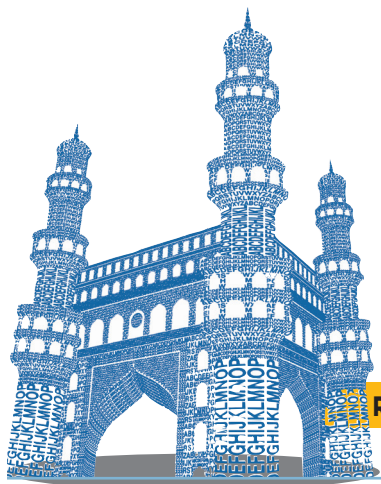




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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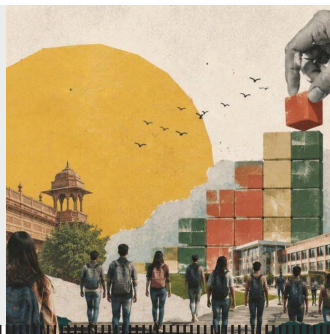


Democracy Must Deliver Dialogue..

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SPECIAL 02



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11



SPAIN CONQUER THE WORLD AGAIN

A 106TH-MINUTE STRIKE FROM FERRAN TORRES SEALS A DRAMATIC 1-0 EXTRA-TIME VICTORY, HANDING SPAIN THEIR SECOND FIFA WORLD CUP TITLE AFTER A TENSE FINAL.

STADIUM 11

CM Pulls Up Leaders Over SIR

Stop visiting Gandhi Bhavan until the completion of SIR on August 3

CM instructs Incharge Ministers to organise SIR review meetings

Warns MPs, MLAs and MLCs if they skip SIR meetings

An opportunity to meet Rahul Gandhi for 100 best performing BLAs

HYDERABAD, JULY 19

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy stressed that the In-charge ministers should take the responsibility of supervising the SIR process. A comprehensive review meeting is being organised on July 30 to review the assembly constituency wise progress of the SIR.

The Chief Minister participated in the Zoom meeting on SIR, attended by Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, TPCC

President Mahesh Goud, State Party Affairs In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant, as well as ministers, MLAs, MLCs, MPs, constituency in-charges, and SIR coordinators.

Speaking on the occasion, the CM warned the party leaders to stop visiting Gandhi Bhavan until the last date of submitting the SIR applications on August 3. CM Revanth Reddy was serious about the leaders for not visiting the

fields and not actively participating in the SIR in the districts. The nominated posts of Chairmen will not be given to those who are not active during the SIR campaign.

The Chief Minister also warned that strict action will be taken if the MPs fail to perform their duties in their jurisdiction where they have been appointed as in-charges. Since the deadline for SIR has been extended to August 3, the CM said that it should be taken as an opportunity to reach out to

people.

Stating that SIR review meeting with all 10 incharge ministers organised on Monday, CM Revanth Reddy directed the MPs to organise periodic reviews, even while attending Parliament sessions.

So far, the Congress party conducted 489 meetings on SIR across the 119 constituencies. Immediate action is required, especially in the most backward constituencies, the Chief Minister said that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

'Catch the Rain-2026'

Centre Calls on Citizens to Save Every Raindrop

NEW DELHI, JULY 19

To promote rainwater conservation and enhance groundwater recharge across the country, the Central Government has launched the nationwide public campaign "Catch the Rain-2026." The campaign is being conducted from July 4 to August 4, 2026, with the message: "Save Every Raindrop - Secure Every Tomorrow." The initiative aims to encourage widespread public

participation in water conservation.

As part of the campaign, the Centre has urged every household, apartment complex, office, and educational institution to install rainwater harvesting systems. It is also promoting the construction of recharge pits and recharge shafts, as well as the use of unused borewells for groundwater recharge. In addition, the government has called for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Woman IPS Trainee Alleges Sexual Harassment

HYDERABAD, JULY 19

A serious allegation of sexual harassment surfaced at the prestigious Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) in Hyderabad on Sunday. A woman trainee

IPS officer, identified as Suma, has lodged a complaint with the Attapur Police, alleging that her fellow trainee IPS officer, Uday Krishna Reddy, subjected her to severe sexual harassment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Uttam Orders Financial Overhaul of Irrigation Corporations

New Finance Models being Identified to Strengthen Irrigation Corporations
New Models to reduce borrowing costs

HYDERABAD, JULY 19

The Telangana government has initiated a major financial restructuring of its irrigation corporations to make them financially self-reliant, reduce dependence on budgetary support and lower borrowing costs.

