inhalers when symptoms improve. Regular follow-up appointments, proper inhaler use, vaccination, and avoiding pollution exposure can significantly reduce the risk of winter complications.

Preventive Care Begins Before Symptoms Develop

One of the most effective ways to reduce hospital admissions is preventive healthcare. Hospitals often contact patients with chronic respiratory diseases before winter begins and encourage them to undergo routine check-ups. During these visits, doctors review medication plans, assess lung function, check inhaler techniques, and determine whether

treatment adjustments are necessary. Many patients unknowingly use inhalers incorrectly, reducing the effectiveness of their medications. Correcting inhaler technique alone can improve symptom control and reduce the likelihood of emergency hospital visits. Doctors also discuss recommended vaccinations against influenza and pneumonia for eligible individuals, particularly elderly patients and those with chronic illnesses. Preventive care helps identify worsening health conditions before they become emergencies, improving patient outcomes while reducing pressure on emergency departments.

Why Patients Often Delay Seeking Medical Care

Despite repeated public health campaigns, many people continue to ignore early warning signs. Some assume their cough is simply due to changing weather. Others believe fever will settle on its own or consider breathlessness a normal consequence of ageing. Many patients also rely on home remedies or over-the-counter medications without consulting healthcare professionals. According to Dr. Aggarwal, delayed treatment remains one of the biggest challenges during every winter season. He recalls the case of a 60-year-old retired schoolteacher who remained unwell for nearly a week before visiting the hospital. Although her daughter repeatedly encouraged her to seek medical attention, she believed her symptoms were simply

Air Pollution Makes Winter Even More Dangerous

For residents of Delhi-NCR and several other urban regions, winter brings another major health challenge alongside seasonal infections—air pollution. Air Quality Index (AQI) levels frequently cross 300 during November and December, often entering the "Very Poor" or "Severe" categories. Prolonged exposure to polluted air significantly affects lung health, especially among vulnerable populations. Fine particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), vehicle emissions, industrial pollution, construction dust, and crop residue burning combine to create hazardous air conditions

that irritate the respiratory tract. Although pollution does not directly cause viral infections, it damages the lungs' natural defence mechanisms. Pollutants inflame the airways, reduce the lungs' ability to clear harmful particles, and make individuals more susceptible to infections. For people already living with asthma, COPD, Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD), bronchiectasis, or other chronic respiratory illnesses, polluted air can trigger severe breathing difficulties even before viral infections occur.

Doctors warn that when air pollution and viral infections occur simultaneously, the risk of serious illness increases considerably.

Lessons Learned From The Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic permanently changed how hospitals prepare for respiratory emergencies. Healthcare institutions now place greater emphasis on oxygen preparedness, infection control, rapid diagnosis, and patient triage. Hospitals have developed more efficient systems for identifying high-risk patients early and ensuring adequate resources are available before demand peaks. Many hospitals also maintain larger reserves of essential medicines and protective equipment while improving coordination between emergency departments, intensive care units, laboratories, and respiratory specialists. These improvements have strengthened hospitals' ability to respond not only to pandemics but also to predictable seasonal increases in respiratory diseases.

related to the weather and would improve naturally. Instead, she had developed severe viral pneumonia and required eight days of hospital treatment. After recovering, she admitted that she had not realised her condition had become an emergency. Doctors say similar situations occur every winter, often with avoidable consequences.

Six Warning Signs That Should Never Be Ignored

Recognising serious symptoms early can save lives. Doctors advise seeking immediate medical attention if any of the following warning signs appear:

Breathlessness During Routine Activities

Difficulty breathing while performing simple tasks such as walking to the bathroom, climbing a few steps, or speaking in complete sentences should never be ignored.

Blood In Sputum

Small amounts of blood-tinged or rust-coloured mucus may indicate a serious respiratory condition and require prompt medical evaluation.

Persistent Fever With Chest Symptoms

A fever lasting longer than 48 hours, especially when accompanied by cough, chest discomfort, or difficulty breathing, should be assessed by a healthcare professional.

Sharp Chest Pain

Chest pain that worsens while taking a deep breath may indicate pneumonia or other lung-related

complications and requires immediate attention.

Blue Lips Or Fingertips

Bluish discolouration of the lips or fingertips suggests dangerously low oxygen levels and is a medical emergency requiring immediate hospital care.

