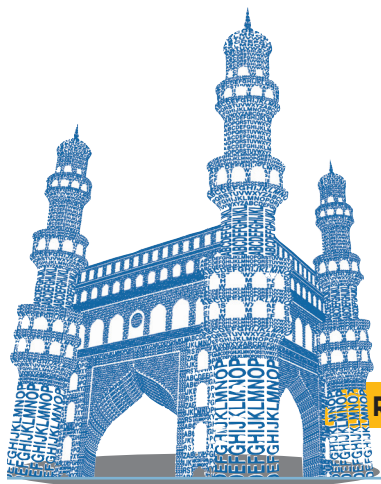




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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THE CENTENARY JOURNEY OF THE RSS

OPINION 06

Priyanka's Birthday Surprise

BOX-OFFICE 12



CM Warns Against OPPOSITION TRAP

false propaganda on job notifications

State government will fill all vacancies and handover appointment letters

The CM blasts previous BRS government on looting money through paper leaks

People's Government filled 70,000 jobs since December 2023

BRS has only past and no future

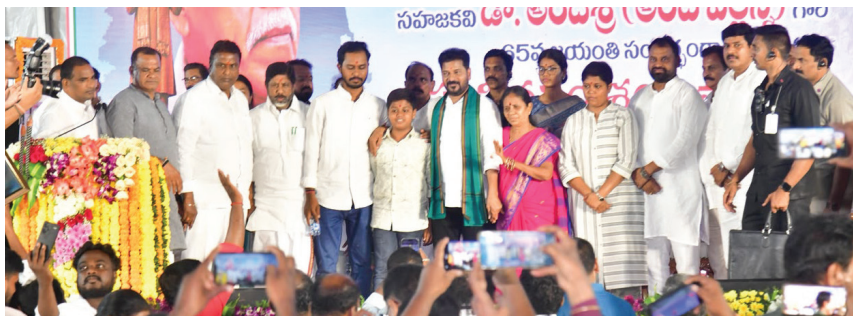
Will not allow to sprout the weed again in the land of sacred Tulasi

Gaddar, Ande Sri and Somina Gandhi are inspiration to us

Nizam and Khasim Rizvi are roles models to the BRS

CM recalls the popular poet and Telangana song writer Ande Sri's contribution

CM Revanth Reddy participates in foundation stone for Ande Sri Smruti Vanam at Ghatkesar today



HYDERABAD, JULY 18

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy appealed to the unemployed not to fall into the trap of opposition. The Chief minister affirmed that the state Government would issue notifications to fill all vacancies and handover the appointment letters to the selected candidate.

Speaking after participating in the foundation stone for Ande Sri Smruti Vanam at Ghatkesar today, the CM blasted the previous BRS government and

former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on the leak of question papers during the conduct of the group exams in the state. "Today, a wolf in the guise of sheep is making comments on recruitment. The pack of wolves hoodwinked the youth by not filling the jobs during the BRS rule. Did the BRS leader ever, even for a single day, think about jobs for the children of Telangana?"

The CM took strong exception to the BRS leader KTR's shameless claim that

the BRS government issued the notifications and the present government merely filled the posts.

The Chief minister alleged that BRS leaders amassed hundreds of crores through paper leaks. The KCR family never considered conducting exams and filling vacancies as a serious issue. Did the BRS leaders ever treat the unemployed like human beings? Did they ever view their situation with a humane perspective?, the CM charged.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Tough Anti-Adulteration Law Soon

Toll-free number to receive complaints

Government to draft the bill after holding a debate in the Assembly

Strict measures to be implemented on a pilot basis in the CURE limits

CM Revanth Reddy holds a review on adulteration

Hyderabad, July 18: Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy ordered the officials to formulate a strict law to curb the growing menace of the adulteration of food and medicines. The Chief Minister expressed serious concern over increasing cases of falling sick by people due to the widespread adulteration of vegetables, fruits, milk and other products.

At a review on the Telangana Food Adulteration and Drug Control Act (TGFDCA) at MCRHRD institute today, the CM stated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

72nd National Film Awards

Mammootty, Kartik Aaryan Share Best Actor Honour

New Delhi, July 18: The 72nd National Film Awards celebrated the finest achievements in Indian cinema, with veteran actor Mammootty and Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan sharing

the Best Actor award. Yami Gautam was named Best Actress, while several critically acclaimed and blockbuster films received honours across major categories.

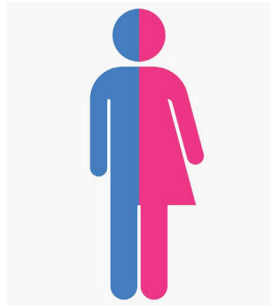


Assam, TG governors discuss COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

Hyderabad, July 18: Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya met Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan here on Saturday, where the two leaders discussed constitutional values, cooperative federalism, and public welfare initiatives. They exchanged views on issues of mutual interest. Governor Shukla briefed his Assam counterpart on Telangana's rich cultural heritage, traditions, developmental initiatives and unique identity. Acharya, who was in Hyderabad for an official programme, visited Lok Bhavan with his family. The Telangana Governor and First Lady Janaki Shukla welcomed the guests and presented mementoes as a gesture of goodwill.



Local Body Posts for Transgenders



HYDERABAD, JULY 18

In a landmark move towards inclusive governance, the Telangana Government has decided to appoint transgender persons as co-opted members in local bodies, marking a significant step in their political empowerment. Announcing the decision at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat here on Saturday, Minister for SC Development, Tribal Welfare, Welfare of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Transgender Persons, Adhuri Laxman Kumar said the Cabinet's approval reflects the government's commitment to dignity, representation and equal opportunities for the transgender community.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

KTR questions Rahul over BROKEN YOUTH PROMISES



HYDERABAD, JULY 18

Bharat Rashtira Samithi working president K.T. Rama Rao on Friday directly questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over what he termed the Congress government's betrayal of Telangana's unemployed youth, saying the people of Telangana would write the party's political death declaration for failing to honour its promises.

Addressing the Yuva Sangrama Sadassu at Saroor Nagar Stadium, KT Rama Rao reminded Rahul Gandhi of the Congress' much-publicised Youth Declaration, unveiled at the same venue three years ago, and asked him to explain why none of its major promises had been fulfilled.

Addressing Rahul Gandhi, KTR said, "Rahul Gandhiji, you may not understand Telugu, so let me ask you in a language you understand. Do you remember meeting unemployed youth at Ashok Nagar? What happened to your promise of two lakh government jobs in the first year? Where is the Job Calendar? Where is the ₹4,000 monthly unemployment allowance? What happened to the promises of electric scooters for college girls, interest-free loans for youth and the other commitments made in your Youth Declaration?"

KTR also questioned Rahul Gandhi's silence over the alleged police action against unemployed youth protesting for jobs in Telangana.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Meenakshi praises PCC



HYDERABAD, JULY 18

AICC Telangana Affairs In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan lauded the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) for its organisational performance, describing it as a model for the Congress units across the country. Reviewing the party's activities at Gandhi Bhavan here on Saturday, she expressed satisfaction with TPCC President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud's leadership and praised initiatives such as Sangathan Srujan Abhiyan, Jai Babu-Jai Bheem, Managera, DCC presidents' training camps, SIR programmes, BLA appointments and the formation of district and mandal committees.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Prepare alternative plans to tackle EL NIÑO CHALLENGES

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka reviews power sector

Hyderabad, July 18: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka directed officials to remain vigilant and prepare for future increases in electricity demand due to possible drought conditions caused by the El Niño effect. He emphasized that a comprehensive action plan must be put in place to ensure uninterrupted and quality power supply under all circumstances.

The review meeting of the

Energy Department was held on Saturday at the SPDCL Corporate Office in Hyderabad, attended by Energy Special Chief Secretary Navin Mittal and Finance Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania.

The Deputy CM stressed that uninterrupted power supply must be ensured for drinking water needs and agricultural activities. He advised officials to take proactive steps to effectively address future

challenges in the power sector. He also instructed officials to focus on recovering electricity dues from government departments and to strengthen financial discipline in DISCOMs by accelerating revenue collection processes.

Officials were directed to adopt advanced technologies and move forward with a comprehensive strategy to deliver quality and uninterrupted electricity to every consumer

in the State. He further instructed that a phased plan be prepared to provide solar power facilities to all Anganwadi centers. Taking the model substation developed at Midjil in Mahabubnagar district as an example, he called for modernization of all substations under TGSPDCL in a phased manner.

In view of land constraints in areas like Kondapur,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

TRUST. LEGACY. FOREVER.

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GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER



Govt to inaugurate Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavans in 22 districts soon: Revanth



HYDERABAD , JULY 18

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has announced that the new 'Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavans' in 22 district headquarters will be inaugurated soon.

The Mahila Shakti Bhavans, which are being equipped with corporate standard facilities, will serve as hubs for training, marketing and other business activities of the women self help groups (SHGs), the Chief Minister said.

He said the foundation stones were already laid for 8,000 'Indira Stree Shakti Bhavans' for self-help groups across the state recently.

At a meeting with the delegation of the FICCI Ladies wing on Saturday, Revanth Reddy announced 1,000 square yards of land would be allocated next to Shilparamam for the construction of FICCI's headquarters. The place is situated between Hitech City and the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) office where the new

FICCI office will be another big landmark in the area.

During the meeting, Revnath Reddy highlighted that the government has allocated land worth ₹1,000 crore—adjacent to Shilparamam in the Hitech City area—for the 'Indira Mahila Shakti Bazaar.' More than 150 shops have been exclusively allotted to women's self-help groups to sell rural handicrafts and traditional products in the new facility.

Extending greetings to the FICCI Ladies Organisation for celebrating its 25th anniversary, and the FICCI itself is completing 100 years in 2027, the Chief Minister also announced the allocation of one acre of land to FICCI within Bharat Future City. The state government is keen to encourage FICCI as a partner in the development of 'Bharat Future City'—a highly prestigious project undertaken by this government, he said.

Further, he said that given

the success of the industrial park established under the aegis of the FICCI Ladies Organisation, the government is considering developing another industrial park dedicated to women's empowerment.

Revanth Reddy asserted that the economic empowerment of women is the testament to economic growth and higher standards of living.

He shared his vision of developing the Future city to the FICC delegation and the corporate giant Amazon is set to invest ₹1 lakh crore in Future City in the coming days.

“ The State government's goal is to establish all Fortune 500 companies in the 'Future City' and the FICCI and women entrepreneurs should play a key role in this endeavour”, he said.

Stating that the government is committed to encouraging women entrepreneurs and also holding meetings with women entrepreneurs every 3 months,

Revanth Reddy said that the government was working towards selling products made by women's groups globally via Amazon, and we should also establish a tradition of honouring women's groups that excel in business with awards presented under the aegis of FICCI.

The Chief Minister noted that the Congress party promoted women to the highest positions such as Prime Minister, President, Chief Ministers, judges, and Governors in the country. Although Sonia Gandhi introduced the Women's Reservation Bill back in 2013, it has not yet been implemented, the CM said hoped the women's quota would be implemented after the general elections.

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, CM's Advisor Ramakrishna Rao, FLO National President Pooja Garg, FLO Hyderabad Chairperson Sita Reddy Gaddam, and women entrepreneurs participated in the meeting.

KTR Launches “Chalo Saroornagar” Rally

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, JULY 18

A large youth rally was launched at the Saroor Nagar Stadium in Hyderabad as part of the BRS youth movement, with former minister and BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) as the chief guest.

The event was flagged off on the instructions of Kukatpally MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao and BRS Youth President MLC Shambipur Raju. BRS youth leaders Jagadeesh Goud and TRSV state secretary Yashwanth led the participants from the Vivekananda Nagar division to the Saroor Nagar programme. The rally was started by former corporator Madhavaram Rangar Rao, who raised the flag along with Macherla Bharaiah.



Speaking at the rally, Ranga Rao said that Congress leaders—Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi—along with former TPCC chief and currently Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, had promised jobs and support to unemployed youth.

He alleged that during earlier campaigns, the government announced a “youth declaration,” including promises to provide two lakh jobs every year and unemployment benefits, but claimed that three years have passed with no real

delivery. He further accused the Congress of issuing only certificates and “handing over papers” instead of providing actual employment opportunities or benefits.

Rangarao said the BRS would continue a sustained fight on behalf of unemployed youth until justice is delivered. He added that the party will keep questioning the Congress government on job recruitment, unemployment benefits, and every promise made to young people.

Thousands of unemployed youth, students, party leaders, activists, and public members participated in the programme and expressed their strong protest against what they called the Congress government's anti-youth employment policies.

RUN FOR SMA 2026 TO BE HELD AT GACHIBOWLI STADIUM ON AUG 9

HYDERABAD, JULY 18

Cure SMA Foundation of India has announced the fourth edition of "Run for SMA 2026", to be held at Gachibowli Stadium on August 9, aiming to raise awareness about Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and promote preventive healthcare.

The event was launched at the Cyberabad Commissionerate by Commissioner of Police M Ramesh, who unveiled the event poster and official T-shirt while extending support to the initiative.

Cure SMA India Co-founder Srilakshmi Nalam called for



stronger collaboration among the governments, healthcare professionals, researchers, corporates and patient groups to improve access to advanced SMA treatments and promote genetic carrier screening for early prevention.

The event will feature 21K, 10K, 5K timed runs and a 5K

fun run / walk. Participants will receive a T-shirt, medal, certificate, breakfast and event photographs, while winners in timed categories will receive cash prizes.

A key highlight this year is free SMA genetic carrier screening at the venue, which normally costs around

Rs.5,000, to encourage informed family planning and early detection.

The organisers expect participation from students, corporate employees, healthcare professionals, runners and SMA-affected families. Registrations for the event are now open.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

TOUGH ANTI-ADULTERATION LAW SOON

FROM PAGE 1

that people are suffering from health ailments because chemicals are being used indiscriminately to extend the shelf life of leafy vegetables, vegetables, and milk, and to artificially ripen fruits. Chemical residues found in crop produce due to the excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides could be one of the main reasons the foreign countries refused to import such products, CM Revanth Reddy noted that some products are being sold in the market under the label of 'organic' and the people are purchasing them at high prices. There is no proper system in place to verify the authenticity of the available organic products in the markets.

Taking serious note of the increasing cases of food and medicine adulteration, the Chief Minister directed officials to visit the countries which brought into force strict and comprehensive laws to curb adulteration and study their practices. The officials were instructed to prepare a comprehensive report based on the study. A bill would be drafted through discussion in the Legislative Assembly and also seeking people's opinion, the CM announced.

CM Revanth Reddy directed officials to initially implement anti-adulteration measures in the CURE region on a pilot project. The authorities were advised to enforce regulations and proceed further

REVANTH HAILS SKYROOT

HYDERABAD, JULY 18

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday congratulated Hyderabad-based space tech startup Skyroot Aerospace for scripting history with the successful launch of Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle. Hailing the milestone as a monumental achievement for the state and the nation, the Chief Minister noted that the success firmly positions Hyderabad as a premier hub for aerospace innovation and deep-tech enterprise.

In a statement, Revanth Reddy stated that reaching for the skies, it is a proud day for India, and even greater pride for Hyderabad. Telangana is where India's space dreams take shape. Congratulations to the entire Skyroot team—Hyderabad's innovation ecosystem continues to lead the

nation into the future.”

Named 'Mission Aagaman', the seven-storey-tall, four-stage rocket successfully lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota. The vehicle executed its flight sequence flawlessly, injecting its technology demonstration payloads into a precise Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of approximately 450 kilometers. Featuring an all-carbon composite body, the Vikram-1 rocket is driven by three solid-fuel stages and a liquid-fueled Orbital Adjustment Module (OAM) equipped with a 3D-printed engine designed for multiple restarts in space.

The successful deployment makes Skyroot the first Indian private player to achieve orbital capability, validating the goals of the Indian Space Policy to expand commercial space participation.

State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, DGP CV Anand, CM's Advisor and Ex-officio Special Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, CM's Principal Secretaries V. Seshadri and N. Sridhar, and senior officials from various departments were also present.

based on any shortcomings or issues identified during implementation. The officials were also ordered the appointment of whistleblowers and the establishment of a toll-free number to receive complaints on adulteration.

Prepare alternative plans to tackle EL NIÑO CHALLENGES

FROM PAGE 1

Gachibowli, and Madhapur in Greater Hyderabad, he suggested coordination with the Municipal Department to establish substations under flyovers.

He also directed expansion of 'Power Ambulance' services, modeled on the 108 emergency system, across the State. He appreciated the installation of GPS tracking in over 168 vehicles across 21 circles and the provision of rapid services through the command control center at Erragadda.

The CMD of TGSPDCL, through a PowerPoint presentation, explained the reforms, welfare initiatives, and progress achieved over the past 30 months. He highlighted that feeder-DTR—consumer mapping enables quick identification of power interruptions, faster restoration, efficient grievance redressal, and accu-

rate energy auditing.

He added that integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced technologies into power distribution would ensure transparent services. Plans for new substations and digital service expansion for 2026–27 were also presented.

He further noted that under the 'Gruha Jyothi' scheme, the government has cleared electricity bill dues of beneficiaries to DISCOMs, thereby strengthening their financial position.

Responding to this, the Deputy CM instructed that DTR mapping be completed within the stipulated timeline and that AI-based technologies be widely implemented in the power sector. He directed Energy Special Chief Secretary Navin Mittal to continuously monitor the implementation of these initiatives.

Need to secure new coal blocks for Singareni

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that Singareni must acquire new coal blocks and enhance its production capacity in line with the growing power needs of Telangana.

He directed Singareni officials to obtain all necessary clearances for the recently allocated Tadicherla-2 block and begin production on a war footing within the stipulated timeframe.

He noted that the previous government failed to secure new coal blocks, resulting in current limitations in expanding coal production capacity. He said this failure has adversely affected Singareni's growth.

However, he urged officials to treat the situation as a challenge and implement a comprehensive strategy to ensure uninterrupted and timely supply of quality coal to power generation units.

Given the increased electricity demand due to El Niño conditions, he emphasized special focus on coal production, quality, and dispatch.

He stated that with proactive efforts of the present government, production has already begun at the Naini block in Odisha, and mining lease has been secured for the Tadicherla-2 block in Telangana.

He further stressed the need to regain Koyagudem-3 and Sathupalli-2 blocks, which were lost due to past decisions, and directed officials to initiate necessary action immediately. These coal blocks, he said, are crucial for strengthening the State's energy security in the future. The meeting was attended by TGSPDCL CMD Jitendra V. Patil, TRANSCO CMD Krishna Bhaskar, Singareni CMD N. Balaram, and senior officials from Singareni, GENCO, and DISCOMs.

KTR questions Rahul over BROKEN YOUTH PROMISES

FROM PAGE 1

"You travel across the country holding the Constitution and speaking about democracy. 'Why are you silent when unemployed youth in Telangana are lathi-charged, arrested and booked for demanding the implementation of your own party's promises?'" he asked.

Declaring that the Congress' Youth Declaration had turned into a "declaration of betrayal," KTR said Telangana's youth had now written the party's political death declaration. He alleged that the Congress government had failed to deliver on every major employment promise made before the elections.

Launching a sharp attack on the state government, the BRS working president said there

were "no notifications, only lootifications," alleging that instead of creating jobs, the Congress government had become consumed by scams and corruption. He claimed Telangana was witnessing a scam calendar rather than a governance calendar and alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was more interested in pleasing the Congress high command than providing employment opportunities to the state's youth.

KTR challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to substantiate the government's claim of filling 70,000 fresh government jobs through new recruitment notifications. "If he proves the claim with evidence, I will permanently retire from politics," he declared.

CM Warns Against...

FROM PAGE 1

CM Revanth Reddy highlighted that the People's government removed all obstacles and filled the vacancies. We handed over appointment letters to those youths in the presence of their parents at LB Stadium and witnessed the joy in the parents' eyes. The Chief minister questioned the BRS for their failure in filling vacancies despite issuing notifications. We managed to fill 70,000 jobs in just one year.