Reviewing the financial position and operations of the irrigation corporations on Sunday, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to prepare a detailed funding



roadmap within 10 days. He also instructed them to engage experienced financial professionals to help restructure debt, prepare funding

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

India needs Gandhian ideals more than ever: KTR



HYDERABAD, JULY 19

BRS working president KT Rama Rao has asserted that the nation requires the principles championed by Mahatma Gandhi. KT Rama Rao emphasised that religious beliefs are a private matter and that society should progress

with mutual respect and harmony. Furthermore, he highlighted the societal duty to acknowledge and foster creative talents, such as those of artists and writers.

KT Rama Rao, who was the chief guest at the Cartoonist Sekhar

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Police Book 36 Farmers Over Land Stir

HYDERABAD, JULY 19

An FIR has been registered at the Shamshabad Rural Police Station against 36 farmers who allegedly attacked police personnel during a protest against land acquisition for the proposed Bullet Train Hub at Bahadurpura village in Shamshabad mandal of Ranga Reddy district. Based on a written complaint lodged by Shamshabad Rural Sub-Inspector Vanaja, alleging that officials on duty were assaulted, police registered cases against 36 farmers.

The cases have been booked under various sections for allegedly obstructing government officials from discharging their duties and assaulting public servants.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BHATTI VOWS STABLE POWER, STRONGER SINGARENI

HYDERABAD, JULY 19

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has reaffirmed that the people's government is committed to providing uninterrupted, quality electricity to the people while simultaneously strengthening Singareni Collieries, one of Telangana's most prestigious public sector enterprises.

Addressing the media at Tekulapalli in Yellandu Assembly Constituency during his tour of Khammam and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts on



Sunday, he said that the government was implementing innovative schemes to enhance the dignity and economic empowerment of tribal communi-

ties. The Deputy Chief Minister alleged that the previous BRS government neglected Singareni for ten years.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Tribals Preserve Biodiversity Culture: Kishan Reddy

02



CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

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

3 TIMES BETTER



Telangana to File SC Affidavit on Private Varsities

Why were the universities established, and what are their objectives?

What are the educational qualifications of the teaching staff and the criteria for admission?
Supreme Court questions state governments regarding the establishment of private universities.
The Apex Court directs state governments to submit an affidavit containing full details.
Inspections of universities initiated following Supreme Court orders.
Telangana State government to submit an affidavit to the Supreme Court.

HYDERABAD

The Supreme Court of India has turned its attention to the underlying motives behind the proliferation of private universities and the actual objectives of the institutions or individuals establishing them. It is also examining the educational qualifications of the faculty teaching at these universities.

After reviewing numerous complaints brought to its notice during the hearing of the ‘Ayesha Jain vs. Union of India’ case, the Supreme Court ordered inspections of private universities across the country. Noting the arbitrary manner in which private universities often operate, the Court directed state governments to thoroughly inspect every aspect—ranging from the intent behind their establishment to the quality of education provided—and to submit affidavits containing comprehensive details.

Under the Chairmanship of the CCE...

In compliance with Supreme Court directives, the state government has appointed a committee, chaired by the Commissioner of Collegiate Education (CCE), to

conduct inspections of private universities. The committee comprises the Secretary of the Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) as the Convener; the Registrar of JNTU as the Member-Convener; and the Registrar of Palamuru University, the Chief Finance and Accounts Officer of Osmania University, and the Assistant Director (Academic-C) from the Department of Technical Education as members.

The state government has also authorized the committee to appoint a subject expert if deemed necessary. This committee is visiting and thoroughly inspecting every private university in the state, focusing on the nine specific aspects mandated by the Supreme Court.

INSPECTION COVERS 9 MAIN ASPECTS :

The Supreme Court has directed that a comprehensive explanation be provided regarding nine specific aspects concerning private universities. The aspects for which the Supreme Court sought clarification are:

- Why was the university established in the first place? What were the reasons and objectives behind its establishment?
1. Was a feasibility study

conducted prior to the establishment of the university? Were any policy considerations undertaken before its establishment?

2. Did the state government allocate any land to the university? What other benefits were extended to the university, and what terms and conditions were imposed in relation to them?
3. What is the objective of the society, organization, or individual actually managing the university? Who are the members of the university's management committee, and how were they selected? Please provide comprehensive details regarding the individual actually managing the university and the members of the management committee.
4. What procedure is followed for student admissions? What are the standards and regulations regarding the entrance process, and are they in compliance with the law? Did the state government review and validate the modalities concerning the entrance process?