Sudden Confusion In Elderly Patients

Older adults may not always develop typical symptoms. Instead, sudden confusion, unusual quietness, excessive sleepiness, or behavioural changes accompanied by cough or fever may signal a serious infection. Early recognition of these symptoms allows doctors to begin treatment before complications become life-threatening.

Elderly Individuals Face Greater Risks

Older adults often experience respiratory illnesses differently from younger individuals. Instead of high fever or severe coughing, elderly patients may become confused, weak, unusually sleepy, or lose interest in eating and drinking. Because these symptoms may not immediately appear related to respiratory illness, families sometimes delay seeking medical care. Doctors encourage caregivers to pay close attention to behavioural changes, particularly during winter, as early treatment significantly improves recovery.

Everyday Steps To Protect Lung Health

Doctors recommend several practical measures to reduce the



Shooting World Cup

Ganguly, Pietersen, Anjum inducted Hall of Fame



DUBAI: Former India captains Sourav Ganguly and Anjum Chopra, along with former England skipper Kevin Pietersen, were inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame on Saturday, joining cricket's most exclusive list of legends in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the game. The trio forms the Class of 2026, taking the total number of ICC Hall of Fame inductees to 125. Announced at a ceremony in Edinburgh, the honour celebrates players whose achievements, excellence, and lasting impact have helped shape the history of international cricket. ICC Chairman Jay Shah congratulated the three former captains, saying their accomplishments would continue to inspire future generations. "I am delighted to welcome the latest inductees into the ICC Hall of Fame."

ARCHERY WORLD CUP

Prithika Pradeep claims bronze, powers India



MADRID: The 17-year-old Prithika Pradeep announced herself on the senior international stage with a memorable two-medal haul, securing an individual bronze before playing a pivotal role in India's silver-medal finish in the women's compound team event at Stage 4 of the Archery World Cup in Madrid on Saturday. Competing in her maiden World Cup podium event, Prithika produced a composed display in the women's individual compound bronze-medal contest, defeating Turkiye's Hazal Burun 145-142 to earn her first World Cup medal. The young Indian had earlier missed out on a place in the final after going down 144-142 to Malaysia's Fatin Nurfatimah Mat Salleh in a closely fought semifinal.

FIFA WC

SA midfielder Jayden Adams dies at 25, weeks after WC appearance



CAPE TOWN: South Africa midfielder Jayden Adams has died at the age of 25, just weeks after representing his country at the ongoing FIFA World Cup 2026 in the USA, Mexico, and Canada. Adams featured in all three of South Africa's group-stage matches at the tournament as Bafana Bafana progressed to the knockout rounds. He was an unused substitute in their 1-0 defeat to co-hosts Canada in the Round of 32. South Africa's Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Gayton McKenzie, expressed his shock and grief over the death of the young midfielder, describing him as one of the country's brightest football talents. "It is with profound shock and a heavy heart that I have learnt of the passing of Jayden Adams."

Sutirtha inspires Dabang Delhi to a thrilling win after Ankur's upset rocks Kolkata tie

PANAJI (GOA)

Asian Games medallist Sutirtha Mukherjee delivered when it mattered the most, guiding former champions Dabang Delhi TTC to a thrilling 8-7 victory over HVR Kolkata ThunderBlades after youngster Ankur Bhattacharjee had threatened to turn the contest on its head in Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7 at the Dr Shyam Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium on Saturday.

Delhi appeared headed for defeat after Ankur stunned experienced Indian paddler Sathiyar Gnanasekaran in straight games to hand Kolkata the advantage heading into the final rubber. However, Sutirtha responded with a command-



ing display against her long-time doubles partner Ayhika Mukherjee, winning all three games to complete a remarkable turnaround and preserve Delhi's unbeaten run this season. The tie began with the two overseas singles fixtures. Egypt's Youssef Abdelaziz re-

covered from losing the opening game to defeat Romania's Eduard Ionescu 2-1, giving Delhi the early edge. Kolkata hit back immediately through Singapore's Zeng Jian, who edged Spain's Maria Xiao in a closely fought three-game contest to restore parity. Del-

hi regained the initiative in the mixed doubles as Sathiyar and Maria Xiao defeated Ankur Bhattacharjee and Zeng Jian 2-1, ensuring the former champions carried a slender lead into the closing stages of the tie. The momentum, however, shifted dramatically in the men's singles. Roared on by the crowd, Ankur produced one of the biggest upsets of the season by defeating Sathiyar 3-0. The youngster rallied from 3-9 down to snatch the opening game on Golden Point before dominating the second. Sathiyar forced another Golden Point in the third, but Ankur held his nerve again to complete an impressive straight-games victory, leaving Kolkata needing just one more game to clinch the tie.

Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing: India assured of six U-19 men's medals after dominant QF display

JAKARTA

India guaranteed themselves six medals in the U-19 men's competition at the Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing Championships after six participants advanced to the semifinals with commanding victories in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Saturday. The Indian contingent produced an impressive all-round display across multiple weight categories, with Aditya (55kg), Sikander (60kg), Mausam Suhag (65kg), Devender Choudhary (75kg), Sagar (85kg), and Shubham Rajput (90kg) all progressing to the last four to ensure podium finishes for the country. Aditya opened India's successful run with a clinical 5:0 unanimous decision over the Philippines' Baruis Ephraim John in the 55kg category. Sikander followed suit in the 60kg division, overcoming Tajikistan's Sharifkhon Nuralliev 4:1 to book his place in the semifinals. Mausam Suhag also advanced in the 65kg category, adding another assured medal to India's tally. In the higher weight classes, Devender Choudhary dominated host boxer Muhammad Rayhan Athaillah of Indonesia.

Win against India a big achievement; delighted with top ranking, says Buttler

SOUTHAMPTON



England wicketkeeper-batter Jos Buttler expressed immense delight on securing a comprehensive 4-0 series sweep against India, which also propelled the hosts to the number one spot in the ICC Men's T20I team rankings, adding that it's a big achievement that came due to the contributions of all players.

Buttler, who roared back to form with a blistering 131 off 64 balls to claim the player-of-the-match award, stitched a massive 233-run second-wicket partnership with Brook (95 not out) to guide England to a colossal 257/3 in the fifth and final T20I here at The Rose Bowl on Saturday.

"Delighted. Had a lean patch for a bit. Happy to be back to my best. Always feel due, just the World Cup actually. Felt good about my game in the IPL, something about putting on the England shirt. Harry's incredible, putting incredible pressure on bowlers. Gotta give yourself time, belief, and trust in your game."

"We were going for as many as possible. We got two on this big ground, which helped construct big overs. Good pitch too, we needed the runs too. Great team performance, to win 4-0 against India is a big achievement. Different players have made great contributions across disciplines, which is the most pleasing thing for the guys," Buttler said at the post-match presentation.

Brook, who became Player of the Series for hitting 229 runs in four innings, lauded his bowling unit, particularly the spinners,

for executing the plans perfectly and added that he enjoyed batting with Buttler.

"We had a lot of fun. Ran well, hit boundaries, and complemented each other. We were just trying to get ourselves into the best position we could. Cricket is a simple game we complicate. Just watched the ball and played the best shot for it. I'm striking the ball nicely."

"We've got ourselves to World No. 1, which was a game after a couple of games. All boys are delighted, and we deserve to celebrate. You have to create pace on the ball while hitting the spill. We have spinners with nous and have the ability to make batters think. We've bowled a lot of spin, and

they've been exceptional. We've communicated really well in the last 12 months, and we've executed things really well," he concluded.

'England outplayed India in every facet,' says Dinesh Karthik after 4-0 defeat Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik was critical of the Shreyas Iyer-led side's 4-0 T20I series defeat to England, stating that the reigning T20 World Cup winners were outplayed by the hosts in every facet of the game.

The heavy 56-run defeat at The Rose Bowl capped off a winless T20I tour for India, who have also been dethroned from the top of

the ICC Men's T20I rankings by England after suffering their sixth consecutive defeat on the trot in the shortest format. "India were in a bad place mentally coming into the series. But England have absolutely dominated India, who are the T20 world champions."

"Across every facet of the game, England have outplayed India. That tells you they are deserving of the No 1 spot. What's been impressive is their intent with bat and ball. Well done to England. It's been beautiful watching them dominate this format," Karthik said on Sky Sports Cricket at the conclusion of the series.

Former England captain Eoin Morgan praised the management

under captain Harry Brook and coach Brendon McCullum for ensuring a seamless transition after the Test series defeat to New Zealand.

"To completely sweep aside a very talented India team like England have, has been incredibly impressive. In turn, they have become the number one-ranked side in the world. Now they will be chased. England's expectations change from a bilateral series to a World Cup focus. England needs to enjoy that favourites tag."

"England's backroom staff came into this series with pressure on them. The transition from one format to another has seen a clear line drawn from the Test

match series. Harry Brook and Brendon McCullum have not taken any baggage from one format to the other," he said.