For 10 years, the BRS leader's family enjoyed the posts. Did they ever remember Srikanthachari's mother, Shankaramma? We appointed Shankaramma as a member of the Women's Commission, Chakali Ailamma's granddaughter as a member of the Women's Commission and made Kodandaram an MLC. We also honoured 9 poets and recognized them with a cash prize of one crore rupees.

Continuing tirade against the BRS rulers , the CM warned that the youth will take up the task of burying KCR politically in Gajwel. The Telangana society has given everything to the KCR family. "Telangana people elevated a Dubai passport broker to the position of Chief Minister. It made KCR's son, who used to clean bathrooms in America ,and another one who once wore rubber slippers, be elevated as minister."

CM Revanth Reddy took



potshots at KCR family for becoming rich by landing the Telangana state into a debt ridden state.The CM rubbished the BRS leaders' false propaganda of dethroning the people's government. The opposition leaders were waiting to loot Telangana again and secure positions of power. The Chief minister warned that he would not allow a single weed plant to sprout in the sacred Tulasi garden of the Telangana state.

The CM drew a comparison between the BRS and Congress governments' performance with a human approach. “ We draw inspiration from Ande Sri, Gaddar, and Sonia Gandhi. The BRS leaders' role models are the Nizam and Qasim Razvi” The people have not yet forgotten the Telangana plundered by the BRS. The society of Telangana was observing everything. This land has a history of dethroning the Nizam tyranny. People will not forgive. No one can subjugate Telangana.

Recalling his close association with the popular poet Ande Sri, CM Revanth Reddy

said that the writer raised his voice against the arrogant attitude of the previous rulers in Telangana and stood as a source of inspiration for me whenever I felt despondent or hopeless. Ande Sri's songs acted like bullets and cannonballs, shattering the oppressive strongholds (gadis) of the feudal lords. The chief minister remembered that Ande Sri instilled consciousness among the people and his songs ignited a spirit of awakening in our hearts. The song "Jaya Jayahe Telangana," penned by Ande Sri would endure as the state anthem in the hearts of the Telangana people. Today, the song was resonating in every school and every household across Telangana. I regarded Ande Sri as an elder brother within my own family.

The CM also recalled that the very day the BRS leaders tried to silence Ande Sri's voice and insulted Gaddar, they decided to bury the feudal leaders forever. The Chief minister reiterated that the people's government will remain in power until 2034.

Local Body Posts for Transgenders

FROM PAGE 1

Around 25 transgender community leaders and activists, including trans women rights activists, Hijra community leaders, met the Minister to thank Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for the initiative and felicitated him for the government's inclusive approach. Their inclusion as co-opted members in local bodies will ensure that their voices are represented in the development of villages, mandals and urban local bodies.

The Minister said the move goes beyond welfare by enabling transgender persons to actively participate in local governance and decision-making. He also highlighted ongoing initiatives, including skill development in driving, cooking and drone operations, employment at Hyderabad Metro stations, and traffic management jobs. Community representatives hailed the decision as historic, saying it strengthens their dignity, confidence and role in public life.

Meenakshi PRAISES PCC

FROM PAGE 1

Natarajan also commended AICC Connecting Centre Chairman Senthil, AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant and PCC office in-charge P. Prasanna Kumar Sharma for strengthening organisational coordination and submitting detailed monthly activity reports to the AICC.

She said the TPCC's organisational model had drawn appreciation from AICC leaders and CWC members from around 11 states, who were keen to replicate Telangana's programmes. Stressing booth-level strengthening, she called for vigilant implementation of the SIR process and continuous monitoring of BLAs. AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and K.C. Venugopal had also appreciated the TPCC's performance, she added.

HYDERABAD

R. Krishnaiah Sabha member and BC leader R. R. Krishnaiah has demanded that the Telangana government raise the monthly rental for vehicles hired by government departments from Rs.34,000 to Rs.55,000 and immediately clear pending dues. Addressing a meeting of the Telangana Hire Vehicle Association at the Basheerbagh Press Club here on Saturday, Krishnaiah said the rental rates have remained unchanged for the last nine years despite rising fuel prices, maintenance costs and inflation. He assured the association members that he would take up the issue with Deputy Chief Minister Bhatnagar Vikramarka, and urged those on strike for the past three days to withdraw their protest, expressing hope that the government would resolve the issue within a month.

VIKARABAD

He also reported that under the Rythu Bharosa scheme, farmers have received financial aid in their bank accounts within a nine-day period.

Speaking at the event, IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu remarked that the government is diligently pursuing development strategies while simultaneously bolstering the state's economy. He pointed out that foundation stones were laid for significant road projects totaling ₹261

Patnam Mahender Reddy, the Legislative Council Chief Whip, commended the government for its implementation of numerous welfare initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the less fortunate. He praised the substantial funding designated for road development in Vikarabad and Rangareddy districts, recognizing the significant positive impact of better roads on transportation. He also appealed to the government to allocate resources for road development along the Karnataka border.

HYDERABAD

However, farmers who have been cultivating these fields for many years launched a protest, stating that they would not agree under any circumstances to the takeover of their agricultural land. BJP leaders and party workers from Ranga Reddy district extended their support to the protesting farmers. The farmers questioned how the authorities could suddenly



arrive and take possession of land that they have been cultivating for years. They demanded that the government provide them with alternative land on a land-for-land basis before acquiring their existing farmland. BJP leaders and the

farmers demanded that the fencing work be halted until the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) arrived and addressed their concerns. Ignoring the demands of the farmers and BJP leaders, revenue and HYDRAA officials continued the

fencing work under heavy police security.

As officials continued the fencing despite the protests that had been ongoing since morning, angry farmers and BJP leaders damaged the fencing. When police attempted to de-

tain the protesting farmers due to the escalating tension, some local residents reportedly threw chili powder at the police, causing them considerable discomfort. Police subsequently took the protesting farmers and BJP leaders into custody.

HYDERABAD

A batch of 26 Tahsildars from Madhya Pradesh undergoing training at the Dr. MCR HRD Institute on Saturday visited the Chief Minister's Prajavani programme at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan in Begumpet, as part of their exposure

visit, to study Telangana's grievance redressal system. State Nodal Officer K. Vidya Sagar briefed the officers on the programme's objectives, technology-driven grievance tracking, and citizen-centric approach. The officers observed the grievance registration process and interacted with officials and

citizens. The visiting delegation praised Prajavani for its transparent, efficient and accessible grievance redressal mechanism, highlighting features such as online tracking, departmental coordination, dedicated help desks, and facilities for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

HYDERABAD

According to investigators, the accused allegedly procured the medicines from Bidar without authorization and sold them at inflated prices in Hyderabad. Habitual offenders, suspects and youth were among those purchasing the drugs for intoxication, which allegedly facilitat-

and the commission of property and violent crimes.

The medicines are prescription drugs meant for treating conditions such as insomnia, chest pain and seizures, while the cough syrup is intended for medical use. Police warned that misuse can cause drowsiness, dizziness, impaired coordination and other health risks.

The seizure was made by the Special Crime Team led by Inspector Ch Sudhakar Rao in coordination with Habeeb Nagar Police. Police appealed to the public not to purchase medicines from unauthorized sources and urged citizens to report illegal sale or distribution of prescription drugs.

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY	
Track Machine Unit / Royapuram/ Chennai	
E-Tender Notice No. TM-HQ-CC-04-2026 Dated 17.07.2026.	
Deputy Chief Engineer/Track Machines/Royapuram/Chennai for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice and Complete details are given in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in .	
1 Tender No.	TM-HQ-CC-04-2026
2 Name of work	Refurbishment of Camping Coaches for Track Machines
3 Advertised Tender Value	Rs.99935169.60
4 Bid Security	Rs.1998700.00
5 Completion Period	20 Months
6 Tender Closing Date	10.08.2026

SOUTHERN RAILWAY			
CONSTRUCTION/ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS			
E-TENDER			
Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-RSP-RB-04-2026 DATED 16.07.2026			
For and on behalf of The President of India, Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Road Safety Projects, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 invites e-tender for the following works as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.irops.gov.in . The tenders/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.irops.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.			
Sl. No	Name of work	Cash Value (Rupees)	Closing Date @15.00 Hrs
1	MAS DIVISION - MAS - GDR section - Proposed Construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of L/C No. 1 at km 2A/40-42 (KOK) with 1 X 60 m steel cam back truss type girder between Basin Bridge Jn and Korkkupt stations	168821657	07.08.2026
2	Madurai Division-Tiruchhappalli-Manamadurai section: Proposed 2 lane Road Over Bridge in lieu of Exg.LC.No.411 at km 489/300-400 with 1x24.0m steel composite girder along with LUS between Kottaiyur and Karaiikkudi stations	63791613	

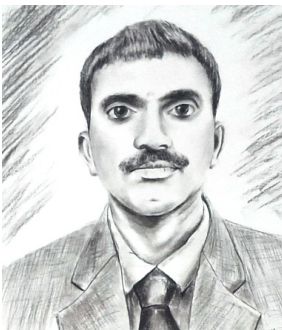
SOUTHERN RAILWAY Track Machine Unit / Royapuram/ Chennai E-Tender Notice No. TMC-RPM-2026-3-Wear Plates Dated 17.07.2026 Deputy Chief Engineer/Track Machines/Royapuram/Chennai for and on behalf of the President of India invites Online Bids for the following works as per tender notice and Complete details are given in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in.	
1 Tender No.	TMC-RPM-2026-3-Wear Plates
2 Name of work	1)Replacement of wear plates- BCM-SBCM- BRM Machines, 2) Dismantling the existing Screens, Supply and fixing of new Screens and allied components for BCM & SBCM and 3) Dismantling the existing conveyors, accessories, Supply and fixing of new conveyors and accessories for BCM & SBCM Machines
3 Advertised Tender Value	Rs.73726091.47
4 Bid Security	Rs.1474500.00
5 Completion Period	24 Months
6 Tender Closing Date	10.08.2026

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting Tender

Deputy Chief Engineer, Track Machine/Royapuram & HQ
For and on behalf of the President of India.

HYDERABAD

Through his powerful literary expression, Dr. Peruka Raju vividly portrays the invisible emotional and social conflicts that exist within individuals and society, transforming them into compelling poetry. His work impressed the jury with its emotional depth, literary excellence, originality, and strong social consciousness.



The competition received an overwhelming response from Telugu poets and literature enthusiasts across the world. Hundreds of entries were evaluated based on emotional intensity, poetic craftsmanship, thematic relevance, originality, and literary merit before the winners were selected.

On this occasion, Mrs. K. Ramavathi, Chairperson of Vishva Sahithi Kala Vedika, Women's Presidents Guntur Bhavani and Anjali Kumari, along with members of the organizing committee, congratulated Dr. Peruka Raju on his remarkable achievement and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Dr. Peruka Raju's success in this prestigious national-level poetry competition has been widely appreciated by eminent literary personalities, fellow writers, poets, military colleagues, friends, and admirers, who extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

CPI CONDEMNS POLICE
ACTION AGAINST SONAM
WANGCHUK

Hyderabad, July 18 (NSS) CPI State Secretary and MLA Koonamneni Sambasivarao condemned the police action of shifting activist Sonam Wangchuk from his protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar to a hospital, calling it an attempt to suppress a peaceful democratic movement.

He alleged that instead of addressing concerns over the NEET examination paper

leak, the Centre resorted to intimidation. Sambasivarao criticised the government for failing to engage in dialogue despite prolonged protests and accused it of ignoring students' concerns.

He maintained that while protecting Wangchuk's health was necessary, the government should focus on addressing the demands of the protesters and taking action against those responsible for the alleged irregularities. (NSS)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY		
TENDER NOTICE		
Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical) Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram-14 for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender for the under mentioned work. For other details the tenders are advised to refer the detailed tender on the below mentioned web-site.		
Sl No	Details	Description
1	Tender Notice No. & Date	GEM/2026/B/7694583 dated 13.07.2026
2	Name of work	Integrated Housekeeping System at Ernakulam and Alleppey for a period of four years
3	Advertised value	₹32,13,76,941.25
4	Period of Contract	48 months
5	EMD	₹17,56,900
6	Tender closing date & time	03.08.2026 11:30 Hrs
7	Website particulars	http://www.gem.gov.in

SOUTHERN RAILWAY				
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT				
<u>AUCTION PROGRAMME - AUGUST - 2026</u>				
<u>NOTICE NO:08/2026</u>				
e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches& Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.				
S. No.	e-Auction conducted by	Date of auction for the month of for AUGUST-2026		Material for auction
1	GSD/PER	05/08/26	13/08/26	25/08/26
2	CSSD/GOC	06/08/26	17/08/26	27/08/26
3	SSDI/PTJ	03/08/26	18/08/26	-
4	MAS	12/08/26	20/08/26	28/08/26
5	SA	07/08/26	14/08/26	24/08/26
6	TVC	03/08/26	10/08/26	17/08/26
7	PGT	04/08/26	11/08/26	19/08/26
8	TPJ	04/08/26	11/08/26	21/08/26
9	MDU	10/08/26	18/08/26	28/08/26

SOUTHERN RAILWAY			
<u>No.M-TRD-29-4-OT-26-27-03R2 07R,</u>			
<u>No.M-TRD-29-4-OT-25-26-26R4 28R4 and</u>			
<u>No.M-TRD-29-4-OT-23-24-08R2 Dt. 17.07.2026</u>			
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager/Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai - 3, invites online tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works for further details, please refer to https://mrps.gov.in			
Sl. No.	Tender No. / Name of the work	Value (Rs.)	Closing date/time
1	<u>Tender No. M-TRD-29-4-OT-26-27-03R2</u> Modification to existing OHE arrangements in connection with Provision of FOB under Amrit Bharat station Scheme in Chennai Division.	7029612.62	10/08/2026 (15:00 hrs)
2	<u>Tender No. M-TRD-29-4-OT-2026-27-07R</u> Conversion of tramway OHE into conventional OHE on main line and loop lines where coaching trains are running in Chennai Division.	51347332.00	10/08/2026 (15:00 hrs)
3	<u>Tender No. M-TRD-29-4-OT-25-26-26R4</u> Modification to existing OHE arrangements in connection with Provision of up loop line at Kettandapatti (KDY) in AJJ - JTJ section of Chennai Division.	8598670.30	10/08/2026 (15:00 hrs)
4	<u>Tender No. M-TRD-29-4-OT-25-26-28R4</u> Replacement of existing 65 sq.m weak catenary wire in MAS-RU and AJJ-JTJ section of Chennai Division.	23014130.00	10/08/2026 (15:00 hrs)
5	<u>Tender No. M-TRD-29-4-OT-23-24-08R2</u> Provision of earth mat arrangements with 32 mm MS rod including all accessories on age cum condition basis at TPT and PUT traction substations of Chennai Division.	4288133.00	10/08/2026 (15:00 hrs)
Divisional Railway Manager, Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Chennai-3			

SHORT
TAKES

Cyberabad SHE Teams conduct 127 decoy operations, rescue 190 children

HYDERABAD: Cyberabad Police's SHE Teams conducted 127 decoy operations between July 10 and 17, catching 20 offenders involved in public harassment. Police booked 31 petty cases, counselled others, and received 32 complaints from women. During the same period, the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), under Operation Muskaan, registered 35 cases related to child labour and the Juvenile Justice Act, rescuing 190 children, including 185 boys and five girls. Authorities also reunited 33 families through counselling centres and conducted awareness programmes for over 4,500 people on women and child safety, cybercrime, trafficking.

BJP high command brokers truce between Bandi Sanjay and Eatala Rajender

HYDERABAD: In a bid to strengthen the BJP ahead of future elections in Telangana, the party leadership facilitated a reconciliation between Union Minister Bandi Sanjay and MP Eatala Rajender. The meeting, held in the presence of state affairs in-charge Abhay Patil and MP K. Laxman, ended with both the leaders asserting, before the media, that there were no differences between them and pledging to work together for the party's growth. Addressing newsmen, Laxman expressed confidence that the Centre was taking special initiatives for Telangana's development under Prime Minister Modi's leadership and added that it was certain the BJP would come to power in the state in the upcoming elections.

"A climate phenomenon called by experts a Super El Niño is upon us now": Uttam

- Says the climate variability is replacing historical rainfall patterns
- El Niño impact May have a bearing on Water resources
- Contingencies are in place as part of anticipatory management

HYDERABAD

Expressing concern over the possibility of a climate phenomenon called by experts as a "Super El Niño" threatening to impact current monsoon, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Telangana Government was actively preparing to tackle the challenges posed by deficient rainfall and increasing uncertainty in respect of state utilization of water resources.

Delivering the keynote address at a meet on climate change organised by "Symposium", a non-profit platform bringing together leading voices from academia, civil society, government and industry, at Hotel Avasa, Hyderabad, the Minister said Telangana had already begun experiencing the consequences of changing climatic conditions and warned that the State could no longer depend on historical rainfall patterns while planning its water resources.

"As someone responsible for irrigation, food and civil supplies, I can say we are already facing the uncertainties created by climate change," Uttam

Kumar Reddy said. The Minister noted that since the Congress Government assumed office in December 2023, Telangana had experienced nearly two-and-a-half years of favourable monsoons, ensuring healthy reservoir storage, stable irrigation supplies and adequate drinking water availability. However, he said the present season marked a significant departure from that trend.

"We can now clearly feel the impact of deficient rainfall. Reservoir levels are not as they should be by now. The situation requires careful management," he observed. Uttam Kumar Reddy said he personally believed that climate change was contributing significantly to the present rainfall deficit. However, meteorological experts were better equipped to explain the scientific processes behind changing weather systems, he acknowledged.

Referring to reports of an emerging Super El Niño, the Minister said he had been closely following scientific assessments indicating that the global climate phenomenon could influence rainfall patterns across India. "I keep reading that a Super El Niño is upon us now. We in the Government are preparing ourselves to deal with the challenges and problems that may arise from deficient rainfall and an El Niño situation," he said.

The Minister stressed that the Government was not waiting for the crisis to deepen before taking action. Instead, departments dealing with ir-



rigation, agriculture, drinking water and civil supplies were coordinating contingency measures to minimise the impact on farmers and the public.

Government shifts to anticipatory water management

The Minister said climate change had already altered Telangana's water reality, making rainfall increasingly unpredictable and rendering traditional irrigation planning based on historical averages inadequate. He pointed out that the effects of climate change were already visible in fluctuating reservoir levels, changing irrigation cycles, unstable water availability and shifting cropping patterns.

The Minister said governments could no longer rely on the assumption that past monsoon behaviour would repeat itself and called for irrigation systems to be redesigned around climate variability rather than historical averages. He advocated a transition from post-crisis management to anticipatory

planning, supported by real-time reservoir operations, scientific decision-making and closer coordination between the irrigation and agriculture departments. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the real test of governance would not be the number of projects announced but whether governments could protect farmers from the growing uncertainties caused by climate change. "The real question before us is not whether climate change will affect our water systems—it already is. The question is whether our institutions and our systems of governance are changing quickly enough to keep pace with it," he said.

The Minister said water management could no longer wait for policy debates or budget cycles, emphasising that governments must be prepared well in advance to respond to delayed monsoons and rainfall deficits. "People should be able to trust that their government has planned ahead, acted with care and stood with them, whether the rains arrive on time or not,"

Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

Water is the foundation of Telangana's economy

Highlighting the broader economic implications, Uttam Kumar Reddy said water should never be treated merely as a resource to be distributed through administrative calculations. "It is the foundation of food security, rural stability and the wider economic resilience of Telangana and India," he said. He warned that if governments failed to manage water effectively under climate stress, agriculture, industrial development, urban water security, investments and long-term economic growth would all come under pressure.

Hyderabad's long-term water security remains a priority

The Minister said the Telangana Government had ensured long-term drinking water security for Hyderabad through decades of planned investments in bringing water from the Godavari and Krishna riv-

ers, while acknowledging that declining groundwater levels remained a serious challenge requiring immediate and sustained action.