5. How did the university recruit its teaching (academic) staff? Which committee handled the selection process? Were the staff appointments made in accordance with UGC regulations? Did the state government validate the recruitment process?
6. Has the government constituted an inspection team to ensure that these universities strictly adhere to the regulations and conditions imposed on other educational institutions and universities in the state? If so, does the team conduct inspections? Are inspections carried out regularly? Does the inspection team monitor the implementation of regulations? Have any violations of regulations been identified? Have any actions been taken in cases of non-compliance? Has the government granted any exemptions?
7. Are the universities that declared themselves to be operating on a

‘no-profit, no-loss’ basis actually functioning in that manner? Under what authority did the government permit this? How was it verified that university funds were not diverted—including for salaries and other expenses paid to the founder and their family members, or for the acquisition of assets? Have the accounts of these universities been audited? Has the issue of fund diversion been examined? Have the payments made to the founder and their family members been scrutinized? Have the assets acquired by the founder and their family members been examined? Have any violations of regulations been identified? If so, what actions were taken?

8. Is there a system in place at the university to address grievances from both students and teaching staff? If so, is it functional? What is the composition of the grievance redressal committees? Is there a provision for appeals? Have

any grievances been received so far? If received, have they been resolved?

9. Are the universities paying the minimum wages prescribed by law to their academic staff? Has the implementation of UGC regulations been verified? Have the staff salary records been examined? Were any violations of regulations identified during this process? If so, was any action taken?

In accordance with Supreme Court directives, an inspection team is examining these aspects across private universities in the state and preparing a comprehensive affidavit containing the details. The state government will submit this affidavit to the Supreme Court. Following the submission, the state government will initiate further action based on the Supreme Court's orders. Additionally, the inspection team will thoroughly examine these nine points along with other relevant matters and prepare a report.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

CM Pulls Up Leaders Over SIR

FROM PAGE 1

MLAs, constituency in-charges, and Chairpersons should examine the reports submitted by BLAs (Booth Level Agents) rather than relying only on those from BLOs (Booth Level Officers). Strict action will be taken if the in-charges depend only on the BLO reports. CM Revanth

Reddy emphasized that the leaders should effectively utilize the BLAs working on behalf of the party. The leaders' presence at the grassroots level is mandatory. All the in-charges should embark on a visit to assembly constituencies in the next 10 days. Ministers, MLAs, in-charges, corporation chairpersons,

and party in-charges appointed for the SIR should conduct the tours. The Gandhi Bhavan team was also ordered to continuously monitor the BLA and BLO reports.

The Chief Minister said that an opportunity to meet Rahul Gandhi and take a photograph with him will be provided to the 100 best-performing BLAs.

‘Catch the Rain–2026’

FROM PAGE 1

the restoration of traditional water bodies such as old wells, step-wells, ponds, and tanks. It has also recommended desilting ponds and reservoirs to increase their water storage capacity and undertaking large-scale tree plantation to support water conservation.

The Centre has emphasized that Panchayats, urban local bodies, women's groups, youth, students, and voluntary organizations should play a key role in the campaign. Its primary objective is to transform

water conservation into a mass movement through active public participation.

The government also stated that, under its ‘Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari 2.0’ initiative, more than 15 million groundwater recharge structures have already been completed, exceeding the original target by over 50 percent. In view of challenges such as climate change and water scarcity, the Central Government has appealed to every citizen to conserve rainwater and actively contribute to water conservation efforts.

Woman IPS Trainee Alleges...

FROM PAGE 1

According to the complaint, the accused allegedly dragged her into a room against her will, sexually harassed her, and secretly recorded her private and intimate videos without her consent. The complainant further alleged that he intimidated and threatened her using the recordings. The allegations against an IPS probationer undergoing training at the country's premier police academy have caused concern within police circles.

The complainant also alleged that the accused blackmailed her by

threatening to upload the private videos on social media. She further stated that he had already sent the videos to her husband, causing her severe mental trauma.

Based on the written complaint, the Attapur Police have registered a case against trainee IPS officer Uday Krishna Reddy under charges related to sexual harassment, criminal intimidation/blackmail, and relevant provisions of the Information Technology (IT) Act. Police are conducting a confidential investigation into the high-profile case.

Uttam Orders Financial Overhaul of Irrigation..

FROM PAGE 1

proposals and improve the corporations' financial profile to access long-term loans at lower interest rates.

The Minister stressed the need to strengthen financial management and develop sustainable revenue sources instead of relying primarily on government budgetary allocations. Officials were asked to identify innovative financing models that would enable the corporations to meet loan repayments and interest obligations through operational revenues.

Solar Power as Revenue Source

Among the proposals discussed was the utilisation of unused land belonging to irrigation corporations for solar power projects. The corporations could either establish their own solar power plants or lease the land to private developers, creating a steady source of revenue. Officials were also asked to examine renewable energy opportunities around irrigation reservoirs, including the Nizam Sagar region, and assess their technical and commercial feasibility. The Minister, however, made it clear that no revenue-generation model should impose any additional financial burden on farmers. He instructed officials to examine all legal

and regulatory aspects before finalising the proposals.