Meanwhile, former India wicketkeeper Deep Dasgupta urged selectors to look at the larger picture while highlighting tactical errors and a sub-par fielding effort from the visitors. "It's important for the selectors to think about players, not just the T20 World Cup in 2028 but also the Olympic Games. But they have time to sort it out."

"Obviously, with a 50-over World Cup next year, perhaps they have prioritised that format a little more. India has a lot of talent, but they need to be exposed to different experiences and learn from them," Dasgupta said on BBC Radio 5 Sports Extra.

He also felt India needs to have more wicket-taking options in the middle overs and also slammed the sloppy fielding performance. "It's obviously been a disappointing series, and the selectors have to go back to the drawing board. They need wicket-takers up front - and they have that in Jasprit Bumrah - but they still need to find them in the middle overs."

"In the field, India have been way below par - both catching and outfield-wise. A series to forget for India, but you obviously have to try and learn from it. There is inexperience on this side, especially in this series. "But there aren't too many positives to take forward, apart from an innings here and an innings there. I think tactically, England have been superior in this series. Some of India's plans have not sat well with me," he concluded.



India 154/1 at stumps on Day 2 as Mandhana, Kranti hand visitors 269-run lead vs ENG

LONDON

India tightened their grip on the one-off women's Test at Lord's with a dominant all-round display on Day 2, riding Kranti Gaud's maiden five-wicket haul and an unbroken half-century from Smriti Mandhana to finish at 154/1 in their second innings, stretching their overall lead to 269 runs with two full days still to play. The visitors began the day sensing an opportunity with England resuming on 113/5, still 148 runs adrift. That opening soon turned into complete control as India's bowlers wrapped up the innings for 170 inside the first hour after lunch.

England briefly resisted through captain Nat Sciver-Brunt and Amy Jones, who added valuable runs after the overnight collapse. Jones looked positive, while Sciver-Brunt held one end together with a composed 44. However, India struck at crucial intervals to deny the hosts any sustained recovery. Kranti Gaud once again led the charge. The young seamer produced the breakthrough India desperately wanted by trapping Sciver-Brunt lbw with a delivery that jagged back sharply, ending England's biggest hope of cutting into the deficit. Sayali Satghare then removed Sophie Ecclestone before Sneha Rana accounted for debutant Mady Villiers, exposing the tail.

Gaud returned to complete a memorable five-wicket haul—her maiden Test five-for and the second of her Test career—by dismissing Lauren Bell, while Deepthi Sharma wrapped up the innings as England folded for 170, conceding a substantial 115-run first-innings lead. It was England's third-lowest first-innings total against India at home and the first five-wicket haul by a pace bowler in a women's Test in England since Ellyse Perry's 6/32 at Canterbury in 2015. Armed with a sizeable cushion, India's openers ensured En-

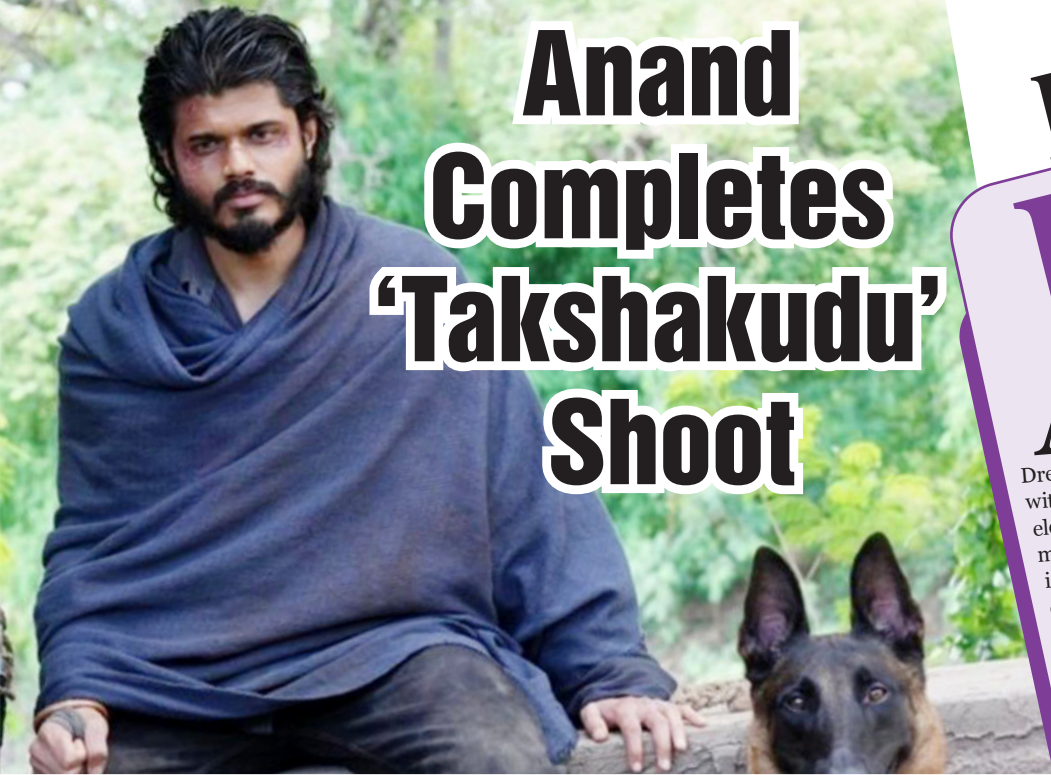
gland never found a route back into the contest. Lauren Bell and Lauren Filer began with disciplined spells, extracting movement under overcast conditions, but Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma weathered the early examination before gradually shifting gears. Shafali was the aggressor, driving Bell elegantly through the offside before taking on Sophie Ecclestone with successive boundaries, while Mandhana punished anything short with authoritative pulls.