"Hyderabad today is among the fastest-growing cities in India in terms of population, economic growth and GDP, and is widely regarded as one of the country's most liveable metropolitan cities," he said. He added that despite rapid urbanisation, the Government had largely managed Hyderabad's growth in a planned manner, ensuring that the city did not face shortages of drinking water or power. Traffic congestion, he admitted, remained a challenge because of the city's rapid expansion, but said the Government was addressing it through metro rail expansion and other major infrastructure projects.

Responding to concerns over water security, the Minister clarified that Hyderabad receives drinking water from both the Godavari and Krishna rivers through extensive pipeline networks created over several decades by successive governments. However, he acknowledged that increasing dependence on groundwater had resulted in a steady decline in groundwater levels. "Earlier, groundwater was available at depths of around 50 to 100 feet. Today, in many parts of Hyderabad, it has gone down to nearly 1,000 feet. This is a matter of serious concern," he said.

Rainwater harvesting and lake restoration key to urban resilience

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Government was promoting rainwater harvesting on a large scale to improve groundwater recharge and ensure sustainable water availability for the city's rapidly growing population.

He stressed that rainwater harvesting had become an urgent national necessity, particularly in urban areas where excessive concretisation had drastically reduced the natural percolation of rainwater into the ground.

The Minister also highlighted the role of HYDRA, the State's dedicated agency for protecting lakes, water bodies and natural drainage channels. He said Hyderabad was among the few cities in the country to establish a specialised organisation focused exclusively on safeguarding its urban water ecosystem. He warned that illegal encroachments on lakes and natural drainage systems over several decades had significantly increased the risks of urban flooding and environmental degradation.

kes had become a common problem across Indian cities, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress Government had made the restoration and rejuvenation of Hyderabad's lakes and water bodies a priority. He said the Government was implementing an aggressive programme to reclaim, protect and restore lakes while preserving natural drainage systems to improve Hyderabad's resilience against floods, droughts and the growing impacts of climate change.

Karimnagar CP Trains DSP Probationers Using PMJ Jewellery Robbery Case as a Case Study

KARIMNAGAR

Karimnagar Police Commissioner Gauth Alam delivered a special training session to 112 Group-I DSP probationers at the Telangana State Police Academy, using the sensational PMJ Jewellery robbery case as a practical case study. The session, conducted on the directions of Director General of Police C.V. Anand, lasted for nearly three and a half hours.

During the session, the Police Commissioner explained the investigation process, highlighting how the case was cracked through a combination of advanced technology, intelligence gathering, meticulous field investigation and coordinated teamwork.

He said that despite the accused using sophisticated methods to execute the crime, Telangana Police successfully solved the case by leveraging modern forensic and technological tools along with effective inter-state coordination. He credited the success to the



guidance of senior officers and the dedicated efforts of the entire investigation team.

Special police teams travelled across Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra (Mumbai) and Karnataka (Bengaluru) during the investigation. With the support of local police in these states, the teams arrested eight accused, including the prime suspects. The participating ACPs and investigating officers also shared their field experiences, operational challenges and investigative strategies with the trainee officers. They emphasised that

while technology is a vital tool, successful investigation ultimately depends on teamwork, field intelligence and professional commitment. The officers expressed confidence that the PMJ Jewellery robbery case would serve as a valuable practical guide for DSP probationers in handling complex investigations during their field assignments. The programme was attended by Town ACP Venkataswamy, Rural ACP Vijay Kumar, Inspectors Srujan Reddy, Srinivas, Ramesh, Tirumal, Prakash, Sarilal and other police officers and staff.

SCCL launches special drive to boost coal output, maintain quality

HYDERABAD

In view of the rising electricity demand in Telangana due to the prevailing El Niño conditions, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has launched a special initiative to enhance coal production while ensuring the uninterrupted supply of coal conforming to the declared grade.

Accordingly, SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti has issued orders appointing Special Officers for each Area.

For the next three months, these Special Officers will closely monitor coal production, quality, grade protection, dispatch, productivity, process improvement, efficiency enhancement, coordination between Area and Corporate departments, and the implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes.

The CMD on Saturday



mining operations should be carried out strictly seam-wise as per the Annual Coal Gradation Plan and that coal production must conform to the declared grade.

He further instructed that coal benches should be thoroughly cleaned before blasting in off-loading areas and that adequate distance should be maintained between coal benches and overburden benches. Rock and shale layers should be excavated separately without mixing them with coal and dumped only in the overburden dumps. He also directed that the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for coal gallery housekeeping and fiery coal management be implemented meticulously across all Areas.

The CMD instructed officials to ensure that adequate numbers of crushers are installed in all opencast mines and Coal Handling Plants (CHPs) and that they remain operational at all times.

DGP CV Anand review meeting - TSLPRB, Police Communication, Computer wing

- Telangana Sets National Benchmark in Transparent Police Recruitment: DGP C.V. Anand
- No Scope for Paper Leaks in Telangana Police Recruitment: DGP
- CCTNS Must Reach National Benchmark
- Recruitment process must remain transparent, fair and credible
- DGP inaugurates new communication sets
- DGP reviews Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board, Police Training and Police Computer Services wings

HYDERABAD

As part of the ongoing review meetings of various wings of the Telangana Police, Director General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand on Saturday conducted a comprehensive review of the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board (TSLPRB), Police Training Wing and Police Computer Services (PCS).

Senior officers of the three wings made detailed presentations on their functioning, ongoing initiatives and future action plans. The DGP reviewed police recruitment, training standards and technology-driven policing in detail. Addressing the officers, the DGP said that the Telangana Police recruitment process has earned a reputation for being transparent, fair and highly credible. He directed officials to main-



tain the same standards in the upcoming recruitment process.

Referring to instances of question paper leaks witnessed in recruitment examinations conducted by various agencies across the country, the DGP said that not a single recruitment examination conducted by the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board has ever witnessed a paper leak, which reflects the Board's professionalism, integrity and robust systems. He congratulated the Recruitment Board for maintaining this exemplary record.

Recalling the Sub-Inspector recruitment conducted during 1989–91, the DGP said it was one of the most transparent recruitment processes of its time. He reminisced that while several of his friends were selected as Sub-Inspectors during that recruitment, he was selected into the Indian Police Service (IPS). He noted that recruitment has become even more transparent today with the extensive use of technology and modern evaluation systems.

Presentation by the Recruitment Board

Chairman of the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board, V.V. Srinivasa Rao, made a detailed presen-

tation on the Board's achievements and recruitment activities.

He outlined the recruitment drives conducted during 2015–16, 2018–19, 2021 and 2022–23. He stated that 10,980 posts were filled during the 2015–16 recruitment, while 17,297 posts were notified and processed in 2017. In 2021, 92 Prosecution Department posts were filled. During the 2022–23 recruitment, the Board conducted the largest police recruitment drive in the history of Telangana, filling 16,654 posts. He informed that nearly 95% of the recruitments carried out so far have been for Constable-level posts, while around 5% have been for Sub-Inspector posts.

The Chairman also briefed the DGP on the 2025 recruitment notifications, stating that recruitment is underway for 118 Assistant Public Prosecutor posts, 1,743 Driver Operator posts, and Finger Print-related posts.

He informed that in the first-ever Finger Print recruitment, 57 candidates were selected against 60 notified posts. He further stated that the recruitment process for 198 RTC Supervisor posts is nearing completion.

The Board also explained issues relating to post conversion, including RSI

to SI, Civil Police Constable to TGSP, and reservation policies applicable to various categories.

Reforms in Recruitment Process

The Board highlighted several reforms introduced to make the recruitment process more transparent, efficient and candidate-friendly. During 2015–16, important reforms included implementation of 33% reservation, reduction of the long-distance physical endurance run from 5 kilometres to 2.5 kilometres, introduction of biometric verification, and adoption of a fully online application system.

Further technological reforms introduced in 2018 included RFID technology, mobile and e-mail-based registration, and the introduction of one-fourth (¼) negative marking in written examinations.

The DGP also reviewed the functioning of the Police Training and Police Computer Services wings, with particular emphasis on modernization, technology integration, enhancement of training standards and future initiatives. He directed all wings to work in close coordination to further strengthen the efficiency, professionalism and technological capabilities of the Telangana Police. During the meeting, the DGP also inaugurated new communication sets developed for operational use.

The review meeting was attended by TSLPRB Chairman V.V. Srinivasa Rao, DG CID Charu Sinha, IGP (L&O) Gajarao Bhupal, DIG Communications Kiran Kumari, SPs Rupesh and Srinivas, Principals of the Police Training Colleges at Amberpet, Karimnagar and Warangal, DSPs and other senior officers.

Doctoral Committee Meeting held at Srinivas University

Dr Srinivas Vooradi MANGALURU

A Doctoral Committee meeting for PhD scholars in English was held on Saturday at the university's Old Pandeshwar campus. The meeting brought together 19 research scholars, seven research professors, three external experts, and Coordinator Dr. Reena Ranjith to review progress, provide feedback, and guide ongoing doctoral research.

The session opened with a welcome from the coordinator, Dr. Reena Ranjith, who outlined the agenda and emphasized the importance of rigorous methodology and timely



milestones. Each scholar presented updates on research objectives, literature reviews, methodology, and preliminary findings. The panel of research professors Dr. Srinivas Vooradi, Dr. Thungesh, Dr. Bhuvana Ramachandran, Dr. Manjula, Dr. Varadesh Hiregange and external experts Dr. Reshma

Hegde, Dr. Vishwanath and Dr. Rajalakshmi offered constructive critiques, suggested refinements to research questions, recommended additional readings and methodological adjustments, and advised on publication and dissemination strategies. Key points of discussion included the clarity of

research frameworks, ethical considerations, data collection plans, and timelines for submitting progress reports and draft chapters. Several scholars received specific recommendations for strengthening theoretical frameworks and expanding comparative analyses. The committee also

underscored the need for interdisciplinary approaches where appropriate and encouraged scholars to pursue conference presentations and journal submissions to build academic profiles. The meeting concluded with agreed action points and deadlines for the next review. Coordinator Dr. Reena Ranjith thanked the participating professors, external experts, and scholars for their active engagement and constructive contributions. The committee reconvened its support for the scholars' progress and committed to follow-up mentoring to ensure successful completion of the doctoral program.





K'taka achieves 98.4 pc Enumeration Form distribution in roll revision
BENGALURU, JULY 18

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Karnataka, on Saturday said that 98.40 per cent of Enumeration Forms (EFs) have been distributed across the state as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Officials stated that 5,45,46,593 Enumeration Forms have been distributed so far, accounting for 98.40 per cent of the total electorate. Of the state's polling stations, 51,120 (86.57 per cent) have achieved 100 per cent EF distribution, while 4,839 polling stations have recorded more than 90 per cent distribution. The digitisation process has also gathered pace, with 3,05,74,731 Enumeration Forms digitised, representing 55.16 per cent of the total electorate. However, only 21 polling stations have completed 100 per cent digitisation, while 5,328 polling stations have crossed the 90 per cent mark. The CEO's office said that 5,14,981 electors, or 0.93 per cent, have submitted their Enumeration Forms online. During the verification process, officials identified 26,76,740 electors under the ASDDO category. Additionally, 3,32,102 electors were found to be untraceable or absent, while 15,45,039 were identified as having permanently shifted from their registered addresses. The exercise also revealed that 6,47,421 electors are deceased, 1,44,514 are already enrolled elsewhere, and 7,664 fall under other categories. The CEO's office said district-wise data on Enumeration Form distribution and digitisation has been compiled and circulated as part of the daily progress report.

Assam plans Rs 17,235 crore connectivity push with highways, elevated corridor
GUWAHATI, JULY 18

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday unveiled a Rs 17,235 crore infrastructure expansion plan, describing it as one of the state's most extensive road connectivity initiatives aimed at strengthening transport networks and supporting long-term economic growth. Announcing the proposed projects through a post on X, Sarma said the ambitious investment package would significantly improve connectivity across Assam by upgrading key road corridors and creating new transport links. The Chief Minister said the proposed infrastructure programme includes the four-laning of the Baihata Chariali-Mission Chariali highway stretch, the construction of the Guwahati Airport-Jalukbari Elevated Corridor and a new bridge across the Brahmaputra connecting Morigaon and Darrang districts. "With a planned investment of Rs 17,235 crore, we are driving one of the most ambitious connectivity overhauls in Assam till date," Sarma said while outlining the government's vision for expanding the state's transport infrastructure. According to the Chief Minister, the projects are expected to ease traffic congestion, reduce travel time and improve the movement of people and goods across different regions of the state.

7 Chennai officials suspended as TVK's anti-corruption crusade continues

The latest action comes days after six other GCC officials were suspended over allegations of bribery, fake billing and a cash-for-jobs racket.

Chief Minister Vijay's anti-corruption drive continued on Saturday as municipal authorities in Chennai suspended seven officials and registered an FIR against them over alleged corruption. The action followed surprise inspections carried out by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) last week, during which officials allegedly found unaccounted cash and unexplained digital transactions. "One assistant executive engineer was unable to explain

GPay transactions amounting to Rs 2.39 lakh during the surprise inspection," a senior GCC official told India Today. According to officials, the inspections were conducted in Zones 6 and 9 of the Greater Chennai Corporation. Zone 6 covers parts of North Chennai, including Kolathur, Ayanavaram and Perambur, while Zone 9 includes key commercial and residential areas in Central Chennai such as Thousand Lights, Mylapore and Nungambakkam. The officials were suspended and booked under anti-corruption provisions after the GCC received a report from the Tamil Nadu Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) on Friday. The latest action



comes days after six other GCC officials were suspended over allegations of bribery, fake billing and a cash-for-jobs racket. Several of the suspended officials had spent years in the civic body, with some having served for nearly two decades. The GCC is also considering removing the ac-

cused officials from service after an inquiry, if they are found guilty, instead of limiting the action to suspension. GCC Commissioner Sameeran told India Today that the action was in line with Chief Minister Vijay's stated policy of zero tolerance towards corruption. The anti-corruption drive has also extended beyond the civic body, with the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) taking action against one of its own leaders. Recently, a TVK panchayat leader was arrested after a purported video showed him allegedly accepting a bribe. He was expelled from the party even before an FIR was registered. Earlier this week, the TVK-led government launched a

dedicated WhatsApp helpline to allow citizens to report alleged bribery in government offices. The helpline, managed by the DVAC, aims to help citizens submit complaints and evidence related to corruption. Anti-corruption was one of the key themes of the TVK's election campaign, with CM Vijay pitching the party as an alternative to existing political forces in Tamil Nadu. During the campaign, Vijay repeatedly accused the DMK and AIADMK of corruption and promised to provide clean governance. Hence, the ongoing actions are being viewed by political observers as an attempt by the TVK to reinforce its anti-corruption credentials.



Lok Sabha Speaker recognises merger of 6 rebel UBT MPs with Shinde's Shiv Sena

The Speaker's decision marks another significant milestone in the prolonged battle between the rival Shiv Sena factions over political and organisational control of the party, further strengthening the Shinde camp's position in Parliament ahead of the Monsoon Session.

party support it. The Uddhav Thackeray camp had opposed the move, arguing that the split did not satisfy the legal requirement relating to the party's organisational structure. Shinde, however, insisted that all constitutional and procedural formalities had been complied with and that the final decision rested with the Speaker.

REVISED LOK SABHA NUMBERS
The updated party position has also altered the overall arithmetic in the Lok Sabha. According to the revised figures:
NDA: 318
INDIA bloc: 181
Others: 41

In a major setback for Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT), Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has recognised the merger of six rebel MPs with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, formally validating their switch under the anti-defection law ahead of Parliament's Monsoon Session. With the Speaker's decision, the Shinde-led Shiv Sena's strength in the Lok Sabha has risen from seven to 13, while the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) has been reduced to three MPs, according to the list released by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The recognition comes nearly a month after the six parliamentarians broke away from the Uddhav camp and joined Shinde's party. Earlier this week, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had said the induction was carried out in a "foolproof" and "legally sound" manner and expressed confidence that the Speaker would rule in favour of his faction. "These six MPs have come with us with a two-thirds majority. After consulting legal experts, they met the Lok Sabha Speaker and completed every procedure, including submitting the required documents and video recordings," Shinde had said.

He maintained that the merger fulfilled the requirements under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which permits a merger if at least two-thirds of the members of a legislative

The Lok Sabha currently has 540 sitting members, with three seats vacant. The effective strength of the House remains 540, meaning the government would require 360 MPs to secure the two-thirds majority needed for the passage of a constitutional amendment.

The latest party position also reflects an increase of 20 MPs in the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) following its recognition as a separate parliamentary party by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, while the Shinde-led Shiv Sena now occupies the position of the larger Shiv Sena bloc in the House with 13 MPs.

The Speaker's decision comes just ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, beginning July 20, and further consolidates the Shinde-led Shiv Sena's position in the Lok Sabha.

The recognition also marks another chapter in the prolonged battle for control of the Shiv Sena between the rival factions led by Shinde and Thackeray. Since the 2022 split, the two camps have been locked in political and legal disputes over the party's leadership, organisational control and electoral identity.



8 killed in Ahmedabad firecracker factory blast; PM announces Rs 2 lakh ex gratia

Police identified the factory operator as Mehul Dodiya. Investigators said the unit's licence had already been cancelled, but manufacturing activities were allegedly continuing despite the revocation.

the revocation.

SITUATION UNDER CONTROL
Authorities said the situation was under control and the fire had been contained. Local police said a case would be registered under sections related to culpable homicide not amounting to murder and relevant provisions of the Explosives Act. Teams from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and other investigating agencies have been called to the site to determine the cause of the explosion and examine possible violations of safety regulations.

PM MODI CONDOLES DEATHS
Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the deaths and announced ex gratia compensation for the victims' families and those injured. "Extremely saddened to hear about the loss of lives due to a mishap at a fireworks factory in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief," the Prime Minister said on X, adding that the local administration is providing all possible assistance to those affected.

Kerala Man Arrested in Interstate Drug Racket

Fazaluddin was arrested in Saudi Arabia in 2006 for allegedly murdering a man from Mangaluru while working there as a taxi driver. He was released from prison in 2016 after voluntary organisations raised Rs 80 lakh through a public fundraising campaign and paid it as blood money, police said.



A 45-year-old man who returned from Saudi Arabia after securing his release through the payment of Rs 80 lakh in blood money has been arrested in Kerala for

allegedly masterminding an interstate narcotics racket, police said on Friday. The accused, Fazaluddin T., a native of Karikottakkari in Kannur district, was arrested on July 14 following an investigation into a methamphetamine traf-

ficking network in Iritty, police said. According to police, Fazaluddin was arrested in Saudi Arabia in 2006 for allegedly murdering a man from Mangaluru while working there as a taxi driver. He was released from prison in 2016

after voluntary organisations raised Rs 80 lakh through a public fundraising campaign and paid it as blood money, police said. After returning to India, Fazaluddin moved to Bengaluru and started working at a tea shop. However, in 2023, he was arrested by Bengaluru police for allegedly possessing around 50 kg of ganja, police said. During his stay in a Bengaluru jail, he allegedly established links with members of major drug syndicates, they added. After being released from jail in January this year, Fazaluddin returned to Iritty and started working at an eatery. Police said the

breakthrough in the case came after the arrest of an Iritty native with methamphetamine last month. The subsequent investigation revealed that the seized drug had allegedly been supplied through a network headed by Fazaluddin. Following days of surveillance, police intercepted and arrested him on July 14. Police said they would approach the court seeking his custody to identify other members of the racket and trace its wider network. The case, they said, has linked the latest methamphetamine seizure in Iritty to a larger interstate narcotics network allegedly headed by Fazaluddin.

Curbs on air travel, meetings in hotels Madhya Pradesh's 2-year austerity policy

The Finance Department's guidelines mandate all state institutions to curb non-essential spending, strengthen financial discipline, and ensure efficient utilisation of government resources.