Audits to Be Completed

Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to expedite the completion of statutory audits for 2022-23 and other pending financial years. Senior officers were asked to coordinate with the concerned authorities for the early appointment of auditors and resolve issues relating to draft audit reports.

He said transparent financial statements would strengthen the corporations' credibility and improve their ability to secure low-interest, long-term funding to replace expensive loans.

Focus on Debt Restructuring

Officials informed the Minister that some irrigation corporations are currently servicing loans carrying interest rates of around 11 per cent. They said refinancing these loans at lower rates could substantially reduce the financial burden. According to preliminary estimates, reducing the average interest rate from about 11.4 per cent to nearly 8.4 per cent could result in annual savings of around ₹250 crore, subject to verification of the loan portfolio and lending terms.

The Minister directed officials to prepare detailed financial statements

for every irrigation project, including outstanding principal, interest rate, repayment schedule, project progress, funds required for completion and expected completion timelines.

Priority for Near-Completion Projects

Uttam Kumar Reddy instructed officials to prioritise projects that require relatively small investments for completion instead of committing large funds to projects with substantial pending work. He said completing such projects quickly would create immediate irrigation benefits, improve the financial performance of the corporations and strengthen their ability to raise additional funds. Projects will be ranked based on physical progress, debt levels, funding requirements and completion schedules.

New Corporation for Fresh Funding

The meeting also explored the possibility of using an irrigation corporation with no legacy debt or repayment backlog to raise fresh resources.

Such a corporation could obtain a favourable credit rating based on government support and a sustainable revenue model. If successful, the model could later be replicated across other irrigation corporations.

Asset Inventory in 15 Days

The Irrigation Department was directed to prepare a comprehensive inventory of all departmental properties, detailing their location, ownership status and commercial potential within 15 days. Officials were also instructed to maintain updated project and asset databases and conduct daily reviews to ensure timely implementation.

Pending Payments Reviewed

The meeting reviewed pending payments related to irrigation works, land acquisition and administrative approvals. Officials discussed funds already transferred to district collectors for payment to land-losing farmers and emphasised that the compensation should reach beneficiaries without delay.

The Minister said the proposed financial restructuring model should be practical, legally sustainable and capable of supporting both loan repayments and interest servicing. He added that the comprehensive restructuring report would be reviewed at another high-level meeting after its completion.

Irrigation Secretary E. Sridhar, Engineer-in-Chief (General) Ramesh Babu, Joint Secretary Srinivas and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Police Book 36 Farmers Over Land Stir

FROM PAGE 1

An investigation is underway. The farmers have been opposing the acquisition of 650 acres of land for the Bullet Train project. They are demanding compensation based on the prevailing market value or the allotment of alternative land in lieu of the acquired property.

The protesting farmers have been staging a sit-in at the proposed acquisition site for the past eight days, seeking justice. Tension flared on Saturday when they attempted to prevent HYDRAA officials from entering the area during the land acquisition process.

India needs Gandhian ..

FROM PAGE 1

Memorial Awards-2026 ceremony at the Somajiguda Press Club on Sunday, presented accolades to cartoonist M. Naru and artist Kurella Srinivas, recognised in the cartoon and artist categories, respectively. He described the event as a welcome respite from the demanding nature of political life, noting that interactions with artists, writers, and poets are infrequent yet valuable experiences.

The BRS leader also commented on the significant impact of cartoons on public discourse, suggesting that a single illustration can often be more impactful than extensive written commentary.

He referenced the legacy of renowned cartoonists like

R.K. Laxman, expressed admiration for Bill Watterson, the creator of ‘Calvin and Hobbes,’ and commended the work of Telugu cartoonists such as Sridhar, Shankar, and Sekhar.

In a tribute to the late cartoonist Sekhar, Rama Rao noted that Sekhar's contributions to discussions on contemporary issues and the Telangana movement had a lasting effect and served as an inspiration for many artists.

He recalled being deeply touched by an instance where Sekhar, despite being seriously ill, attended Gun Park to celebrate the passage of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, which led to the formation of Telangana State.

BHATTI VOWS STABLE POWER, STRONGER SINGARENI

FROM PAGE 1

He said that despite knowing existing coal mines were getting exhausted and that it takes five to six years to operationalise a new mine, the previous government failed to make any serious effort to secure new coal blocks and deliberately stayed away from coal block auctions. As a result of this negligence, Singareni is now facing difficulties, he said, adding that the institution has remained strong only because of the unwavering dedication and hard work of its employees.

Bhatti Vikramarka stated that immediately after assuming office, the present government reopened long-pending files and fought with the central

government to safeguard Singareni's interests. He recalled that the UPA government had allotted the Tadicherla-II coal block to Singareni in 2013, but the BRS government ignored the issue for a decade while the BJP-led central government withheld the lease. He said the present government successfully fought with the Centre and secured the coal block. He also revealed that he personally visited Odisha to expedite forest and environmental clearances for the Naini coal block.