The pair added 88 runs for the opening wicket, extending their remarkable record together. It was their seventh 50-plus partnership in Tests, the most by any pair in the history of women's Test cricket.

England's only breakthrough came when Ecclestone tempted Shafali into an ambitious lofted stroke, the opener miscuing to mid-on for a brisk 33. Although England finally separated the openers, the wicket did little to alter the momentum.

Yastika Bhatia joined Mandhana, and the duo calmly steered India through the final session. Mandhana, who had scored a half-century in the first innings, brought up another composed fifty with a controlled single off Mady Villiers, becoming only the fourth Indian woman to register two fifty-plus scores in the same Test. The milestone also took her to seven Test half-centuries, drawing level with Shantha Rangaswamy and second only to Sandhya Agarwal among Indian women. While Mandhana mixed caution with elegant strokeplay, driving Ecclestone down the ground for four and later launching the left-arm spinner for a straight six, Bhatia settled in confidently at the other end. The left-hander used her feet effectively against the spinners, collecting boundaries through extra cover and straight down the ground while frustrating England's attempts to create opportunities.





Anand Completes 'Takshakudu' Shoot

Actor Anand Deverakonda has officially completed the shooting of his upcoming film Takshakudu and marked the occasion with an emotional post on Instagram. Sharing behind-the-scenes pictures and look-test sketches from the film, the actor described the project as one of the most fulfilling experiences of his career. Anand expressed his happiness over reuniting with director Vinod Anantoju after their successful collaboration on Middle Class Melodies. He praised the filmmaker for his unique storytelling and his ability to look at both the story and the actor from a fresh perspective, making the journey creatively satisfying. Takshakudu is being made as a Telugu folklore thriller, with Anand playing one of the most challenging roles of his career. He will be seen as a visually impaired man who sets out to avenge the mysterious deaths

of villagers with the help of his loyal pet dog. Anand said the character demanded a different approach and pushed him as an actor, making it both challenging and exciting. The actor also revealed that he developed a special bond with Berlin, the dog that plays a key role in the film. He appreciated the team's efforts in making every scene feel natural and credited director Vinod Anantoju for extracting emotionally driven and realistic action sequences. The teaser of Takshakudu has already received a positive response from audiences, raising expectations for the film. Anand concluded his note by expressing confidence that viewers will enjoy Takshakudu when it premieres on Netflix in the near future.

Bhagyashri Breaks Down On Stage



For every actor, getting opportunities is important. But turning those opportunities into success is what truly matters. Bhagyashri Borse had several releases in the South, but none of them delivered the breakthrough she was hoping for. That finally seems to be changing with LENIN. Though the film got mixed response, Bhagyashri is receiving appreciation not just for her glamorous screen presence but also for her performance. The encouraging feedback appears to have made the moment deeply emotional for the actress. Speaking at the LENIN success meet, Bhagyashri broke down while thanking fans for standing by her throughout her journey. She recalled the love and support she received from Telugu audiences over the last one and a half years, saying their messages and appreciation meant everything to her. Fighting back tears, she described Hyderabad as her Karmabhoomi and made an emotional statement that she wants to do her final film in Telugu as well. Her heartfelt speech and emotional reaction became one of the biggest talking points of the event, with fans showering her with even more love on social media.