The Madhya Pradesh government has rolled out a comprehensive two-year austerity policy aimed at tightening control over official expenditure, with fresh restrictions on government-funded air travel, a ban on holding meetings and training programmes in hotels, curbs on the use of hired vehicles, and stricter norms for foreign travel, consultancy services and other administrative spending. The state Finance Department has issued the new guidelines for all government departments, corporations, boards, universities and other state-run institutions as part

of an effort to strengthen financial discipline and ensure more efficient use of public resources. Under the new directives, non-essential government expenditure will remain under strict control for the next two years. The Finance Department said government departments have been instructed to optimise available resources while avoiding avoidable expenses across administrative functions.

LIMITS ON GOVT-FUNDED AIR TRAVEL

The order places tighter conditions on official travel. Foreign visits by government officials will now be permitted only for essential official work, while domestic air travel will also require necessity-based approval. Officials travelling at government expense will be required to fly only in economy class.

No Meetings or Training Programs in Hotels

The government has also prohibited departments from



organising workshops, meetings and training programmes in hotels or other commercial venues. Such events must instead be held in government buildings, while departments have been encouraged to conduct meetings and training sessions through virtual platforms and webinars wherever feasible to reduce costs.

REDUCTION IN HIRED VEHICLES

As part of the expenditure-cutting exercise, the Finance Department has directed departments to reduce dependence on hired vehicles

by introducing a vehicle-pooling system. Instead of allocating separate vehicles to multiple officers, departments will be required to share vehicles. Officials entrusted with additional departmental responsibilities will also not be provided separate vehicles for those assignments.

OFFICE DECOR RESTRICTED

The austerity measures further prohibit unnecessary spending on office decoration and interior renovation of officials' chambers and cabins. Department heads have been instructed to closely monitor such expenditure. The government has also temporarily suspended the engagement of new consultancy services. In addition, state corporations, boards and public sector undertakings have been asked to transfer the maximum possible share of their dividends to the state government to strengthen public finances.

MADHYA PRADESH'S

EARLIER MEASURES

The latest measures come after Madhya Pradesh had already adopted austerity initiatives following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for prudent use of resources amid the global oil crisis triggered by the US-Iran conflict and the prolonged blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. In line with that appeal, the state had reduced the Chief Minister's convoy from 13 vehicles to eight and directed ministers and office-bearers to avoid vehicle rallies and large processions while assuming office.

With the latest order, the Mohan Yadav government has expanded its cost-cutting drive across the administration. Departments are now expected to strictly implement the new norms over the next two years, with the government likely to closely monitor compliance as it seeks to reinforce fiscal discipline and contain avoidable public expenditure.

Return to Mamata, I'll resign in an hour: Abhishek Banerjee challenges TMC rebels

TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee challenged rebel MPs and MLAs to return to Mamata Banerjee, saying he would resign within an hour if they did, rejecting claims that he was the reason behind the rebellion.

Trinamool Congress (TMC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday challenged the party's rebel MPs and MLAs, saying he would resign within an hour if they returned to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Addressing the issue of defections, Abhishek Banerjee said that if the rebel leaders had a problem with him and that was the reason behind their rebellion, they should return to Mamata Banerjee.

He said that if he was the common target, they should come back to the party, and he would resign within an hour.

His remarks came as Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is expected to decide on Saturday on the merger of 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) and six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, news agency ANI reported citing sources ANI reported that the Lok Sabha Speaker is consulting experts and may take a final decision on the merger on Saturday. Last month, rebel TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar led a group of 20 MPs and announced their merger with the regional NCPI. Shiv Sena (UBT) has also witnessed a split, with six



Lok Sabha MPs joining the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. According to sources, Speaker Om Birla may also decide on Saturday on the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)'s demand for separate mergers have also fuelled speculation about the Centre

reintroducing the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill. The Bill proposes increasing the strength of the Lok Sabha to as many as 850 seats and implementing the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures.

According to sources, the Centre is likely to bring back the Bill while attempting to address concerns over delimitation by assuring a uniform 50 per cent increase in Lok Sabha seats across states.

Sources added that with the NDA moving closer to a stronger majority and the DMK no longer part of the INDIA bloc, the Centre is looking to secure the passage of the Bill, which was defeated after receiving 298 votes in April.



EDITORIAL

The New Frontier: How Private Enterprise is Rewriting India’s Cosmic Destiny

For decades, India’s cosmic ambitions were written exclusively in the sober, calculated shorthand of a government monopoly. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) performed modern miracles on shoe-string budgets, giving the nation absolute self-reliance and global envy with iconic missions like Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan. Yet, for all its structural brilliance, the state-led model had a natural ceiling. True scale requires an ecosystem, not just an agency. Today, that ceiling has shattered. A historic transformation has swept through the subcontinent’s aerospace sector, turning India into one of the most dynamic commercial space hubs on Earth. The private space rush isn’t a promise of the distant future; it is a roaring reality. As Skyroot Aerospace recently launched its flagship Vikram-1 rocket into orbit, India firmly planted its flag as the third country in the world with private orbital launch capabilities. Simultaneously, Agnikul Cosmos made headlines by building and launching Agnibaan SoRtEd from the world’s first private launchpad—powered by a single-piece, 3D-printed semi-cryogenic engine. This sudden, meteoric rise of the “NewSpace” ecosystem is a masterclass in how proactive governance can ignite private innovation. The pivotal turning point arrived with the Indian Space Policy 2023 and the subsequent liberalization of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) guidelines, which allowed up to 100% automatic foreign investment into critical sub-sectors like satellite component manufacturing. By establishing the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) as a single-window clearinghouse, the government did something rare: it actively opened ISRO’s closely guarded, billion-dollar testing facilities and technical brains to wide-eyed startups. The numbers tell a stunning story of explosive growth. In 2014, India had a grand total of one space startup. By 2026, that number has surged past 400 vibrant companies, collectively bringing in over half a billion dollars in private capital. What makes this private renaissance so compelling is its refusal to merely copy Western counterparts like SpaceX. Indian startups are carving out a highly specific, high-margin niche based on structural economic advantages: competitive engineering talent and an unparalleled cost-to-performance ratio. Skyroot’s design philosophy mirrors a “space cab”—offering hyper-precise, on-demand orbital insertion for small-satellite operators who are tired of waiting months to catch a “rideshare” slot on massive, multi-payload rockets. Downstream players like Pixxel and GalaxEye are building hyperspectral satellite constellations to capture cutting-edge Earth observation data, transforming global agriculture, climate science, and disaster management. Crucially, the success of these private endeavors goes beyond corporate profitability. It is a powerful engine for talent retention. For generations, India’s finest aerospace minds had little choice but to emigrate to NASA, ESA, or Western corporate giants to work on bleeding-edge tech. Today, domestic space-tech unicorns are capturing that intellectual capital right at home, building high-paying, elite engineering teams in places like Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai. Challenges certainly remain. Building launch infrastructure requires massive sustained capital, and bridging the gap between highly localized engineering triumphs and a major share of the global space market will take time. Yet, the momentum is undeniably real. India’s private space sector has transitioned from a supporting player into a primary driver of the nation’s technological identity. By marrying the institutional wisdom of ISRO with the aggressive, agile risk-taking of private enterprise, India is no longer just aiming for the stars—it is building the highway to get there.

“REALLY SEEMS TO ME...”

A teacher must nurture, with wisdom and grace,
Like a father who guides in life’s vast race.
But what if the hands that are meant to protect,
Shatter the trust and demand blind respect?

Last night, in the hostel’s hollowed air,
A child was broken — stripped bare.
Called a “machine,” with a voice so cold,
Where love should be, power took hold.
Oh! Eye drops were never meant to kill,
Yet silence wounds, and silence will.

At dawn today, at the bus stand line,
A boy passed by — without a sign.
His hand brushed a girl from behind,
Whispered “sorry,” and left her confined.
She sat down quietly, swallowed the sting,
“With laws like these, what do they bring?”

So many rules, but do they shield?
When justice hides and scars are sealed?
When every breath a girl must weigh,
When dreams are stolen in bright of day?

I bow my head, in shame I see,
The threat to her — is often me.
No beast, no storm, no monstrous cry,
But man — her pain walks by.

Yet woman — she’s no flickering flame,
She’s fire, she’s force, she owns no shame.
She’s the mother who feeds even demons with grace,
She walks through ashes and sets the pace.

And still I pray, if fate be kind,
In my next life, with open mind—
Let me be born a daughter, strong and wild,
Unchained, unbroken, freedom’s child.
For if no change begins with me,
Then let me rise — as she.

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

OPINION

THE CENTENARY JOURNEY OF THE RSS

Creation never makes noise. True spiritual discipline speaks little. Yet, when it achieves fulfillment, it possesses the power to break through even the mightiest mountains and reveal itself. This observation applies, almost literally, to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). As the organization enters its centenary year, the small organizational seed planted by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in 1925 has grown into one of the world’s largest voluntary organizations. Over the past hundred years, the RSS has witnessed and endured numerous defining moments in India’s history—the freedom movement, Partition, government bans, the Emergency, sweeping social transformation, globalization, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the nation’s aspirations for a developed India. Throughout these phases, the RSS has sought to present itself not merely as an organization, but as a vehicle for service, character-building, social organization, and national consciousness. Its centenary, therefore, is not simply a celebration of organizational longevity; it is an occasion to evaluate a meaningful ideological journey dedicated to nation-building.

It is against this historic backdrop that RSS @ 100: A Century of Resolve, published by Prabhat Prakashan and authored by Shyam Jaju and Anupam Trivedi, assumes considerable significance. The authors examine the past and future of the RSS while highlighting its contribution to the making of India and the vision of a New India. They emphasize presenting the authentic reflections of truth embedded in the organization’s history. According to the authors, the history of the RSS has often been distorted or obscured, whereas, in reality, it offers an inspiring and exemplary model for the world. The RSS has remained a peaceful, non-violent organization that has consistently pursued constructive nation-building with remarkable continuity. The importance of its first century lies precisely in this continuity, which also points toward the aspirations and commitments of the century ahead.

Today, the entire world looks toward India, whose civilizational credentials as a potential Vishwaguru (global guide) continue to gain recognition. During the difficult and unprecedented period of the COVID-19 pandemic, India demonstrated concern for the welfare of all nations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, through the guiding principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas (Together with All, Development for All, Trust of All), reinforced the timeless Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the belief that the world is one family. The RSS advances with the same civilizational vision. It is a unique organization and the world’s largest non-political voluntary body. It represents one of the strongest voices advocating Indian nationalism, with national security, unity, and integrity at the core of its mission.

As the ideological, cultural, and social influence of the RSS expands in India and abroad, curiosity about its philosophy and functioning has also increased. More and more people wish to understand the organization, its methods, and its ideas. Jaju and Trivedi’s book offers a relevant, fact-based, and insightful examination of these questions. It also helps explain how, despite being a socio-cultural organization, the RSS has influenced the direction of Indian politics toward a stronger sense of national identity. The book presents a comprehensive discussion of India’s emergence as a global leader—an issue that lies at the heart of the RSS centenary celebrations. The book was formally released at the Vice President’s Enclave by the Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan. The presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, senior journalist Rambhadrur Rai, and several distinguished personalities transformed the event from a routine book launch into a broader national discourse on the hundred-year journey of the RSS.

Speaking on the occasion, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh referred to several lesser-known aspects of the organization’s history and observed that although the RSS has devoted itself to serving the nation and society for the past century, many misconceptions and prejudices still persist about it. He expressed confidence that the book would help dispel these misunderstandings and enable readers to appreciate the RSS in its true perspective. This observation reflects the central spirit of the book. Its purpose is not merely to praise the RSS, but to present, in a factual and balanced manner, its ideological evolution, organizational growth, contribution to nation-building, and vision for the future. One of the book’s greatest strengths is that it does not confine the RSS to historical analysis alone. Instead, it connects the organiza-

tion with the vision of Developed India 2047, cultural renaissance, social harmony, self-reliance, public service, national security, and India’s emerging global role. Consequently, it is not merely a historical account of the RSS but also an important contribution to the broader ideological discourse surrounding New India.

The chapter devoted to the Indian freedom struggle deserves particular attention. For decades, critics have alleged that the RSS played no role in the freedom movement. The book challenges this perception by presenting historical evidence. It documents Dr. Hedgewar’s active participation in the freedom movement, his imprisonment, the assistance extended by RSS volunteers to revolutionaries during the Quit India Movement, and the extensive relief and protection work undertaken during the traumatic days of Partition. Another significant contribution of the book is its effort to move beyond the narrow tendency of viewing the RSS solely through the lens of politics. It explains that the RSS is not a political party but an organization dedicated to developing individuals who contribute to diverse spheres of national life. The book provides a detailed account of RSS-inspired initiatives in education, rural development, environmental conservation, social service, culture, labour organizations, student movements, women’s empowerment, the upliftment of Scheduled Castes, and disaster relief.

The sections dealing with service activities constitute the soul of the book. It presents factual accounts of the work carried out by RSS volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, in border regions, among tribal communities, and for economically disadvantaged sections of society. These accounts demonstrate that the organization’s commitment to service is not confined to times of crisis but represents a continuous and enduring social mission. The authors also engage openly with several controversies and misconceptions associated with the RSS. Topics such as the concept of a Hindu Rashtra, the caste system, reservations, the role of women, the organization’s approach toward minorities, and its commitment to democracy are discussed in considerable detail. In particular, the description of women’s participation through the Rashtra Sevika Samiti challenges the widespread perception that

women have no place within the broader ideological framework associated with the RSS. An especially engaging chapter examines Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership and India’s growing global stature through the ideological lens of the RSS.

From an ideological perspective, the book repeatedly emphasizes that the RSS does not seek political power as its primary objective. Rather, it aims to build citizens of strong character. According to the RSS, nation-building begins with character-building. The daily shakha serves as a practical laboratory where discipline, service, leadership, and social harmony are cultivated. This is why the book consistently asserts that the true identity of the RSS is reflected in its volunteers. Like any ideological work, this book can naturally be interpreted from different perspectives. Critics may disagree with some of its conclusions, while supporters may find in it a well-documented affirmation of their convictions. Nevertheless, its greatest strength lies in encouraging readers to rise above preconceived notions and understand the RSS within its own historical and ideological context. That, ultimately, is the hallmark of any serious work of intellectual inquiry.

Several important books on the RSS have appeared over the years, including Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh: 100 Years of Service, Dedication and Nation-Building, Kriti Roop Sangh Darshan, The First Trial by Fire of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and Sunil Ambekar’s widely discussed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh: Guiding Principles for a Golden India. Within this distinguished tradition, RSS @100: A Century of Resolve earns a unique place through its contemporary perspective, extensive research, balanced presentation, and comprehensive treatment of the subject.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist, Columnist

IN SEARCH OF GRACE: MAKING TIRUMALA ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERY DEVOTEE

“True pilgrimage is measured by the peace of a devotee’s heart, not the speed of a server. It is time to move beyond the queue and put the ‘devotee’ back at the center of the Tirumala experience.”

For millions of Hindus, a pilgrimage to Tirumala is far more than a religious journey—it is a deeply cherished aspiration, often nurtured over a lifetime. Every day, thousands of devotees travel from every corner of India with a single prayer in their hearts: to stand before Lord Venkateswara, even if only for a fleeting moment. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has embraced digital technology to manage this enormous influx of pilgrims. Yet, for the ordinary devotee, technology has increasingly become a barrier rather than a bridge. The challenge is not the overwhelming number of pilgrims; it is the inability of the existing system to manage that demand efficiently, transparently and equitably.

One of the most glaring examples is the booking process for the ₹300 Special Entry Darshan tickets. At present, tickets for an entire month—nearly six lakh in all—are released simultaneously about 70 days in advance. Predictably, this creates an extraordinary surge in demand, overwhelming the booking servers within minutes. Those with high-speed internet connections and greater digital familiarity enjoy a clear advantage, while devotees from rural areas are often left behind. Even after waiting through the countdown, many users encounter messages stating that their selected slot is already being booked by someone else, while others experience payment failures at the final stage. What should have been a smooth booking process ends in disappointment for countless devotees.

The solution is neither complicated nor expensive. Instead of releasing a month’s quota in a single window, TTD should adopt a rolling-release model by opening bookings each day for a specific future date. Such a staggered system would distribute online traffic more evenly, reduce server congestion and provide a fairer opportunity for everyone. Equally important is the introduction of a proper cancellation and waiting-list mechanism. Tickets surrendered by one devotee should automatically be allotted to the next eligible person in the queue, ensuring that no darshan slot goes to waste.

The booking process itself also deserves urgent attention. Every time devotees book accommodation, darshan or sevas, they are required to repeatedly enter personal information such as names, Aadhaar

details, addresses, mobile numbers and email IDs. During a race against time, these repetitive formalities consume precious seconds and often lead to data-entry mistakes that cannot be corrected later. A permanent, Aadhaar-verified family profile would eliminate this unnecessary burden. Devotees should simply be able to select pre-registered family members while booking. In the long run, TTD could integrate darshan, accommodation and sevas into a unified digital pilgrim pass, making the entire experience far more seamless.

Accommodation booking suffers from similar structural flaws. Tirupati and Tirumala room quotas are released simultaneously, placing additional stress on the servers. Separate booking schedules for the two locations would significantly ease the load. Accommodation bookings, too, should follow a daily rolling-release model instead of monthly bulk releases. Another long-standing concern involves devotees who secure coveted Arjitha Sevas such as Suprabhata Seva through the lottery system but fail to obtain accommodation in Tirumala. Since these rituals begin before dawn, linking accommodation with seva allotments would remove needless hardship for pilgrims.

Even after successfully booking rooms online, devotees must visit the Central Reception Office in Tirumala merely to verify a QR code before learning the location of their allotted accommodation. Carrying luggage across the hill after this verification becomes especially difficult for senior citizens, women and families with young children. Establishing multiple verification counters across Tirumala would decentralise this process and greatly improve convenience.

Ultimately, the success of a pilgrimage cannot be measured merely by the number of devotees who pass through the temple each day. It must also be judged by the quality of the spiritual experience they receive. Today, many devotees barely manage a two-second glimpse of the deity before being hurried out amid pushing and crowd pressure. Efficient crowd management should never come at the cost of the devotional experience. After all, the purpose of a pilgrimage is not simply to enter and exit the sanctum, but to experience a moment of peace and spiritual fulfilment.

The same principle applies to essential pilgrim services. The single Annaprasadam complex, despite its excellent ser-

vice, often struggles to accommodate the enormous rush. Additional dining centres offering the same quality of free meals should be established at strategic locations across Tirumala. Likewise, elderly devotees, persons with disabilities and families travelling with infants deserve more dedicated waiting halls, wheelchairs, battery-operated vehicles and trained support staff.

Perhaps the greatest source of dissatisfaction among ordinary devotees is the perception of unequal treatment. While thousands wait patiently for hours, various categories of VIP and recommendation-based darshan continue to enjoy preferential access. Except where constitutional protocol genuinely demands otherwise, TTD must undertake a comprehensive review of such special privileges. Before the deity, status should yield to devotion. Every pilgrim deserves equal dignity and equal access.

Digital transformation, however desirable, cannot assume universal digital literacy. Millions of devotees—particularly from rural India—still lack reliable internet access or familiarity with online systems. TTD should therefore revive its district-level information centres and permit a limited number of offline bookings for darshan and accommodation. Until digital access becomes truly universal, online and offline systems must coexist as complementary channels rather than substitutes.

The speed with which darshan and accommodation quotas disappear has also fuelled growing public suspicion regarding the integrity of the online system. TTD should deploy advanced anti-bot technologies, AI-powered fraud detection and continuous monitoring to identify and block automated booking attempts. At the same time, transparency must become a defining principle of digital governance. Real-time information on queue status, waiting times and crowd density should be made available through the website and mobile application. Daily disclosure of tickets released, booked, cancelled and reallocated through the waiting list would further strengthen public confidence. Every grievance should receive a unique tracking number and be resolved within a clearly defined timeframe. Equally valuable would be systematic collection of post-pilgrimage feedback to guide future improvements.

Given the scale and sensitivity of its

digital ecosystem, TTD should also establish an independent Technology Advisory Council comprising experts in information technology, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and data management. Such a body could periodically review server capacity, ticketing algorithms, cybersecurity preparedness, but prevention measures and user experience, ensuring that technological reforms remain both effective and future-ready.