Bhatti Vikramarka further criticised the previous government for not participating in coal block auctions, resulting in the Sathupalli and

Koyagudem blocks falling into private hands. Stressing that coal mining in Scheduled Areas should be undertaken only by tribal communities or public sector organisations under the provisions of the 1/70 Regulation, he said the state government continues its legal battle against the Centre's decision to privatise such coal blocks.

Responding to concerns over displaced families affected by Singareni projects, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that the government understands the emotional bond between farmers and their land and would ensure justice to the displaced with compassion and humanity.

SHORT
TAKES

Governor congratulates
PV Sindhu on historic
Japan Open triumph

HYDERABAD: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has congratulated ace shuttle PV Sindhu on her historic triumph at the Japan Open, where she became the first Indian to win the prestigious title. In a statement on Sunday, the Governor said Sindhu's remarkable achievement is a matter of immense pride for the nation. He lauded her exceptional talent, unwavering dedication, and indomitable spirit, noting that her success would inspire countless young sportspersons across the country to pursue excellence with determination and discipline. The Governor wished PV Sindhu continued success in her sporting career and expressed confidence that she would bring many more laurels to India on the international stage. (NSS)

YSR Congress promises
Rs 1 crore compensation
for families of
deceased fishermen

VISAKHAPATNAM: YSR Congress Party leaders reaffirmed that the party would provide Rs 1 crore compensation to each family of the six fishermen who lost their lives in the Visakhapatnam fishing boat tragedy once it returns to power. They also promised a new fishing boat to survivor Chinna, who lost his livelihood in the accident. The assurance was made while distributing Rs 49 lakh in financial assistance, Rs 7 lakh each to seven affected families, including Chinna. The party has assisted with its own funds. YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy personally signed the cheques.

Traffic diversions on Saidabad–
Yadagiri Theatre stretch till July 21

HYDERABAD

In connection with the construction of the comprehensive development elevated corridor work from Saidabad Junction to Yadagiri Theater on RHS, the following traffic diversions and alternative routes are being implemented upto July 21.

The road stretch between Saidabad Y Junction and Yadagiri Theater one side will be closed for the duration of the construction of the comprehensive development of elevated corridor.

General public is advised to avoid the road stretch from Nalgonda X Road to Owaisi Hospital (DMRL Junction), as traffic congestion is expected on surrounding roads and Junctions.

Diversion points / alternative routes for general public:

Stretch–1: (Nalgonda X Road towards Chandrayangutta):- The traffic (Four wheelers, RTC Buses, and Heavy goods vehicles) coming from Nalgonda X Road towards Chandrayangutta will be diverted at Saidabad Y Junction – left turn DCP East Zone office- Saidabad Law & Order PS Saraswathi Nagar Kaman Sankeswar Bazar Indian Petrol Bunk (Right Turn) Singareni



Colony Onus Robotic Hospital (Left Turn) Champapet Main Road left turn towards Laxma Reddy Garden, thereafter taking a right turn at Laxma Reddy Garden and another right turn at the DMRL Rotary.

Stretch–2: (DMRL to Saidabad Junction) The traffic (Four wheelers, RTC Buses, and Heavy goods vehicles) coming from Chandrayangutta towards Nalgonda X Road will be diverted via DMRL-right turn and then a left turn at Laxma Red-

dy Garden towards Champapet. From there, vehicles will take a left turn towards IS Sadan and a right turn towards Singareni, Shankeshwar Bazar, 105 bus stop, Saidabad L&O Police Station Saidabad Y Junction, Chanchalguda, and Malakpet Fire Station. The two and three-wheeler traffic coming from Chanchalguda towards Saidabad Y Junction and intending to take the Left-Hand-Side (LHS) road will be divided into two-way road. The Right-Hand-Side (RHS) road

will remain temporally closed. Passengers are advised to avoid the RHS road. Similarly, two and three-wheeler coming from Saidabad Y Junction towards DMRL shall use the same above designated lane.

All the districts RTC buses and heavy vehicles coming and from MGBS, Chaderghat towards I.S. Sadan and Champapet will be diverted at Nalgonda X Road towards Malakpet Gunj, Moosarambagh, Dilsukh Nagar, Kothapet and LB Nagar Chowrasta.

Two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and colony vehicles shall proceed via Yadagiri Theater Road and use the available by-lanes to reach their destinations.

Commuters are appealed to follow traffic updates on social media platform @ Hyderabad Traffic Police face book page (facebook.com/HYDTP) and @ HYDTP (Twitter handle).