'Jana Nayagan' Release Confusion

Jana Nayagan, the Tamil superstar and CM Vijay's farewell film, has made headlines yet again. While the political drama has completed its censorship with an 'A' certificate and received clearance from the board, the makers are yet to officially announce its release date. What makes the situation even more intriguing is that overseas bookings for the film have already opened in several locations for July 24. Despite this, the production house has remained silent about the release date, leading to widespread confusion. According to reports, the delay is due to Jana Nayagan's OTT deal. Going into details, Amazon Prime, which was initially in discussions to acquire the digital rights, is said to have backed out following multiple postponements. Since then, the makers have reportedly been negotiating with other platforms and are now believed to be in the final stages of closing a new OTT deal. This is one of the major reasons for the release date not being announced by the makers, KVN Productions. This new confusion has left fans clueless as they are eagerly awaiting a formal update. When it will come and what date the makers choose is a big mystery as of now. Let's see what happens in the days to come.



Is Dhanush's Film a Challenge to NTR?

The race to bring Lord Murugan's story to the big screen has become more interesting. Just days after discussions began around NTR and Trivikram Srinivas's ambitious mythological drama, God of War, actor Dhanush and director Vetrimaaran officially announced Thamizh Murugan. The announcement immediately sparked comparisons between the two projects, as both are reportedly centred on Lord Murugan, one of the most revered deities in South India. For months, there was speculation that Dhanush might reunite with director Shankar for his next film or take up a major multi-starrer. Instead, he has chosen to team up once again with



Vetrimaaran, with whom he has delivered several acclaimed films in the past. The announcement makes it clear that Thamizh Murugan will be his immediate next project. The timing has drawn attention because God of War, starring NTR and directed by Trivikram, has already generated considerable buzz. However, it is still too early to treat the



two films as direct competitors. Their interpretations, storytelling styles, scale and release timelines could be completely different. While Trivikram is expected to present a grand pan-India mythological spectacle, Vetrimaaran may choose a more rooted and culturally nuanced approach, in keeping with his filmmaking style.

Sai Pallavi Yet to Say Yes to Kalki 2

Sai Pallavi's reported entry into Kalki 2 continues to remain uncertain, with no official announcement yet from the makers or the actress. Known as one of Indian cinema's most selective performers, Sai Pallavi is said to be taking her time before committing to the big-budget sequel. "There has been no confirmation about Sai Pallavi joining the shoot of Kalki 2. The situation is still unclear," a source said. The speculation has gained attention, especially after reports that the actress had turned down major Telugu films such as Yellamma and Maa Inti Bangaram. Industry circles are now waiting to see whether she will finally give the nod to Kalki 2. Sources say Sai Pallavi does not rush into signing projects. She reportedly prefers hearing the complete narration and chooses roles only when they offer strong emotional depth and enough scope to perform. Though her recent Telugu film Thandel did not become a major box-office blockbuster, her performance received appreciation for its sincerity and emotional appeal. Once again, she proved her strength in portraying realistic and relatable characters. Trade observers believe that one or two strong Telugu films in the coming years could further strengthen her position in the industry. Unlike many actresses, Sai Pallavi has largely stayed away from glamour-driven roles. She has built her career around content-oriented films and characters that suit her artistic choices. For now, several prestigious projects are reportedly under discussion. Whether Kalki 2 will be one of them remains the big question.



Siddhu's Stylish New Avatar

Siddhu Jonnalagadda has unveiled a striking new look, signalling a fresh phase in his career. Known for setting trends with his effortless style, the actor has opted for a sharper makeover while working on two upcoming projects. The transformation comes at a crucial point in his career. After rising to fame with the blockbuster DJ Tillu franchise, Siddhu's recent releases, Jack and Telusu Kada, failed to meet expectations at the box office. Following two setbacks, the actor is now focused on making a strong comeback with better content. His latest photographs show him sporting a refined hairstyle, a rugged beard and a more mature appearance. Fans have been quick to praise the transformation, with many calling it one of his best looks in recent years. While the new avatar has already become a talking point on social media, Siddhu's bigger challenge lies ahead. With two films currently in production, the actor is hoping to return to winning form and recreate the magic that once made him one of Tollywood's most sought-after young stars.