Beyond the temple itself, better regulation of transport and essential services is equally important. Reports of arbitrary fares charged by local taxis and jeeps continue to surface, while free shuttle buses often remain overcrowded. Increasing the number of buses in line with pilgrim demand and providing real-time bus information through digital displays and mobile applications would greatly improve mobility. Environmental protection through restrictions on single-use plastics is a welcome initiative, but it must not create opportunities for overpricing drinking water and other daily necessities. Pilgrimage should never become synonymous with commercial exploitation.

The central issue at Tirumala is not the magnitude of the crowds. It is the absence of systems capable of managing those crowds with fairness, efficiency and compassion. The millions who arrive at the sacred hills each year are not a burden on the institution; they are a sacred trust placed in its care. Technology should simplify a devotee’s journey, not complicate it. Success should no longer be measured by the number of pilgrims processed each day, but by the dignity, transparency and spiritual satisfaction with which every devotee returns home. When the pilgrim’s experience becomes the guiding principle of reform, Tirumala will truly embody the ideals of equality, service and devotion that its sacred legacy represents.



K AMARAVATI
MEMBER
PLUS NGO



Transfer of Shri Ashok Pandey

Shri Prafull Kumar Sinha Assumes Charge as Programme Head of Akashvani Varanasi

VARANASI, 18 JULY 2026

In compliance with the transfer order issued by the Directorate General, Akashvani, New Delhi, Shri Ashok Pandey, Assistant Director (Programme) and Programme Head at Akashvani Varanasi, has been transferred to Akashvani Gorakhpur as Assistant Director (Programme). Subsequently, on 17 July 2026, he formally handed over his responsibilities at Akashvani Varanasi to Shri Prafull Kumar Sinha, Assistant Director (Programme).

During his tenure, Shri Ashok Pandey provided effective leadership to the Programme Wing of Akashvani Varanasi and made significant contributions to the production and broadcast of programmes across diverse genres, live and recorded coverage of special events, public welfare and development-oriented programmes, and listener-centric activities. Under his leadership, the station successfully organized and broadcast several important programmes and special transmissions, which received wide appreciation from listeners. At a brief farewell ceremony organized on the occasion of his transfer, officers and staff members of the station appreciated Shri Pandey's valuable contributions, cordial nature,

Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates farmer producer organisation in TN

VIRUDHUNAGAR: (Jul 18) Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday inaugurated a farmer producer organisation (Global Chilli Agro Pvt Ltd) in this district. Speaking at the event at Thiruchuli village, the minister stated: "This farmer producer organisation, which produces GI-tagged Samba chillies and value-added products, has been established with financial assistance from the Small Industries Devel-



opment Bank of India (SIDBI)". She appreciated that the SIDBI does not stop at merely providing loans to the farmers of this region but offers all necessary assistance, setting an example for the entire country.

Vaishnav flags off biweekly Ramnagar-Dehradun Express

NEW DELHI: (JUL 18)

Railway Minister Rashwini Vaishnav on Sunday virtually flagged off the inaugural service of the bi-weekly Ramnagar-Dehradun Express, the first-ever direct express train connecting Ramnagar with Dehradun, both cities in Uttarakhand.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami was also present for the occasion via video conference.

"The new train fulfils a long-pending demand of the people of the region and will significantly strengthen rail connectivity between the Kumaon and Garhwal regions of Uttarakhand," a press statement from the Railway Ministry said.

CJI Surya Kant Seeks More Judges, Courtrooms

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant urged Punjab and Haryana to strengthen district court infrastructure and fill more judicial posts. He said timely justice will depend on faster recruitment, more courtrooms and regulated use of AI.



Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday stressed the need to strengthen judicial infrastructure and appoint more judicial officers in district courts to ensure timely delivery of justice. He said courts were under pressure from a rising number of cases and that more courtrooms, faster recruitment and better facilities were essential.

Speaking after inaugurating a multilevel parking facility at the district courts complex, Kant urged the Punjab and Haryana governments to take the necessary decisions to update and develop infrastructure at sub-divisional and district courts. Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria and Supreme Court judges Justice AG Masih and

Justice Sheel Nagu were present at the event.

Kant said the number of bars at the sub-divisional level in Punjab and Haryana was gradually increasing, which meant the demand for judicial officers was also rising. "You may have noticed that even with annual recruitment, we are unable to fill all the posts. One major reason for that is, if we appoint judicial officers, do we have the judicial infrastructure available for them? If there are no courtrooms, what will be the use of appointing a judicial officer?" he asked. He also pointed to the sharp rise in fresh cases in recent years. "Let me give you the example of the Su-

preme Court. In 2024, nearly 75,000 cases were filed there. In 2025, that number rose to around 80,000-83,000. This year, we feel that the number will cross one lakh. Keeping this in view, I requested the central government, which increased it (sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges) from 34 to 38," he said. The CJI said there was a narrative about a backlog of cases in the country, but added that the issue needed to be understood properly. He said he did not accept the claim that pending cases amounted to one crore. According to him, a case is counted as soon as it is filed, but it cannot be decided the same day because of procedural requirements and the need to follow natural justice. He said notices have to be issued, pleadings completed, issues framed in civil suits, and both sides given a chance to present evidence before a decision is made. "As far as the procedural requirement is concerned, I do not count that case in arrears. There may be pendency, but pendency is for a good rea-

son because the procedure provided in the law is being followed in that case," he said. Even so, Kant said the courts were overburdened and needed more officers in the district judiciary along with robust infrastructure to deliver justice within a timeline. Later, speaking to reporters, he said artificial intelligence in the judiciary would be introduced through regulation. "You can visit the Supreme Court's website, where I have uploaded the AI regulations. You will understand how we are using AI, and how we will expand its use further. But in a regulatory manner," he said. He also said the Indian judiciary was a leader in the use of technology and made optimum use of technological advances compared with judicial systems in other countries. In sum, Kant's message was that timely justice will depend on stronger court infrastructure, more judicial appointments, quicker recruitment and carefully regulated use of technology, while managing the growing volume of cases in courts.



Heartfelt Tribute on the 37th Death Anniversary of Late Shri Sain Dass Talwar

DEHRADUN, JULY 18:

A tribute meeting was organized at the Sain Srijan Patal Office, Sain Kuteer, Jogiwala, on the occasion of the 37th death anniversary of Late Shri Sai Das Talwar. Family members and associates paid their heartfelt respects while remembering his remarkable contributions to society, education, and religious activities. Addressing the gathering, his eldest son, Prof. K. L. Talwar, a retired Principal and Convener of Sain Srijan Patal, said that Late Shri Sain Dass Talwar was posthumously honoured with the "Uttarkashi Gaurav Samman-2017" by the Shri Adarsh Ramleela Committee (Regd.), Uttarkashi, in recognition of his outstanding social service. Prof. Talwar shared that Late Shri Sain Dass Talwar served the committee continuously for 25 years, beginning in 1952, as its Manager and Treasurer. Throughout his life, he played an active role in numerous social and religious initiatives in Uttarkashi. He passed away in Uttarkashi on 18 July 1990 at the age of 70. To preserve his father's legacy, Prof. Talwar instituted the Late Shri Sai Das Talwar Merit Scholarship, under

which meritorious students from various colleges are awarded cash scholarships, medals, and certificates of appreciation.

He further informed that Sain Srijan Patal was established in August 2024 at Sai Kuteer, Jogiwala, Dehradun, in memory of Late Shri Sain Dass Talwar. From this platform, the monthly literary magazine Sain Srijan Patal is being published regularly under the motto, "Always Committed to Writing and Creative Expression in Uttarakhand." So far, 23 issues have been published, while the 24th special issue is scheduled for release on 31 July. Through Sain Srijan Patal, several literary and creative initiatives are being conducted regularly, including the "Lekhak Shri Samman" (Author's Honour Award), news writing workshops, and the Talent Felicitation Ceremony held on 10 August, marking the foundation day of the platform. Among those who paid floral tributes and remembered the life and legacy of Late Shri Sai Das Talwar were Ankit Tiwari, Sub Editor of the magazine; Aman Talwar, Assistant Editor; writer Neelam Talwar; and Akshat Talwar, CEO of Inside Creative Media.

Self-Realization Erases the Distinction Between Soul and Brahman

DR. BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Shivpuri, July 18: While explaining the theme of the second day of the three-day Yoga Sadhana Camp organized by Anand Marg Pracharak Sangh Shivpuri, Acharya Gambhiranand Avadhoot said, "Bhakti Roop Setu". In the bridge of devotion, devotion is the medium that connects the soul to God. Knowledge and action are preparations for this path—knowledge produces subtle analysis and understanding of the object. Action is conduct according to that understanding. When the seeker moves forward with the support of these two, then devotion arises and that is what takes him across the "ocean of existence". The purpose of devotion is to eliminate duality and to experience the unity of living beings and Shiva. Devotion is not a practice, it is an experience. Devotion is not spiritual practice itself but the result of spiritual practice. Through knowledge and action the seeker reaches a state where: There is a feeling of bliss, The mind becomes overwhelmed with emotion, the devotee starts singing, laughing and dancing, ultimately attaining the state of Samadhi. This experience is not achieved merely by

Acharya Gambhiranand Avadhoot



reading, but by experiencing it itself—just as the taste of mango cannot be known merely by seeing. The Supreme Lord is omnipresent. Parambrahma has been described as omniscient and omnipresent. He is present in every object, every particle and every living being. All three qualities of nature—Satva, Raja and Tama—are within it. There is no place in the world where it is not present. When a seeker goes deep into devotion, he starts experiencing this omnipresent existence. What is the world? The world has been called the expression of "Bhavani Shakti". That is, this entire world is the expression of supreme consciousness. There is only one Brahma, all living beings are His parts, both sinners and virtuous souls are children of the same Supreme Being. An ordinary man sees the world as an "object", but in spiritual experience the seeker understands that: He is not just a spectator. Rather, it is a part of supreme consciousness. This state leads to Samadhi and enlightenment where the distinction between Jiva and Brahman ceases to exist.

four places of mind
Four states of mind have been described:

conscious mind
subconscious mind
unconscious mind
Turiya state (Niralamb state)

In the first three stages, the mind remains limited, whereas in the Turiya stage, original creation and ultimate realization are possible. Sadashiva and Kundalini Sadashiva is said to be in a constant state of consciousness. Man can reach higher consciousness through Tantra Sadhana and Kundalini awakening. The divine energy emanating from "Sahasrara" affects the entire body and

mind and produces a state of blissful trance.

real meaning of shiva
Shiva is not only a deity but also: primal consciousness, infinite light, And the form of supreme bliss has been described.

When the seeker realizes his soul then he experiences:

"Shivoham" – I am Shiva. This experience is achieved by the coordination of all three—devotion, knowledge and action, but ultimately devotion is considered to be the best bridge.

Bhakti is the bridge between the soul and Shiva.

Knowledge and action are the means to reach devotion. God is present everywhere. With self-realization the distinction between soul and Brahma disappears. The ultimate truth is the experience of joy, love and unity. On the morning of the second day of the seminar, all the devotees had Panchanya and the city Kirtan Prabhat Pheri started. On this occasion, Acharya Raga Nuganand Avadhoot, who came from the center of Anand Marg, gave training in moral education and yoga practice to the students of Shiksha Bharati Bal Niketan Higher Secondary School.



Kanpur-Guwahati Weekly Special Train Extended

MALIGAON, 18 JULY, 2026

To facilitate the travel requirements and to clear the extra rush of passengers during the ongoing travel season, it has been decided to extend the services of Train No. 04127/04128 (Kanpur Central-Guwahati-Kanpur Central Weekly) Special train. The additional services will run on the existing timings, route and stoppages, ensuring greater travel convenience for passengers travelling between Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other intermediate stations. Accordingly, Train No. 04127 (Kanpur Central-Guwahati) Weekly Special, will depart from Kanpur Central at 08:00 hrs, every Thursday, from 16th July to 3rd September, 2026, while Train No.

04128 (Guwahati-Kanpur Central) will depart from Guwahati at 22:00 hrs, every Friday, from 17th July to 4th September, 2026. Both the train services have been extended for additional 08 trips from their respective destinations. The operation of these additional trips is expected to provide significant relief to passengers, particularly those travelling to and from Guwahati during the high-demand period. Passengers are advised to check the detailed schedule, timings and halts through the NTES or other official Railway enquiry channels before commencing their journey. NFR remains committed towards enhancing passenger convenience by introducing additional train services whenever required to cater to the growing travel demand.

Work for welfare of last person, ensure tribal development reaches grassroots: Odisha CM to SDCs

BHUBANESWAR:

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday asked the newly appointed members of the Special Development Councils (SDCs) to ensure that welfare measures reach the last person in society. Addressing the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of 23 SDCs, Majhi said the councils have a crucial role in preserving the her-

itage of Odisha's 62 tribal communities while accelerating their socio-economic development.

"For us, politics is not a means of enjoying power but a means of serving the poorest person in the last row, which we call 'Antyodaya'. All of you should work for the development of the tribal communities, who constitute nearly one-fourth of the state's population," he said.

UNITED COLOURS OF NORTH EAST INDIA FESTIVAL HELD IN LONDON

CELEBRATES HERITAGE OF ALL EIGHT STATES

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM | 12 JULY 2026 :

Members of the Northeast Indian diaspora in the United Kingdom came together in a vibrant display of culture and unity at the United Colours of North East India Festival 2026, held at the Indian Gymkhana Club in London on 11 July 2026.

Organised by North East Indians in UK (NEIUK) and supported by Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma, head of Tripura's erstwhile royal family, the volunteer-led festival marked the first large-scale celebration in London to bring together communities representing all eight Northeastern states of India.

A Celebration of Unity and Identity

The festival featured regional cuisine, folk songs, live musical performances, traditional handloom and



handicraft displays, cultural exhibitions and community activities. Organisers said the event aimed to introduce the richness of Northeast India to a wider international audience while strengthening bonds within the diaspora. "We are bringing a piece of our unique heritage, living history and soul to the world by turning our ancestral traditions into a bridge for cross-cultural

learning and understanding," said Susan Nonsieg, a representative from Meghalaya. Speaking on the inspiration behind the initiative, Thoiba Thoudam of Manipur said the organisers envisioned a platform to connect people from Northeast India and friends of the region across the world. "It was our desire to bring people from the Northeast and around the world together

to celebrate the richness, diversity and beauty of the region through food, folk songs, music, handloom displays and much more," he said.

Addressing Awareness and Building Community

Organisers noted that such events help address limited awareness and common misconceptions about Northeast India among international audiences, including misunderstandings about the region's geography, communities and history. Beyond cultural celebration, the festival also served as a platform for networking and community support, bringing together professionals, entrepreneurs, artists, students and families from across the Northeastern diaspora in the UK.

Record Turnout and Youth Participation

Marking a significant milestone, organisers said this was the first event of its kind

in London to celebrate all eight Northeastern states on such a large scale, attracting more than 500 attendees. A particularly encouraging aspect was the enthusiastic participation of second-generation members of the diaspora. Many young attendees who were born or raised in the UK experienced, for the first time in one place, the diverse traditions, music, arts, handloom and authentic regional delicacies of all the Northeast Indian sister states. "It was particularly meaningful to witness younger generations embracing their heritage," organisers said, adding that the preservation of Northeast India's rich cultural identity will depend on them carrying the legacy forward. The overwhelming response reflected the growing visibility, unity and pride of the Northeast Indian diaspora in the United Kingdom.

UN warns of acute food insecurity in Afghanistan

KABUL

The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is worsening as aid agencies are scaling back food assistance due to severe international funding shortfalls, local media reported citing the United Nations and Human Rights Watch (HRW).

"The United Nations estimates that more than 17 million people in Afghanistan will face acute food insecurity this year, while about 22 million people require humanitarian assistance, including food, healthcare and protection services. Women, children, internally displaced people and returning refugees remain among the hardest hit," Khama Press reported.

It noted that the UN's 2026 Humanitarian Response Plan had received less than 20 per cent of the funding required by June. This has forced the humanitarian organisations to suspend or reduce food distributions and healthcare programmes, including some life-saving services.

According to HRW, the return of more than five million Afghan migrants from Pakistan and Iran has placed additional pressure on communities already struggling. "Fereshta Abbasi, an Afghan researcher at Human Rights Watch, said deteriorating economic conditions are driving many families into extreme hardship.

Bangladesh: Jamaat chief calls US 'tested friend', ignites debate

DHAKA

Although Dhaka can recognise the importance of its present-day partnership with the United States, it cannot overlook the serious failures of Washington's policy during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War against Pakistan.

Those contradictions became particularly evident in December 1971, when, as the Indo-Pakistani War reached its critical stage, the United States sent Task Force 74, led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, into the Bay of Bengal — a move widely perceived as a support for Pakistan, a report has stated.

The policy of the former US President Richard Nixon's administration during the Bangladesh Liberation War has been widely criticised by historians as one of the gravest moral failures of American foreign policy. Influenced by geopolitical interests, particularly the Cold War rivalry and the effort to establish a strategic relationship with China, Nixon and his National Security Advisor, Henry Kissinger, sustained support for Pakistan despite increasing evidence of severe atrocities.

India stands out as lone critic of Pakistan's cross-border strikes in Afghanistan: Report

ISLAMABAD

Following Islamabad's air strikes on the Afghan provinces of Kunar, Paktia, and Paktika in late June, India emerged as the only country to denounce the strikes publicly. New Delhi still continues to condemn Pakistan's cross-border strikes in Afghanistan at the United Nations, a report has highlighted.

Pakistan was widely regarded as the Taliban's closest ally and principal backer from 1996 until the group's return to power in Kabul in August 2021. However, relations between the two have since deteriorated, largely over the issue of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Islamabad alleges that the TTP operates from sanctuaries inside Afghanistan to carry out attacks in Pakistan, a charge the Taliban reject, insisting that the militant group is Pakistan's internal problem, according to a report in The Diplomat.

The report noted that New Delhi's approach towards the Taliban has seen a noticeable



strategic recalibration since early 2025. It added that this deepening engagement has coincided with the continuing tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

India's diplomatic engagement with the Taliban has gathered significant momentum over the last year, particularly after the United Arab Emirates (UAE) facilitated a meeting in Dubai between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Taliban Foreign Ministry Amir Khan

Muttaqi on January 8, 2025. "That meeting marked a major diplomatic milestone, as the relationship between New Delhi and Taliban-controlled Kabul began to take a positive turn," the report noted.

Ahead of the January 2025 meeting, the then Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) Joint Secretary J P Singh was the senior-most Indian official to have held discussions with Taliban officials, including Muttaqi and Defence Minister Mohammad

Yaqoob, in November 2024. In October 2025, Muttaqi travelled to India for a six-day visit, marking the first trip by a senior Taliban minister to India. "For Muttaqi's visit to New Delhi, a UN committee temporarily lifted a travel ban on Muttaqi. After his visit, India handed over the Afghan Embassy in New Delhi to the Taliban and sent a charge d'affaires to its former mission in Kabul. Then the Taliban's senior foreign ministry official, Mufti

Noor Ahmad Noor, arrived in New Delhi in January 2026 to assume responsibility as the charge d'affaires of the Afghan Embassy," the report noted.

Taliban Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Mawlawi Ataullah Omari visited India with a high-level delegation between July 7 and 12, marking the fourth ministerial-level visit during the last nine months. According to the MEA, the series of visits is "reflecting the continued momentum in bilateral engagement."

Highlighting the deteriorating ties between Islamabad and Kabul, The Diplomat said, "For decades, Pakistan maintained a policy of 'strategic depth' in Afghanistan, focused on cultivating a friendly government in Kabul in order to secure its western border. However, since the Taliban's return to power, Pakistan's policy seems to have backfired, as the Taliban regime tries to assert its independence. The Taliban refuse to recognise the Durand Line as a permanent international border and reject Pakistan's interference in Afghan affairs."