In case of any emergency in travel, kindly call traffic help line 9010203626 for travel assistance. All citizens are requested to make note of the above diversions and take alternate routes to reach your destinations and cooperate with the Hyderabad traffic police. (NSS)



BRS and Congress Both
Betrayed the Youth:
Aleti Maheshwar Reddy

HYDERABAD

BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy alleged that Telangana was formed with the aspirations of water, funds, and jobs, but both the BRS and Congress governments have completely neglected those goals. Speaking at a media conference held in Hyderabad on Sunday, he criticized both parties for engaging in political theatrics for their own interests.

He said that although the Congress had promised to take action against corruption in the Kaleshwaram Project immediately after coming to power, it has now allegedly colluded with the BRS. He claimed that while one party is trying to return to power and the other is trying to protect money earned through corruption, farmers are still not receiving adequate irrigation water. He also accused both governments of pushing the state into a debt trap worth several lakh crores of rupees.

According to Aleti, the BRS government left Telangana with a debt burden of ₹8.2 lakh crore, and the Congress government has added another ₹4 lakh crore in approximately 30 months. Despite this, he said, the government is unable to pay employees' Pay Revision Commission (PRC) dues and Provident Fund (PF) arrears. He further alleged that pending dues of ₹59,000 crore to Singareni and ₹12,000 crore in fee reimbursement have caused hardships for students and educational institutions. He described both the Congress's "Youth Declaration"

campaign and the BRS's ongoing "Yuva Sangramam" campaign as vote-bank politics. He said the Congress has failed to fulfill the promises it made during the elections, while the BRS, which did not adequately fill government vacancies during its ten years in power, has no moral right to speak about the welfare of unemployed youth. He also criticized the TSPSC paper leaks and failures in conducting recruitment examinations, saying they had severely affected the lives of young job seekers.

Aleti alleged that Government Order (GO) 46 caused serious injustice to rural youth preparing for Sub-Inspector (SI) and Constable recruitment, and said the BRS raising the issue now is merely an attempt to gain votes. He also criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for failing to fulfill his promise of filling 200,000 government jobs within the first year of coming to power.

He stated that over the past 12 years, the Narendra Modi-led central government has transparently filled more than 1.7 million central government jobs in sectors including the Railways, Banking, SSC, UPSC, and CAPF. He said the BJP remains committed to nationalist politics and claimed that it is the only party capable of protecting the people of Telangana from what he described as the opportunistic politics of the BRS and Congress. He demanded that the state government immediately fulfill its election promise by filling 200,000 government vacancies.

We will continue our agitation until dependent
jobs are provided to the heirs of 2,000 workers

- We will expose the government's token efforts to conduct the Medical Board.
- We will question the Congress MLAs from the Singareni region.
- Telangana Rakshana Sena Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha

HYDERABAD

The heirs of the 2,000 workers who have applied under the Medical Unfit scheme must be given jobs. Until that happens, the Telangana Rakshana Sena will continue its agitation. After the Telangana Rakshana Sena warned that it would launch an indefinite hunger strike if the Medical

Board was not conducted, the government held the Medical Board for only two days as a mere formality. While around 2,000 workers are waiting for the Medical Board, the government announced the names of only 120 workers. Even among them, 28 workers were not informed that they had been called before the Medical Board. Among those who appeared before the Medical Board, only about 20% were declared medically unfit.

The government has no intention of protecting Singareni, doing justice to the workers, or giving them confidence.

The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister are allegedly more interested in commissions from contractors and are trying to weaken

the Singareni organization. The Medical Unfit process should continue as it did in the past. The Congress MLAs from the coal belt region, who were elected with the votes of Singareni workers, should bow their heads in shame. When injustice is being done to the workers, what are the MLAs from the Singareni region doing? Whether you choose to persuade or plead with your Chief Minister is up to you, but you must ensure that the Medical Board is conducted twice every month.

I call upon the HMS and Telangana Rakshana Sena cadres to question the MLAs from the coal belt region. I assure the workers that the Telangana Rakshana Sena will always stand by them.

Cyberabad Police takes up Initiative
for Safe Student Transportation

HYDERABAD

A 'Campus Compliance Workshop' was successfully conducted on Sunday at the Engineering Staff College in Gachibowli, as part of the "Student Mobility Programme" (SMP)- an ambitious initiative by the Cyberabad Police designed to establish a comprehensive, systematic and safe transportation system for students commuting between their homes and educational institutions. On this occasion, a 'Student Portal' was also launched to connect the educational institutions and government departments on a single digital platform.

Speaking at the event, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh emphasized that the student safety is a collective responsibility. He highlighted the need to ensure safety throughout the students' entire commutefrom home to school and back. He clarified that the Student Mobility Programme was not merely a traffic management initiative but a comprehensive program dedicated to ensure the safety of the students' lives. He stated that a safe transporta-



tion system for the students can only be achieved through the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders including educational institutions, parents, transport operators, the Police, the Transport Department, the Education Department and TGSRTC. He urged every educational institution to strictly implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) regarding the student transportation.