Mounting police casualties expose gap in Pakistan's security structure: Report

KABUL

The wave of attacks on Pakistani security forces, coupled with the armed groups' ability to leave the area with a large number of captives, has raised concerns over Pakistan's preparedness, intelligence, communications and the availability of reinforcements to deal with the threats, a report has stated.

The latest attack near Mangi Dam in Ziarat district of Pakistan's Balochistan province, which left 27 police officers dead, has once again exposed the vulnerabilities in the country's internal security apparatus.

Nine officers were killed after armed men attacked a police post guarding a pumping station in Ziarat, while 18 abducted officers were later found shot dead in nearby mountains, according to a report in Afghan media outlet 'Khaama Press'.

Citing the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, the report said such attacks in Pakistan climbed to 128 in May, marking a 27 per cent increase from April. The violence killed 71 civilians, 68 security personnel and six members of local peace committees, with Balochistan recording the highest number of attacks at 71.

"Provincial police are expected to protect communities, gather local intelligence, secure roads and government installations, respond to militant attacks and maintain public order. Yet they often operate with fewer resources and less institutional influence than the army and Frontier Corps,"

the report mentioned. Highlighting that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police is grappling with substantial personnel shortages, it said findings in June revealed that the force lacked around 170 supervisory officers in grades 17 to 19, including more than 100 assistant and deputy superintendents and 68 officers at the superintendent and senior superintendent levels.

Separately, the provincial police chief said the force was around 11,000 personnel below its authorised strength.

The report noted that Pakistan's federal Establishment Division transferred 10 police officers from Punjab to designated 'hard areas' in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan in May, while police authorities sought special financial initiatives to "improve morale and retain personnel as attacks on the force increase."

"These measures acknowledge the danger but do not resolve the deeper problem. Police cannot be expected to hold exposed positions, gather intelligence and absorb repeated attacks without adequate staffing, fortified facilities, modern equipment and dependable operational support," it stressed.

Warning that Pakistan's provincial police remain ill-equipped to counter militant attacks, the report said, "Pakistan does not simply need more operations after attacks. It needs a security structure in which provincial police receive the personnel, protection, authority and institutional support required for the role they are already being asked to perform."

India gave IWT six decades of good faith; Pakistan used dispute machinery to delay projects

WASHINGTON

India's rejection of the latest award issued by the "illegally constituted" Hague-based Court of Arbitration (CoA) under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) as "null and void" is based on its interpretation of the treaty's own dispute resolution procedure. While New Delhi's objection is procedural, concerning the forum authorised under the treaty, it maintains that it remains willing to be bound by the mechanism prescribed by the treaty, a report has stated.

New Delhi, which considers that the court was improperly constituted, has refused to nominate arbitrators or participate in its proceedings and maintains that any awards issued by it are invalid from the very beginning. "On May 15,



2026, the Court of Arbitration at The Hague issued a further award on the water storage permitted at Indian hydroelectric projects on the western rivers of the Indus basin. India rejected it as null and void, restating its position that the tribunal is illegally constituted and that the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty remains in abeyance. The response was consistent with a position New Delhi has held

without deviation since April 2025: a treaty built on good faith cannot oblige one party to perform in full while the other sponsors violence against it," a report in American magazine 'The National Interest' detailed. India placed the IWT in abeyance following the heinous Pahalgam terror attack last year by Pakistan-backed terrorists that killed 26 innocent civilians.

The report noted that In-

dia's suspension was explicitly conditional, stating it would remain in effect until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably" abandoned its support for cross-border terrorism, which New Delhi has evidenced, citing continued operations of terror groups from Pakistani territory. On July 3, 2026, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reaffirmed that the suspension would remain until the condition was met.

Highlighting India's consistent adherence to the treaty, the report noted that despite wars with Pakistan in 1965, 1971, and 1999, as well as the 2001 terror attack on the Indian Parliament and the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks carried out by groups backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), New Delhi continued to honour its obligations under the pact.

"Water flowed uninterrupted throughout. Pakistan, for its part, used the treaty's dispute machinery to delay Indian projects it could not otherwise halt. Objections forced a lower dam and reduced storage at Salal. The Tulbul navigation project was frozen for decades. Kishenganga, Ratle and Baglihar were each drawn into prolonged proceedings that raised costs and slowed construction. India's case is that it has given the treaty six decades of good faith, only to be met with obstruction," it mentioned. Emphasising that India has suspended cooperation while continuing water supplies, the report said New Delhi has paused hydrological data-sharing, meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission, and engagement with the treaty's dispute resolution mechanism.

EU assessment report resembles chargesheet on Pakistan's human rights abuses

TEL AVIV

The European Union's (EU) latest assessment of Pakistan on trade preferences under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP Plus) granted by the EU resembles a carefully prepared chargesheet rather than a routine monitoring report, highlighting the worsening human rights record in the country.

It places Pakistan's democratic trajectory under heightened international scrutiny, while warning that future trade preferences may ultimately rest on genuine institutional reform

instead of legislative promises, a report has stated,

Writing in 'Times of Israel', Michael Arizanti, writer and expert on Middle East affairs, described the EU report as one of the "sharpest official assessments" so far, exposing Pakistan's democratic decline and human rights record.

Arizanti noted that Pakistan has enjoyed preferential trade access under the EU's GSP+ trade scheme since 2014, remaining the largest beneficiary.

"These trade preferences are not unconditional economic benefits; they are linked to Pakistan's obligation to uphold 27



international conventions covering human rights, labour standards, environmental protection and good governance. The assessment, therefore, raises an obvious question: can Pakistan

continue to enjoy the commercial advantages of GSP Plus while steadily drifting away from the standards on which the program is built?" he asked. According to the expert, although Pakistan

remains an important trading partner for the European Union, its continued preferential market access cannot remain indefinitely insulated from concerns over its democratic and human rights record.

The Commission outlined a series of priority reforms for Pakistan, including ending enforced disappearances, strengthening judicial independence, improving prison conditions, protecting journalists, amending cybercrime and blasphemy laws, enhancing safeguards for minorities and ensuring accountability for human rights violations.

Arizanti noted that the development underscores a broader shift in European trade policy, where preferential market access is increasingly tied to governance, sustainability and compliance with international standards. "For Pakistan, the stakes extend well beyond tariff concessions. Nearly 28 per cent of its exports are destined for the European Union, making Europe its largest export market. Any reduction in GSP+ benefits would affect one of the country's most important sources of export revenue at a time when it continues to grapple with high poverty, fragile

foreign exchange reserves and deep structural economic challenges," he stated.

The EU has expressed serious concerns over human rights abuses in Pakistan, warning that the country's continued access to the trade benefits under GSP+ will depend on compliance with its international commitments under the revised GSP rules from 2027. In its latest joint monitoring report for the 2023-2025 period, the European Commission and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy noted that Pakistan faced shortcomings.

Hindu leaders demand release of man who proposed construction of Lord Ram's statue

DHAKA

Several leaders of the Hindu community in Bangladesh on Saturday called for an immediate release of Haridas Chandra Tarani Das, the man who proposed the construction of an 81-foot-tall statue of Lord Ram within the premises of the Sri Sri Radha Govinda and Kali Temple in Palashbari upazila of Gaibandha district, local media reported.

Tarani Das was reportedly taken into custody from the Palashbari temple area on July 12 in connection with an alleged money laundering case lodged at Uttara West Police Station in Dhaka.

The demands for his release were raised during a protest rally organised by the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, a human rights organisation working against religious discrimination outside the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

Calling for greater protec-



tion of minority rights, the protestors urged the government of Bangladesh to safeguard religious freedom, stop "attacks" on minority communities, and prevent "interference" in the construction of places of worship, Bangladesh's leading newspaper, the Daily Star, reported. Addressing the rally, the council's General Secretary Manindra Kumar Nath alleged that the authorities had unfairly arrested

Tarani Das, despite the temple having been under construction for a considerable period. He sought the withdrawal of the case against Tarani Das, while demanding the release of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) leader Chinmoy Krishna Das, who has been imprisoned in Bangladesh since November 2024. Meanwhile, the council's Vice-President Nirmal Rozario appealed to the government to

uphold constitutional rights, ensure religious freedom and security of minority communities. Earlier this week, several leading human rights organisations strongly condemned the arrest of Tarani Das, describing the action by the Bangladeshi authorities as "unfortunate" and "unacceptable".

The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council alleged that extremist communal groups have opposed the

proposed Lord Ram statue for a considerable period, offended the religious sentiments of the Hindu community, and incited unwarranted religious hostility across the country.

Expressing grave concern, the council said that in the interest of preserving communal harmony and preventing social unrest, the Bangladeshi authorities have failed to take any punitive action against those responsible for inciting religious hatred and intolerance. "The arrest of Haridas Chandra Tarani Das, who has himself been the target of communal threats and intimidation, was both unfortunate and unacceptable," it added.

Condemning the arrest, the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) said that Tarani Das was taken into custody following weeks of religiously charged tensions, extremist threats, and campaigns opposing the construction of a statue of Lord Ram at the temple.

Mojtaba Khamenei's first international contact could be with Putin: Report

MOSCOW

Iran's new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei's first international contact could be a telephone conversation or meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, local media reported on Saturday.

"Russia is a country close to us, and His Excellency [Vladimir] Putin is a close friend of the Islamic Republic. And perhaps the first call and first meeting will be with President Putin," an Iranian source told Russia's state-owned Tass news agency.

"But at the moment, due to the military situation and security considerations, he (Mojtaba Khamenei) does not appear in public," the told the leading Russian news agency.

Mojtaba Khamenei was selected as Iran's new Supreme Leader in March this year following the death of his father, Ali Khamenei, in



missile strikes carried out by the United States and Israel on February 28. Mojtaba Khamenei has vowed that Iran would avenge the death of Ali Khamenei.

"We vow to avenge your blood and the blood of all the martyrs of these two wars by punishing the criminal and disgraced murderers. This revenge is the will of our people, and it must be carried out," Khamenei said in a written statement ahead of his father's

funeral this month. Citing an Iranian source, Tass reported on Saturday that Khamenei will not appear in public until Iran's military conflict with the United States and Israel continues.

"His Excellency will not appear in public for the foreseeable future for security reasons. The government is waiting for the situation to return to normal. He will then appear in public," the source told the news agency.

Amit Shah to lay foundation of world's largest curd plant in Kolkata on July 19
NEW DELHI: (JUL 18)

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will perform the Bhoomi Pujan of the world's largest curd production plant under the Amul Bengal Dairy Project at the New Town Convention Centre in Kolkata on July 19, officials said on Saturday. West Bengal Chief Minister Suven- du Adhikari, along with several dignitaries and representatives of the cooperative sector, will be present on the occasion, they said. Amul is setting up the Amul Bengal Dairy Project at the Howrah Food Park in the state at an investment of about Rs 700 crore, the cooperation ministry said in a statement.



Bengal to unveil new industrial policy on Aug 15, signals shift in land acquisition strategy
KOLKATA: (JUL 18)

West Bengal Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta said on Saturday that the state will unveil its new industrial policy on Independence Day, signalling the BJP government's push to revive manufacturing through a sharper investment strategy and a departure from the erstwhile TMC dispensation's hands-off land acquisition policy for industries. Addressing a capital markets conclave organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Eastern Region, Dasgupta highlighted the need for a comprehensive land policy and stressed the importance of reusing land belonging to idle factories. He also added that emphasis will be given to providing fiscal incentives for the industry.

Cinépolis India, Panorama Studios Partner for Delhi-UP Distribution

The collaboration kicked off with Dhamaal 4 and Baby Do Die Do, followed by Mahaprabhu Jagannath releasing on 17 July and Hanuman Ansh arriving in cinemas on 31 July 2026

HYDERABAD: JULY, 2026:

Cinépolis India, one of the country's leading cinema exhibitors with a strong presence across India and deep expertise in theatrical exhibition, has announced a strategic distribution partnership with Panorama Studios for the Delhi & UP Circuit. The collaboration marks another step in Cinépolis India's commitment to strengthening the theatrical ecosystem by leveraging its market reach, audience insights, and distribution capabilities. Under this partnership, films exclusively acquired or distributed by either Cinépolis India or Panorama Studios will be jointly distributed in the Delhi & UP Circuit. Bringing together Cinépolis India's extensive on-ground presence, strong exhibitor relationships, and understanding of regional audience preferences with Panorama Studios' proven distribution expertise, the partnership aims to maximize

theatrical reach and create greater value for producers, exhibitors, and moviegoers. The collaboration began with the successful distribution of Dhamaal 4, the latest instalment of one of Bollywood's most loved comedy franchises featuring an ensemble cast including Ajay Devgn, Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi and Jaaved Jaaferi, and the action-comedy Baby Do Die Do, starring Huma Qureshi, Chunky Panday and Sikandar Kher. The partnership now continues with the animated mythological film Mahaprabhu Jagannath, releasing on 17th July, followed by the Hindi spiritual film Hanuman Ansh, inspired by the life of the revered saint Shri Neeb Karori Baba, releasing on 31st July. Both companies are also exploring opportunities to expand the collaboration into additional distribution territories as it grows. Speaking on the partnership, Kumar Mangat Pathak, Chairman & Managing Director, Panorama



Studios, said, "We are delighted to partner with Cinépolis India for the Delhi & UP Circuit. Both organizations bring deep market understanding, strong industry relationships, and a shared commitment to theatrical cinema. By consolidating our strengths and resources, we believe we can unlock greater value for our films, our partners, and the exhibition ecosystem. This collaboration reflects our commitment to continually

strengthening the theatrical business, and we look forward to a successful long-term association."Commenting on the association, Devang Sampat, Managing Director, Cinépolis India, said: "At Cinépolis India, we have always believed in building meaningful partnerships that contribute to the growth of the theatrical business. Our collaboration with Panorama Studios brings together two experienced organizations with a common vision of maximizing a film's theatrical potential. By combining our respective strengths, we can create a stronger distribution platform that benefits producers, exhibitors, and ultimately moviegoers. We are confident this partnership will deliver long-term value for the industry." Murlidhar Chhatwani, CEO- Distribution & Syndication, Panorama Studios, added, "This partnership is a strategic step towards creating a more efficient and impactful distribution model. By leveraging the combined

expertise and execution capabilities of Panorama Studios and Cinépolis India, we can ensure wider reach, stronger market presence, and better outcomes for every film we jointly distribute. We see this as the beginning of a long-term relationship, and if this collaboration delivers the results we expect, we are keen to explore opportunities to expand the partnership across additional territories in the future. Our objective is to build a distribution network that consistently delivers greater value for producers, exhibitors, and audiences." This strategic alliance reflects both companies' shared vision of strengthening theatrical distribution through collaboration, operational excellence, and market expertise. Beginning with the Delhi & UP Circuit, the partnership lays the foundation for a broader, long-term collaboration, with the potential to expand into additional territories as the relationship evolves.

R.S. Brothers Expands Its Fashion Footprint with New Growth Plans

with the Grand Launch of Its 19th Showroom in Boduppal on 18th July

HYDERABAD, JULY 18:

R.S. Brothers, one of the most loved family shopping brands, has reached a new milestone by opening its 19th showroom on 18th July. Located at Peerzadiguda, Pillar No: 93 & 94, Boduppal, this new store is set to become the go-to shopping spot for families living in and around the Boduppal area. The opening was a major success, especially with celebrity couple Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala coming to inaugurate the store. A large crowd of excited fans and shoppers gathered at the venue to catch a glimpse of the stars and check out the brand-new showroom.

Speaking at the event, Naga Chaitanya said: "R.S. Brothers has always stood for trust, tradition, and good fashion. With this new store in Boduppal, they have made shopping even better



for local families by bringing the best styles right to their neighbourhood." Sobhita Dhulipala added: "The moment you enter this store, it feels like a celebration. R.S. Brothers really knows what families want. Whether you are shopping for upcoming weddings or looking for the latest seasonal trends, they have something beautiful for everyone."

R.S. Brothers was started by *Sri P. Venkateswarlu, Sri S.

Rajamouli, Sri T. Prasada Rao, and late Sri P. Satyanarayana". Over the years, the brand has continued its journey of bringing together traditional designs and modern fashion, giving customers a great shopping experience with plenty of variety, reasonable prices and trust.

The directors of the Company shared their thoughts on this new launch:

Sri P. Venkateswarulu (Founder & Chairperson):

"We are very happy to open our 19th store here in Boduppal. This expansion is possible only because of the love and trust our customers have shown us for years. Our goal is to make this store a one-stop fashion spot where families can find the best traditional and modern styles at affordable prices."

Sri S. Rajamouli (Founder & Managing Director): "With this new Boduppal showroom, we are bringing even more variety and value to our shoppers. We have timed this launch so we can bring our fresh Ashadam and Shravanam collections directly to our customers, giving them the latest designs first."

Sri T. Prasada Rao (Founder & Whole-Time Director):

We are excited to come to Boduppal and get closer to our customers in this area. We welcome all families to visit us and

enjoy shopping for the upcoming wedding and festive seasons."

A Great Collection for Every Occasion

The new Boduppal store has launched with the fresh Ashadam and Shravanam collections. Shoppers can choose from beautiful premium Kanchi Pattu sarees, fancy sarees sourced from weavers across India, and gorgeous bridal wear. It is the perfect place to shop for the upcoming wedding and festive seasons. Along with sarees, the store has a massive collection of menswear, traditional ethnic outfits, modern styles, and cute, colorful clothes for kids. The team at R.S. Brothers warmly invites everyone to visit the new showroom at Peerzadiguda, Pillar No: 93 & 94, Boduppal. With great prices, high-quality collections, and special opening offers, it is the perfect place to shop for your next family occasion.

Vivek Nishant Nath takes charge as Director (Commercial), NMDC (Commercial), NMDC

HYDERABAD, 18TH JULY:

Shri Vivek Nishant Nath assumed charge as Director (Commercial) of NMDC Limited, India's largest iron ore producer. With over three decades of experience in the metal and mining sector, Shri Vivek Nishant Nath brings extensive experience in sales and marketing, international commercial operations, procurement, logistics and supply chain management.

Shri Nath began his professional career with NMDC in 1992 and served the Company for nearly fifteen years in various commercial roles, gaining extensive experience in domestic iron ore sales and marketing. He subsequently held key positions in Essar Steel Limited and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India before joining Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMC) as General Manager (Sales & Marketing) in 2021. He was subsequently promoted as Chief General Manager (Sales & Marketing) in 2024 at OMC, where he headed the sales and marketing functions of iron ore, chrome ore, manganese ore, bauxite, limestone and ferrochrome.

During his tenure at OMC, the company recorded significant growth in iron ore sales and revenue. He played a key role in introducing customer-centric initiatives, transparent pricing mecha-



nisms, digital systems and logistics reforms to improve commercial operations. Under his leadership, OMC's iron ore sales increased from 12.33 million tonnes in FY21 to 38.26 million tonnes in FY26. His unwavering dedication to the sector is evident through his scholarly contributions, having authored over 11 research papers on pertinent industry topics. Mr. Nath's expertise is sought after in national and international forums, where he has been invited as keynote speaker and guest lectures at esteemed platforms such as SGX, Fastmarkets, Mysteel, SMM, IMARC, Metal Junction, Metalogic and Steelmint. He holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in International Business from Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies, Pune. He has also completed the Management Development Programme in Business Administration and Management from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indore.



No Compromise on Singareni Coal Quality

Special Monitoring from Production to Dispatch
Area-wise Appointment of Special Officers
CMD Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti Issues Directions

SINGARENI BHAVAN, JULY 18, 2026:

In view of the rising electricity demand in Telangana due to the prevailing El Niño conditions, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has launched a special initiative to enhance coal production while ensuring the uninterrupted supply of coal conforming to the declared grade. Accordingly, SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti has issued orders appointing Special Officers for each Area. For the next three months, these Special Officers will closely monitor coal production, quality, grade protection, dispatch, productivity, process improvement, efficiency enhancement, coordination between Area and Corporate departments, and the implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes.