The Officials stated that this 'Campus Compliance Workshop' was organized following a comprehensive survey of

over 520 educational institutions in Cyberabad, consultations with representatives from more than 750 institutions and a successful pilot project involving over 500 students. They explained that the 'Student Mobility Program' was formulated based on these studies to identify challenges faced during the student commutes and to devise permanent solutions for them.

The workshop featured extensive discussions on establishing "Safe Student Mobility Corridors," ensuring the stu-

dent transport safety, managing traffic congestion around educational institutions, enforcing traffic regulations and implementing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and best practices. Emphasis was also placed on the effective coordination among various stakeholders including schools, parents, transport operators, police, RTA/ RTO, the Transport Department, the Education Department, and TGSRTC to ensure responsible management.

The Officials noted that the newly launched student portal would connect educational institutions and the government departments on a single digital platform, enabling more efficient management of the student transport safety, grievance redressal, information exchange, service coordination and monitoring. The Officials stated that the primary objective was to establish a safe, organized and accountable student transportation system through the Student Mobility Program thereby transforming Cyberabad into a model of student mobility for the entire country. (NSS)

TTD streamlines Tirumala room
allotment, cuts waiting time



TIRUMALA

Ensuring hassle-free allotment of accommodation without inconvenience, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has streamlined room allotment system through its sub-enquiry offices.

This system replaces the earlier practice of pilgrims waiting for long hours at the Central Reception Office (CRO), making the process faster and more convenient.

Pilgrims should first register at the Central Reception

Office (CRO) in Tirumala. The CRO opens daily at 5.00 a.m., and registrations are being accepted as long as rooms are available. Pilgrims must submit their original Aadhaar Card or a photocopy, along with their mobile number, at the registration counter. Registration is completed through the Face Recognition System. Pilgrims may choose their preferred room category at the counter. After registration, an acknowledgement slip will be issued.

After registration, the reg-

istration number will be displayed at the display boards in CRO. Once the number appears, pilgrims will receive an SMS within 15 minutes with the allotted room details.

If the SMS is not received despite the registration number appearing on the display board, pilgrims can scan their acknowledgement slip at the Kiosk Machines installed at the CRO to view the room details. TTD appeals to all its pilgrims to follow these guidelines and co operate with the management.

HIPLEX 2026 Road show Held in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

The roadshow for HIPLEX 2026, India's third largest plastics exhibition, was held on Saturday evening at ITC Kakatiya, Hyderabad, setting the stage for one of the country's biggest plastics industry events. The roadshow was inaugurated by Dhannarapu Srinivas Gupta, Superintendent of Police – Vigilance & Enforcement.

Organised by the Telangana and Andhra Plastics Manufacturers Association (TA-APMA), HIPLEX 2026 will be held from August 7 to 10 at HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad. The triennial international exhibition is being organised with the support of the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India; Government of Telangana; CIPET, and other industry partners.

More than 500 exhibitors

are expected to participate, while over 50,000 business visitors, including manufacturers, technology providers, buyers, investors, policymakers and entrepreneurs from India and abroad, are expected to visit the four-day exhibition. Themed "The Rise of Atmanirbhar & Viksit Bharat in Amrit Kaal: Invest to Transform," HIPLEX 2026 will showcase cutting-edge machinery, raw materials, processing technologies, recycling solutions, automation, sustainability initiatives and finished products across the entire plastics value chain.

Addressing the gathering, Dhannarapu Srinivas Gupta said that plastics are often viewed only through the lens of pollution, whereas modern life and industry are deeply dependent on them.

The challenge before us is not to eliminate plastics but to use them responsibly, recycle them effectively and build a



sustainable circular economy."

He said the plastics sector is one of India's major employment generators. Nearly 40,000 manufacturing units provide livelihoods to around 18 lakh people. While plastics are frequently blamed for pollution, it is equally true that no modern industry or household can function without them. Responsible use and sci-

entific waste management—not rejection—is the way forward." Emphasising sustainable practices, he added: Plastics are not the problem; irresponsible disposal is.

Plastics have transformed healthcare, agriculture, packaging, infrastructure and manufacturing. Our responsibility is to ensure every plastic product is

collected, recycled and reused." He further observed from hospitals to automobiles, and from agriculture to aerospace, plastics are indispensable. The real debate should not be 'plastics versus environment' but how we make plastics part of a sustainable future through innovation, recycling and responsible consumption."