The officers have been assigned as follows:

- Director (Operations): Sathupalli and Yellandu Areas
- Director (Projects & Planning): Manuguru and Bhupalpally Areas
- Director (Finance): Bellampalli and Mandamarri Areas
- Director (E&M): RG-I and RG-III Areas
- Executive Director (Coal Movement): RG-II and Naini Areas
- General Manager (Marketing): Srirampur Area and Adriyala Project

On Saturday evening, the CMD conducted a special review meeting with all Area General Managers through video conference from Singareni Bhavan to review coal production, coal quality, grade protection, and dispatch. Addressing the meeting, Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti stated that coal quality is the hallmark of Singareni and there will be absolutely no compromise on maintaining

it. He directed officials to take stringent measures across all Areas to ensure that consumers receive coal strictly conforming to the declared grade. During the review, officials pointed out that in some Areas, the mixing of ungraded coal and shale was affecting coal quality. The CMD instructed them to take strict corrective measures to prevent the recurrence of such situations. He directed that mining operations should be carried out strictly seam-wise as per the Annual Coal Gradation Plan and that coal production must conform to the declared grade. He further instructed that coal benches should be thoroughly cleaned before blasting in off-loading areas and that adequate distance should be maintained between coal benches and overburden benches. Rock and shale layers should be excavated separately without mixing them with coal and dumped only in the overburden dumps. He also directed that the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for coal gallery housekeeping and fiery coal management be implemented meticulously across all Areas. The CMD instructed officials to ensure that adequate numbers of crushers are installed in all opencast mines and Coal Handling Plants (CHPs) and that they remain operational at all times. He further directed that every CHP should prepare and strictly implement a daily grade-wise coal dispatch plan. Officials should assume personal responsibility for maintaining quality control at every stage, from production to dispatch. Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti emphasized that strengthening consumer confidence in Singareni coal quality is the responsibility of every officer. By consistently supplying coal that conforms to the declared grade, the company should further enhance its credibility and reputation.

Hyderabad's Giant Leap: The Skyroot Aerospace Success Story

A remarkable milestone has been achieved in the annals of India's space journey. Launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, 'Mission Agaman,' spearheaded by Skyroot Aerospace, has successfully soared into the skies. This achievement is far more than just a rocket launch; it stands as a historic triumph for India's private space sector.

A Hyderabad Startup Scaling New Heights

The force behind this accomplishment is Skyroot Aerospace, a rapidly advancing space-tech startup based in Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana. Founded under the leadership of Pawan Kumar Chandana and Bharath Daka, the company has harnessed cutting-edge aerospace technology. Guided by former ISRO scientists, the firm operates with the goal of providing cost-effective space transport services using indigenous manufacturing capabilities. Through its innovative vision, the company is not only elevating India's reputation in the global rocket manufacturing arena but is also emerging

as a true "Innovation Hub" by turning the impossible into reality.

Prime Minister's Appreciation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his immense joy over this historic event. He noted that it is a matter of great pride to see the nation's youth stepping into the space sector with a scientific temperament and technological prowess. "This is a victory for the dream of an Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India). The efforts of such startups will make space accessible to all," he remarked. He expressed confidence that private sector participation will propel India's space industry to the highest global standards.

Opening Doors to Space Commerce

The space sector, which for decades remained under the monopoly of government institutions, is now opening new horizons through private partnership. The success of Mission Agaman has completely transformed the national space ecosystem. Indigenous Knowledge: This

rocket is a testament to Indian engineering intellect and indigenous technology. Cost-Efficiency: With the entry of the private sector, the cost of space missions is dropping significantly, positioning India as a key player in the global market.

Efficiency: The agility shown by private firms in developing rockets within shortened timelines is truly commendable.

Technical Specifications

The success of Mission Agaman is backed by several sophisticated technical elements. The rocket was designed using a synergy of 'Cryogenic' and 'Solid Propulsion' technologies. The rocket's navigation system operated with extreme precision, playing a pivotal role in placing the payload into the designated orbit. Furthermore, the use of '3D Printing' technology—a first for private firms in this context—not only reduced the overall weight of the rocket but also drastically cut down manufacturing time, effectively increasing launch capacity tenfold. Understanding the Technology: A Plain-Text

Glossary To fully appreciate this mission, it is important to understand the key terms involved. First is the "Orbital Rocket," which is simply a launch vehicle capable of placing a satellite into Earth's orbit. Second is the "Launch Pad," which acts as the specialized facility designed to launch rockets into space. Third is "Private Aerospace," referring to research, manufacturing, and missions conducted by non-governmental entities in the space sector. Fourth is the "Payload," which represents the equipment, satellites, or research instruments carried by a rocket into space. Finally, the "Orbit" is simply the specific path that an object takes while revolving around a celestial body like the Earth.

Future Perspectives

With the success of Mission Agaman, companies like Skyroot are ready to compete on the world stage. This is a massive inspiration for Indian youth and the startup ecosystem. Private enterprise will be instrumental in everything from small-satellite launches to space tourism. Indian

space research is now moving beyond government boundaries, giving life to commercial needs and common aspirations. Regarding the economics of such missions, it is important to understand the financial landscape of the space industry. Generally, the cost of manufacturing and launching a private orbital rocket is 30% to 40% lower than missions conducted by government institutions. Skyroot Aerospace maintains this efficiency through advanced manufacturing methods. The total cost of a mission to launch a small satellite is estimated at around 300 million rupees (30 Crore), which includes rocket construction, fuel, launch fees, and navigation services. By focusing on mass production and reusable technology, the company aims to reduce these costs further, making space accessible for a fraction of the current price.

An Emotional Journey: Hyderabad's Pride

Hyderabad is the cradle of dreams. It is not just a city; it is a collection of boundless ambitions. From the lanes of Charminar to the sky-

lines of Hi-Tech City, every step has a story, and every idea is a revolution. Nestled in this city is the miracle of Skyroot Aerospace. Watching rockets launch from our soil—something once thought impossible—fills our hearts with immense pride. The two visionaries who believed that the sky belongs to no one, Pawan Kumar Chandana and Bharath Daka, began a humble journey that has reached extraordinary heights. By wielding the experience of former ISRO scientists and the shield of indigenous technology, this Hyderabad startup is leading the world. Their passion and intellect are writing new chapters in our nation's space history. Just think—once we relied on other nations for satellite launches; today, our Hyderabad boys are carrying the satellites of the world. This is our self-respect and our national confidence. The journey has begun, and with the sky as our only limit, we are destined to achieve much more. Space is calling us, and we are ready. Jai Hind!



DR. CHITYALA RAVINDER
7798891795





Women's Health

Nutrient Needs by Age

A woman's nutritional needs change continuously throughout her life. The nutrients that support growth and energy in the twenties are not the same ones that become critical during the hormonal changes of the forties or the ageing process in the sixties. Yet, many women continue to follow the same eating habits for decades without realizing that their bodies require different vitamins and minerals as they age. Nutrient deficiencies are among the most overlooked health concerns in women. Symptoms such as constant tiredness, hair fall, mood swings, poor concentration, muscle cramps, weak bones, or frequent illnesses are often dismissed as stress or ageing. However, these signs may indicate a lack of essential nutrients rather than an unavoidable part of life. Women face unique nutritional challenges because of menstruation, pregnancy, breastfeeding, hormonal fluctuations during menopause, and changes in metabolism with age. Understanding these changing requirements can help prevent long-term health complications such as osteoporosis, heart disease, anaemia, cognitive decline, and weakened immunity. Maintaining good health is not about taking random supplements or following the latest diet trend. It is about providing the body with the nutrients it needs at every stage of life. Regular health check-ups, balanced meals, and targeted supplementation under medical guidance can make a significant difference. Here is a detailed guide to the nutrients women need most in their 20s, 40s, and 60s.

Why Nutrient Needs Change Throughout Life

Every decade brings new physiological changes. Hormones fluctuate, metabolism slows down, bone density changes, muscle mass declines, and the body's ability to absorb nutrients becomes less efficient.

Several factors influence nutritional requirements, including:

- Menstrual blood loss
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Hormonal changes
- Lifestyle and stress
- Physical activity
- Age-related digestive changes
- Chronic illnesses
- Dietary habits

A deficiency that develops in early adulthood can have long-term consequences later in life. For example, inadequate calcium intake in the twenties may increase the risk of osteoporosis after menopause.

The good news is that most nutrient deficiencies can be prevented through awareness, healthy eating, and timely medical intervention.

Nutritional Priorities in Your 20s

The twenties are often considered the healthiest and most energetic years of life. Women are usually balancing education, careers, social lives, exercise, and sometimes pregnancy planning.

Although energy levels may appear high, this decade is when the body builds its nutritional reserves for the future. Poor dietary habits during these years can affect fertility, bone health, and overall well-being later in life.

Iron: The Most Common Deficiency

Iron deficiency is one of the most widespread nutritional problems among young women.

Monthly menstrual bleeding significantly increases iron loss, making women more vulnerable to iron deficiency anaemia.

Iron is essential for producing haemoglobin, which carries oxygen to every organ in the body.

Signs of Iron Deficiency

- Constant tiredness
- Pale skin
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Frequent headaches

- Poor concentration
- Hair loss
- Shortness of breath

Women who exercise regularly or follow vegetarian or vegan diets may have an even greater risk of iron deficiency.

Best Sources of Iron

- Lean red meat
- Chicken
- Fish
- Lentils
- Kidney beans
- Chickpeas
- Spinach
- Beetroot
- Iron-fortified cereals

Combining iron-rich foods with vitamin C-rich fruits such as oranges, lemons, guava, kiwi, or tomatoes improves iron absorption significantly.

Folate (Vitamin B9)

Folate is one of the most important vitamins during a woman's reproductive years.

It supports:

- DNA synthesis
- Cell growth
- Healthy red blood cell production
- Fetal brain and spinal cord development

Even women who are not planning pregnancy should maintain adequate folate levels because many pregnancies are unplanned.

Low folate during early pregnancy increases the risk of neural tube defects in babies.

- Good Sources
- Leafy green vegetables
- Avocados
- Lentils
- Beans
- Broccoli
- Citrus fruits
- Peanuts

Doctors often recommend folic acid supplements before conception.

Vitamin B12

Vitamin B12 supports healthy nerves and red blood cell production. Vegetarians and vegans are particularly vulnerable because B12 is naturally found mainly in animal products.

Symptoms include:

- Fatigue
- Tingling in hands and feet
- Poor memory
- Weakness

Sources include:

- Eggs
- Milk
- Cheese
- Fish
- Chicken
- Fortified cereals
- Protein

Many young women consume less protein than required, especially while trying to lose weight.

Protein helps build:

- Muscle
- Skin
- Hair
- Hormones
- Immune cells

Healthy protein sources include:

- Eggs
- Fish
- Chicken
- Dairy products
- Soy
- Lentils
- Beans
- Nuts
- Calcium

Peak bone mass develops during the twenties. Insufficient calcium intake during this period may increase fracture risk decades later.

Calcium-rich foods include:

- Milk
- Yogurt
- Cheese
- Sesame seeds
- Tofu
- Green leafy vegetables

Nutrition in Your 40s: Managing Hormonal Changes The forties are a period of major hormonal transition. Many women enter perimenopause, when estrogen levels begin to fluctuate.

Common symptoms include:

- Mood swings
- Weight gain
- Sleep disturbances
- Hot flashes
- Anxiety
- Reduced muscle mass
- Slower metabolism

Nutrition becomes an important tool for maintaining health during this transition.

Magnesium

Magnesium is involved in more than 300 biochemical reactions in the body. Despite its importance, many women consume less than the recommended amount.

Benefits include:

- Better sleep
- Reduced anxiety
- Muscle relaxation
- Blood sugar regulation
- Heart health
- Bone strength
- Symptoms of Deficiency
- Muscle cramps
- Fatigue
- Poor sleep
- Irritability
- Headaches
- Food Sources
- Pumpkin seeds
- Almonds
- Cashews
- Spinach
- Dark chocolate
- Whole grains
- Vitamin D

Vitamin D becomes increasingly important as estrogen declines. Without enough vitamin D, the body cannot absorb calcium effectively.

Low vitamin D levels increase the risk of:

- Bone loss
- Osteoporosis
- Muscle weakness
- Falls
- Depression
- Many women spend most of their day indoors, reducing natural vitamin D production from sunlight.
- Sources
- Morning sunlight
- Egg yolks
- Fatty fish
- Fortified milk
- Supplements under medical supervision
- Calcium

Bone breakdown gradually begins to exceed bone formation during this decade. Maintaining calcium intake helps reduce future fracture risk. Daily calcium requirements may increase depending on age and menopausal status.

Good dietary sources include:

- Dairy products
- Soy products
- Sardines
- Broccoli
- Kale
- Almonds
- Omega-3 Fatty Acids
- Heart disease risk begins to rise after menopause. Omega-3 fatty acids

ids reduce inflammation and support cardiovascular health.

Benefits include:

- Better heart function
- Reduced joint pain
- Brain protection
- Improved eye health

Sources include:

- Salmon
- Sardines
- Mackerel
- Flaxseeds
- Chia seeds
- Walnuts
- Antioxidants

Cell damage increases with age because of oxidative stress. Antioxidants help protect tissues from premature ageing.

Important antioxidants include:

- Vitamin C
- Vitamin E
- Selenium

Foods rich in antioxidants include:

- Berries
- Citrus fruits
- Tomatoes
- Bell peppers
- Nuts
- Seeds

Nutrition in Your 60s: Healthy Ageing and Longevity By the sixties, nutrition becomes essential for maintaining independence, mobility, memory, and quality of life.

Several age-related changes occur:

- Reduced muscle mass
- Lower bone density
- Slower digestion
- Reduced appetite
- Lower stomach acid production
- Reduced nutrient absorption
- This makes nutrient deficiencies increasingly common.

Vitamin B12

The stomach produces less acid with age, making it harder to absorb vitamin B12 from food.

Long-term deficiency can lead to:

- Memory problems
- Balance issues
- Nerve damage
- Depression
- Fatigue
- Dementia-like symptoms
- Doctors often recommend blood testing and supplementation if re-

quired.

Protein

Ageing naturally causes muscle loss, known as sarcopenia.

Adequate protein intake helps maintain:

- Muscle strength
- Physical independence
- Recovery after illness
- Bone health
- Older adults should include protein in every meal.

Vitamin D and Calcium

The risk of osteoporosis increases significantly after menopause.

Combined vitamin D and calcium intake helps:

- Maintain bone density
- Reduce fracture risk
- Improve muscle function
- Weight-bearing exercise also strengthens bones.

Omega-3 Fatty Acids

Omega-3s continue to support:

- Brain function
- Heart health
- Joint mobility
- Vision

Regular consumption may also reduce inflammation associated with arthritis.

Fiber

Digestive problems become increasingly common with age.

Fiber improves:

- Digestion
- Blood sugar control
- Cholesterol levels
- Gut health

Excellent sources include:

- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Whole grains
- Beans
- Oats
- Seeds

Lifestyle Habits That Support Better Nutrition

Healthy eating alone is not enough. Women should also adopt healthy lifestyle practices.

These include:

Exercise helps maintain:

- Bone strength
- Bone density
- Heart health
- Mental health
- A combination of walking, strength training, yoga, and flexibility exercises is ideal.



SQUASH

India's Anahat given top billing in World Junior squash



NEW DELHI: India's Anahat Singh has been given top billing in the women's section of the World Squash Junior Championships starting on Monday in Ontario, Canada, while Aryaveer Dewan is seeded 5/8 among men. Women's world No 20 Anahat, who has won 16 singles titles on the circuit so far after turning pro in 2023, will be looking to clinch her maiden world junior crown following her bronze-medal-winning semi-final finish last year. Meanwhile, Aryaveer will aim to build on his growing reputation after becoming only the fourth Indian to win the boys' U-19 crown in the Asian Junior Individual Squash Championships in May.

BADMINTON

'Our juniors are really coming up': BAI's Sanjay Mishra



NEW DELHI: Badminton Association of India (BAI) Secretary General Sanjay Mishra has expressed confidence that India's emerging crop of shuttlers will sustain the country's rise on the global stage, saying the federation's focus on grass-roots coaching, sports science, and junior development is aimed at building long-term success across disciplines. Mishra spoke to IANS on Saturday during the official mascot and anthem launch of the BWF World Championships 2026 at The Lalit in New Delhi. Highlighting the promise shown by the next generation.

Azhar Impressed by TPS: "Telangana Model for the Nation"



- Facilities we never had in our childhood are available here—make the best use of them
- Minister Mohammed Azharuddin picked up the bat and played cricket with students
- School echoed with chants of "Azhar... Azhar..."
- Students thronged for autographs and photographs with Azhar
- State Minister visited Arutla Telangana Public School

RANGA REDDY DISTRICT

State Minister for Public Sector Undertakings and Minority Welfare, Mohammed Azharuddin, said that the Telangana Government is committed to making government schools a model for the entire country. On Saturday, he visited Telangana Public School (TPS) at Arutla village in Manchal Mandal of Ranga Reddy district. The Minister inspected the school's academic system, sports facilities, and modern infrastructure before interacting warmly with the students.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Mohammed Azharuddin said it was a matter of pride that Telangana Public Schools have been developed with state-of-the-art facilities comparable to corporate schools. He stated that the Chief Minister took special initiative to launch the TPS model with the aim of further enhancing the quality of education in the state. Azharuddin praised the school for its digital classrooms, advanced laboratories, library, spacious playgrounds, and sports facilities for basketball, volleyball, cricket, and other games. Recalling that such facilities were unavailable during his own childhood, he said that despite those limitations, they worked hard and succeeded in life. He urged today's students to make full use of the opportunities provided by the government and strive to achieve great success. The Minister emphasized that hard work, discipline, perseverance, and dedication are essential for success. He advised students not to be discouraged by failure but to continue practicing with determination. He also encouraged them to respect their teachers, parents, and fellow students and cultivate good values. Expressing his hopes, he said that students from TPS should grow into doctors, engineers, scientists, sportspersons, and IAS officers who will serve the nation in the future.

Revolutions are not made in a day. They are made in a thousand small steps. The students of TPS are taking these steps with determination and hard work. They are the future of the nation, and we must ensure they are well-equipped to face the challenges of the future.

"Azhar... Azhar..." Chants Echo Through TPS

Students gave Minister Mohammed Azharuddin a grand welcome at Telangana Public School. They greeted him with enthusiastic chants of "Azhar... Azhar..." and loud applause. Delighted to see the former Indian cricket captain in person, students eagerly gathered to take selfies and photographs with him. They also collected his autographs on bats, T-shirts, notebooks, and caps as a token of their admiration.

Azhar Picks Up the Bat with Students

Responding to the students' request, Minister Azharuddin stepped onto the cricket field and played with them. Displaying his trademark elegant cover drives, he thrilled the students. He also shared cricketing tips, explaining batting and fielding techniques, how to judge the ball, and how to handle pressure during matches. Students expressed immense joy, saying they would cherish the opportunity to play cricket alongside the former Indian captain for the rest of their lives.

Pressure on senior stars because India has immense bench strength, says Dinesh Karthik

NEW DELHI

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik has weighed in on the intense selection pressures in Indian cricket ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup, stating that the senior players are under pressure because the national set-up is full of quality bench strength. Karthik's remarks come amid intense speculation surrounding veteran

India opener Rohit Sharma's future in the 50-over format, with BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia firmly quashing the suggestion that the third and final ODI against England at Lord's will be his final international game.

"Right now, India is at a place where no other cricketing nation is. The number of cricketers that could fill up spots across the XI for any player is obviously the highest

it has ever been, and it is definitely the highest right now among any cricketing nation. "So, there is going to be pressure for every player involved, and that's what makes playing for the country right now so much more difficult. As a selector as well, it's not easy. If you're sitting in Ajit Agarkar's chair, to weigh the possibility of having a current superstar or one that could be a superstar in a few years.

Learn from Root on how to rotate strike, says Brook ahead of Lord's decider against India

LONDON

England's white-ball captain Harry Brook has urged his batters to learn from the rock-solid Joe Root, especially on how to rotate strike, ahead of their ODI series decider against India, to be played at Lord's on Sunday. Root hit a match-winning 99 not out in Cardiff on Thursday to help England level the three-game series. The victory was a massive relief for England, who have been dismal in their ODI results of late, and raised concerns about their hyper-aggressive batting style ahead of next year's 50-over World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. "I personally think you're always learning. He (Root) has played nearly 200 ODIs; he's still trying to learn, he's still trying to get better as a player,



and he's England's greatest-ever batter," Brook said to reporters in the pre-match press conference. Asked if the current setup had become overly dependent on Root in ODIs, Brook did not shy away from stating the reality. "Root has been such a good player for so many years, and it's awe-

some to have him on the side. We have probably depended on him quite a little bit in recent times in ODI cricket and Test cricket. "Hopefully, the boys can learn from what he's doing, myself included, and realise how easy he's making batting look, to be able to just rotate the strike. If we can add a little

bit of Joe Root into our batting as a collective team, then we'll definitely be in some strong positions," he said. Beyond the white-ball challenges, English men's cricket remains in a state of flux. While Brendon McCullum continues to coach the white-ball squads, he was recently sacked from his role as Test coach following a 2-1 series loss against New Zealand. Responding to what the red-ball side requires from their next coaching appointment, Brook said, "That's a good question. That's up for the coach to decide. We want to put ourselves in strong positions as much as we possibly can to be able to dominate the game. Test cricket is a long game, five days, and we could probably be slightly more consistent than we have been over the last couple of years."

Dr. Mandaviya unveils mascot Peacko, for BWF World Championships

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Badminton Association of India (BAI) President and Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, on Saturday unveiled the official mascot, Peacko, and launched the official anthem for the BWF World Championships 2026, marking the final 30-day countdown for badminton's biggest tournament to be held in New Delhi. Featuring PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, and India's entire 16-member World Championships contingent, the anthem captures

the energy, ambition, and unity of Indian badminton as it heads into its biggest stage. Featuring all 16 Indian shuttlers together off the court for the first time, the championship anthem presents a fresh, contemporary face of Indian badminton ahead of its biggest home event in 17 years. Alongside Peacko, the official mascot inspired by the Indian Peafowl, it will spearhead BAI's nationwide fan engagement campaign in the run-up to New Delhi 2026. The unveiling ceremony, attended by DG, SAI, Hari Ranjan Rao, IAS, BAI General Secretary Sanjay Mishra, Indian badminton legend Pullela Gopichand, senior officials, and members of the badminton



fraternity, officially signalled the final phase of preparations for the Championships. Addressing the gathering, Dr Mandaviya said, "Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, India has emerged as a

global sporting nation, successfully hosting some of the world's biggest sporting events across disciplines. The BWF World Championships, New Delhi 2026, mark another proud milestone in this journey. It reflects the growing stature of Indi-

an badminton and our unwavering commitment to creating world-class sporting infrastructure and providing greater opportunities for our athletes," he said. The 30th edition of the BWF World Championships will bring together more than 400 of the world's finest shuttlers from over 50 countries in New Delhi from August 17 to 23, competing for the sport's most coveted honours. The home contingent will be led by five-time World Championships medallist PV Sindhu, who could become the most successful medallist in the tournament's history with a sixth podium finish. Also among the contenders are former medallists Lakshya

Sen and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty, as well as rising stars Ayush Shetty, Unnati Hooda, and the Women's Doubles pairing of Gayatri Gopichand & Treasa Jolly. The official mascot, Peacko, is inspired by the Indian Peafowl—the national bird of India and a familiar sight across New Delhi's parks and monuments. Blending the identities of India, the host city, and badminton, Peacko features a skirt inspired by the opening of a shuttlecock, while also celebrating the sport's deep-rooted popularity across the capital, from neighbourhood parks to the iconic India Gate lawns. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sarma said, "The return of the BWF World Champi-

onships to India after 17 years is a landmark moment for our sport and a reflection of how far Indian badminton has come. Today, India is recognised as one of the world's badminton powerhouses, producing players who have inspired many. With New Delhi 2026, we have an opportunity not only to host a world-class Championship but to celebrate that journey, bring lifelong fans and a new generation closer to the sport, and inspire countless young Indians to pick up a racket. Peacko and the official anthem are the first steps in that journey, and I am confident the Championships will leave a lasting legacy for badminton in our country."

Most Popular Global Sport : Football

(On the occasion of "National Football Day" on 19 July)

Origin of Football Sport

National Football Day can be observed by means of organising a local football match, create a content that reflects the beauty of the game, host a party to players and supporters. Often called the "Father of American Football", Walter Camp (1859 - 1925) was a Yale University athlete and coach who pioneered many of the game's fundamental rules. In the 1800s, rugby and soccer both paved the way for American football, but also known as 'gridiron' or 'American football'.



The 2026 FIFA World Cup-2026 fewer covered the entire globe. The final match is scheduled at New Jersey of USA on July 19, 2026 between defending champions Argentina and European champions Spain. Football sensation Messi lovers are in ecstasy. Christian's Renaldo and Lionel Messi are the two most decorated players in the football history. Ronaldo leads with over 970 official goals, whereas Messi succeeded till now 919 goals. These two football players are treated as football gods by football lovers. Lionel Messi is most affectionately called as "La Pulga (The Flea)", "La Pulga Atomica (The Atomic Flea)" and "The GOAT (Greatest Of All Times)" by global fans. There are over 700 nicknames given by fans, clubs, teams, and lovers.

National Football Day

"National Football Day" takes place on Sunday, 19 July 2026, celebrating American football and the enormous role it plays in sporting and cultural life across USA. This day is an unofficial observance, run by sports enthusiasts and communities rather than a single governing body. It pays tribute to American autumn weekends, and the sense of community it builds among players and supporters. National Football Day matters because it celebrates that shared culture, and the friendship built around tailgates and watch parties, and discipline and teamwork the sport teaches young players.

Football Sport in India:

Governed by "All India Football Federation", this game in India is experiencing a surge in grassroots engagement and youth development, through local to international rankings. According to a 2024 survey, 305 million Indians, 21 percent of the population, are considered as football fans in India. It is a dominant sport in the states of Assam, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and West Bengal.

- Prof: Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
9949700037.

U Mumba crush UP for biggest-ever win, Ahmedabad power to 10-5 win over Pune

PANAJI (GOA)

Defending champions U Mumba TT produced a record-breaking display to overpower UP Prometheans 13-2 in the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7 at the Dr Shayama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Taleigao near Panaji on Saturday. The emphatic victory saw U Mumba register the biggest winning margin in the competition's five-match format while also setting a new record with 11 consecutive game wins, climbing to first in the table.

U Mumba's Lilian Bardet and Anusha Kutumbale gave the side a 6-0 lead before the in-form mixed doubles pairing of Manush Shah and Anna Hursey sealed the tie with another blank. Manush then defeated longtime doubles partner Manav Thakkar, while Hursey completed the record-breaking 13-2 triumph. Earlier in the day, Ahmedabad APL Pipers defeated PBG Pune Jaguars 10-5 to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Staged under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), the UTT Season 7 features 42 players from around the world, including 14 Olympians, while continuing to strengthen the Indian table tennis ecosystem through elite competition and year-round development initiatives.

U Mumba made a flying start as Bardet swept aside Ricardo Walther in straight games before Anusha Kutumbale produced one of her finest performances of the season, blanking two-time UTT MVP Yangzi Liu for her first match win of the campaign. The defending champions then all but settled the contest as Manush and Hursey continued their outstanding run in mixed doubles with another dominant straight-games victory, giving U Mumba an unassailable 9-0 lead.



Manush followed it up by defeating longtime doubles partner and close friend Manav Thakkar in the opening two games, extending U Mumba's streak to a record 11 consecutive game wins before Thakkar halted it by taking the third on Golden Point. Hursey then completed the statement victory with a three-game win over Sayali Wani, sealing a 13-2 triumph that set new competition records for both the biggest winning margin and the longest sequence of games won in the five-match UTT format. Anusha claimed both the Match IQ and Indian Player of the Tie awards, Bardet was named the Foreign Player of the Tie, while Manush Shah won the Bislari Shot of the Tie award.

In the day's first tie, Ahmedabad seized control early as Adrien Rassenfosse handed Snehit Suravajjula his first singles defeat of the season before Sofia Polcanova overcame Diya Chitale in their first-ever meeting, winning the final two games on Golden Point. Payas Jain and Polcanova then rallied from a game

down to clinch the mixed doubles and put the Pipers firmly in command. Omar Assar kept Pune alive with a hard-fought victory over Payas, but Manika Batra sealed the tie emphatically, defeating Prithika Pavade in straight games. Polcanova was named both the Match IQ Player and Foreign Player of the Tie, while Manika claimed the Indian Player of the Tie award. Pavade earned the Bislari Shot of the Tie honour. Earlier, UTT Juniors, Butterfly UTT's grassroots competition running alongside Season 7, saw Dabang Delhi TTC defeat Dempo Goa Challengers 5-2 and U Mumba TT overcame UP Prometheans 5-1 in the semifinals, with both teams advancing to the final, scheduled to be played on Sunday, July 19. **Final scores** Ahmedabad APL Pipers 10-5 PBG Pune Jaguars Adrien Rassenfosse bt. Snehit Suravajjula 2-1 (11-8, 11-6, 8-11) Sofia Polcanova bt. Diya Chitale 2-1 (4-11, 11-10, 11-10)

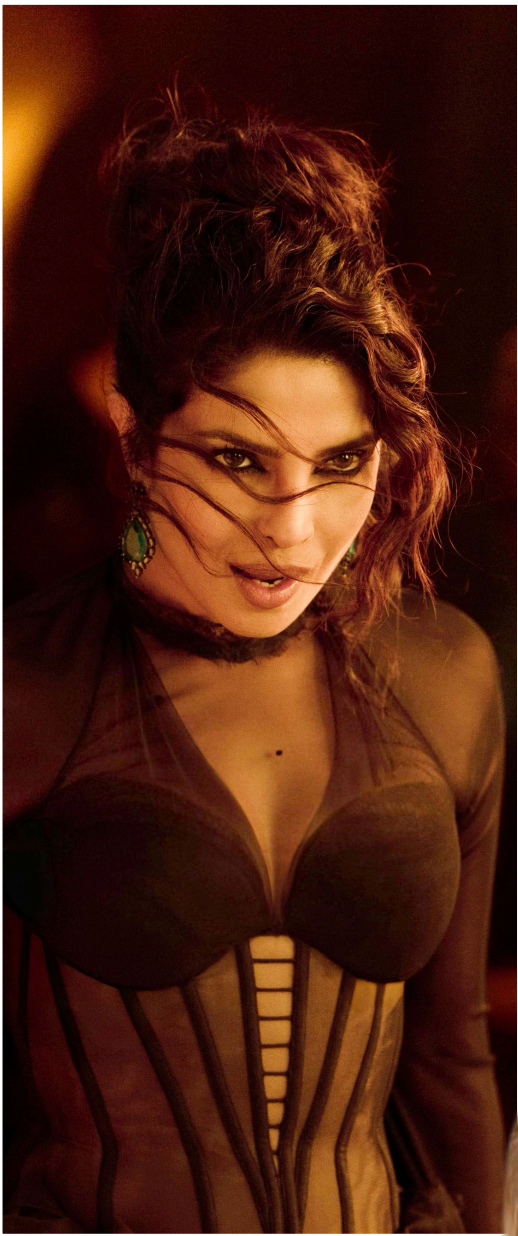
The India Story Trailer: Slow Poison In Progress!



Kajal Aggarwal has kick-started her second innings and is now taking on more serious roles. Next in line is *The India Story*, her new Hindi film, which hits the screens on July 24, 2026, and Kajal is quite excited about this social drama. The makers have released the trailer, and Kajal is seen in a powerful, author-backed role. Though the trailer has several issues, what catches your attention is Kajal's transformation. From being a heroine who has done commercial films for over two decades, Kajal now plays a mother, lawyer, and social activist in this film, which is based on food adulteration. Kajal's transformation is good, and he looks quite impressive in a realistic role. The trailer showcases how a family is devastated by food poisoning and how the mother, played by Kajal, takes matters into her own hands and fights for justice. The *India Story* Trailer: *Slow Poison In Progress!* Kajal Aggarwal has kick-started her second innings and is now taking on more serious roles. Next in line is *The India Story*, her new Hindi film, which hits the screens on July 24, 2026, and Kajal is quite excited about this social drama. The makers have released the trailer, and Kajal is seen in a powerful, author-backed role. Though the trailer has several issues, what catches your attention is Kajal's transformation. From being a heroine who has done commercial films for over two decades, Kajal now plays a mother, lawyer, and social activist in this film, which is based on food adulteration. Kajal's transformation is good, and he looks quite impressive in a realistic role. The trailer showcases how a family is devastated by food poisoning and how the mother, played by Kajal, takes matters into her own hands and fights for justice. Kajal delivers some powerful dialogues, and for the first time, she is seen in a highly performance-oriented role. Shreyas Talpade plays her husband, but his appearance throughout the trailer looks odd. He also seems a bit miscast in the film. With decent production values and a socially relevant subject, the film attempts to highlight a serious issue that is rampant in today's society. The manner in which food adulteration is carried out evokes decent interest in the proceedings. The film sheds light on the alarming use of harmful chemicals and unsafe practices in the food industry, making the issue relatable to every household. Its attempt to create awareness while narrating a commercial story works to an extent. Directed by Chetan DK, *The India Story* is a very important film for Kajal, as its success could open new avenues for her in both Hindi and Telugu cinema. Let's see how the film fares in the days to come.

Kayadu Lohar Makes A Case For Purple ak64

Kayadu Lohar has been in the news again, and this time for her upcoming movie. She is being considered for a key role in Ajith Kumar's upcoming film, tentatively called *AK64*, directed by Adhik Ravichandran. The project is still in the pre-production stage, and there is no official confirmation yet from the makers about her role or the rest of the cast. In the pictures, Kayadu Lohar looks radiant in a purple saree with intricate embroidered detailing, paired with statement jhumka earrings and a layered choker-style necklace. Her hair is styled in a soft updo, and her candid, smiling expression at what appears to be an event has caught fans' attention online. Her Telugu outing *Funky* may not have worked at the box office, but that hasn't slowed her down. She is currently filming *The Paradise* opposite Nani, along with Malayalam and Tamil projects like *Immortal*, *I'm Game*, and *Thaaram*, showing she remains one of the most in-demand faces in South Indian cinema.



Priyanka's Birthday Surprise: Varanasi FIRST LOOK OUT

Global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas has given fans a special birthday surprise on the occasion of her 44th birthday. The makers of director S.S. Rajamouli's highly anticipated film *Varanasi* have officially unveiled her first look, introducing her as Mandakini, a fierce and powerful character that has instantly raised excitement around the project. The first-look images, exclusively shared by Entertainment Weekly, showcase Priyanka in an intense avatar. Dressed entirely in black with flowing curly hair, she sports a striking and commanding appearance. The stills are reportedly from a massive action sequence, hinting at the film's grand visual scale. According to sources close to the production, Mandakini is portrayed as a courageous woman who travels across the world. She is described as a strong, fearless personality with deep emotional layers, making her one of the most memorable characters in the film. *Varanasi* marks Rajamouli's first completely original feature film following the Oscar-winning success of *RRR*. The ambitious global action-adventure spans thousands of years, taking audiences from ancient civilizations to the modern era. Filming has taken place across multiple continents, including Antarctica, Africa, and the sacred city of Varanasi, reflecting the film's massive international scale. The film is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on April 7, 2027. Priyanka stars opposite Telugu su-

perstar Mahesh Babu, who plays the lead role of Rudra. Reports also suggest that Mahesh will appear in a dual role, including a portrayal of Lord Rama in a spectacular 20-minute sequence inspired by the Ramayana war. Malayalam star Prithviraj Sukumaran plays the primary antagonist, Kumbha, while Priyanka's Mandakini is expected to be a pivotal character caught between the journeys of Rudra and Kumbha. *Varanasi* also marks Priyanka Chopra's return to Indian theatrical cinema after *The Sky Is Pink* (2019). Earlier, the actress revealed that she had been working on the film for nearly 14 months, describing the experience as an incredible adventure. During a recent podcast appearance, she humorously remarked that she had performed "a lot of amazing slow-motion jumps" for the film. Industry reports further suggest that, at Priyanka's request, Rajamouli has filmed a lavish dance number featuring her and Mahesh Babu. Several key action sequences, including IMAX-format schedules, have already been completed. The release of Priyanka's first look on her birthday has generated tremendous buzz across social media. Fans are celebrating the "Desi Girls" powerful return to Indian cinema, while anticipation for *Varanasi* continues to soar. With music composed by M.M. Keeravaani and Rajamouli at the helm, the film is shaping up to be one of the most eagerly awaited Indian releases of 2027.



Jakkanna... Mahesh's B'day Deserves a Visual Treat!



Director SS Rajamouli surprised everyone by revealing two unseen posters with contrasting emotions from his upcoming film *Varanasi* on the eve of Priyanka Chopra's birthday today morning. She appears as a highly spirited lady in the first poster and as a malevolent woman with some evil intention in the second look. Now, the anticipation for a similar treat on Mahesh Babu's birthday which falls on August 9 has turned bigger after today's surprise. Fans of Mahesh have been waiting with a bated breath to witness at least a small glimpse on the big day as they wish to make it a memorable one this time, especially after suffering huge disappointment last year with no updates from Rajamouli and team *Varanasi*. As *Varanasi* is undoubtedly the biggest event film in Mahesh Babu's career which is surefire going to put him on the pan-India vehicle, there are mammoth expectations on Rajamouli to turn this year's birthday into a big celebration. Moreover, they are very eager because the next birthday is mostly going to be a dull affair as *Varanasi* hit the screen in April and Mahesh is unlikely to kick off a new film before August next year. As of now, *Varanasi* team is maintaining utmost silence about the much hyped birthday treat. It is unclear if Rajamouli is planning any surprises by working on the teaser or a new poster. A well-timed teaser like glimpse on August 9 could instantly set the internet ablaze and create more buzz on the film. Rajamouli has the habit of giving treat on birthdays of his actors. He previously did it for Ram Charan by unveiling a glimpse on birthday before the release of *RRR*. He wanted to repeat it for NTR's birthday, but due to COVID pandemic, the treat was postponed. Though the first glimpse of *Varanasi* was already released last November in a massive event, moviegoers are desperately waiting for Rajamouli to break the silence and kick start promotions with Mahesh Babu's birthday as the release is just ten months away. The suspense continues as of now. We have to wait for a few more days to see if Rajamouli gives the biggest birthday treat for Mahesh Babu.

Avika Gor's Barn Look Is Pure Class

Bollywood actress and TV serial beauty Avika Gor, known for hit films like *Uyyala Jampala* and *Cinema Chooipistha Mava* back in 2013, tied the knot with her longtime boyfriend and social activist Milind Chandwani last September. Since her marriage, Avika has continued working in movies but hasn't managed to land another big hit in Telugu cinema. In her latest look, Avika sports a chic white shirt with contrast printed sleeves, left partially open over a black bralette for a bold, stylish edge. She pairs it with a pastel blue wrap-style skirt featuring pearl button detailing at the waist, along with a thigh-high slit that adds a touch of glamour. Loose waves, minimal jewelry, and metallic pointed heels complete the look, giving her a perfect mix of casual charm and high fashion, set against a rustic wooden backdrop. This year, Avika appeared in the Telugu psychological thriller "Ugly Story," which failed to impress audiences at the box office. Alongside her film career, she is now gearing up for the Hindi reality show "Khatron Ke Khiladi 15," marking her entry into a completely different, adventurous space for fans to see her in.

Toxic Trailer On August 8

After creating massive buzz with its glimpse, teaser, and Tabahi song, *Toxic* is gearing up for its biggest promotional asset. Yash's team will unveil the film's trailer at a grand event in Bengaluru on August 8. With expectations soaring, the trailer now carries the responsibility of taking the hype to the next level ahead of release.