₹1 Crore Relief for Deceased Fishermen's Families
VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 19

YSR Congress Party leaders reaffirmed that the party would provide Rs 1 crore compensation to each family of the six fishermen who lost their lives in the Visakhapatnam fishing boat tragedy once it returns to power.They also promised a new fishing boat to survivor Chinna, who lost his livelihood in the accident.

The assurance was made while distributing Rs 49 lakh in financial assistance, Rs 7 lakh each to seven affected families, including Chinna. The party has assisted with its own funds. YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy personally signed the cheques. YSRCP leaders said the six fishermen would have survived had the government launched rescue operations immediately, rather than delaying the response for nearly 18 hours. They criticised the coalition government for failing to visit the bereaved families even after 15 days and said the administration limited its response to an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh per family. They questioned Fisheries Minister Atchannaidu for citing eye surgery as the reason for not visiting the victims while taking time to criticise Y. S. Jagan, and said Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha confined her response to a video call rather than visiting the families in person. The leaders recalled that Y. S. Jagan personally visited the victims' families, extended financial support and stood by them during their time of grief. They also highlighted the welfare measures introduced for fishermen during the previous YSRCP government, including an enhanced oil subsidy, Matsyakara Bharosa, and pension benefits at age 50. Stating that fishermen deserve dignity, security and timely government support, YSRCP leaders said the party would continue its fight until every affected family receives Rs 1 crore compensation, and reiterated that a future YSRCP government would also provide a new boat to Chinna and ensure comprehensive rehabilitation for the victims' families.

BJP Sounds the War Bugle Aiming for Power in Telangana

HYDERABAD, JULY 19 :

BJP Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao today urged people of the state to be ready for battle against anti-people policies of ruling Congress and BRS parties.

He was addressing as the chief guest at party's district executive committee meeting held under the Hyderabad Central District jurisdiction. He stated that following the state executive meetings, these district and division-level executive meetings are highly crucial for strengthening the party's organizational structure and facing upcoming challenges.

BJP state chief made it clear that no political party in Telangana can compete with the BJP organizationally. He stated that out of the approximately 35,000 polling booths in the state, the party has full-fledged booth committees in nearly 31,000 booths. He revealed that the party has over 42 lakh members and strong units are functioning in 870 out of the 920 mandals. He said minorities are ready to join the BJP in large numbers and emphasized the need to convert this strong organizational structure into political victories in the coming days.

Criticising previous BRS and current Congress governments, he alleged that both have completely sidelined public issues. Rao said the



Congress came to power in the last elections through false promises and guarantees and repeating the same mistakes committed by the BRS in the past. Rao said that the BRS party has absolutely no moral right to speak on the issues of the unemployed. He alleged that former chief minister KCR had previously promised a job for every household but failed to keep his word, and during his 10-year rule, he played with the lives of the unemployed by leaking papers of crucial exams like Group-1. He said the unemployed were deceived by not filling vacancies for professors and lecturers in universities and other government departments. He further criticized the present Congress government stating it is behaving even worse, as it is only giving posts and jobs to the families and followers of its ministers and MLAs in-

stead of providing jobs to the youth of the state. He criticized that, like the previous BRS government, this government is also not issuing any major notifications except for constable posts.

BJP state chief alleged that the Congress government is conspiring out of fear of a BJP victory in Hyderabad city. He criticized that out of fear that the BJP would capture the Mayor's seat, they expanded the GHMC limits to 300 wards and split Hyderabad into three pieces. He slammed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that he devised this strategy by separating Malkajgiri and Cyberabad areas to solely benefit the Majlis (MIM) party, thereby attempting to hand over Hyderabad as a gift to the Majlis party. Nevertheless, Rao expressed confidence that if elections are held in Hyder-

abad, Malkajgiri, and Cyberabad in the coming days, the people will support the BJP, and the party would capture the Mayor's seat.

Rao criticized functioning of Revanth Reddy government alleging that under the name of 'HYDRAA', they first raised the crowbar against the poor by demolishing their houses. He accused that leaving big institutions like Fatima College aside, they are only demolishing the houses of the poor. He slammed the policy, stating that these 'HYDRAA' methods were brought in solely to convert industrial lands into real estate land and to benefit through real estate. He expressed concern that 'HYDRAA' would ultimately lead to a halt in Hyderabad's development (Hydra Halt). He thundered that despite the end of summer and the arrival of the monsoon, people in Hyderabad city are not even getting drinking water.

The people of Telangana have now tired and fed up of the exploitative rule of the Congress and BRS parties and is looking towards the BJP as the alternative. He said that since all current surveys clarify that the BJP is in the first position, panic has started in the Congress and BRS parties.

Ridiculing claims of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for lying that the central government is not cooperating on every matter, he compared

his comments with a cinema dialogue in which a comedian actor says " he will alone lift the mountain, but asks villagers to come and place it on my head ". Highlighting the central government's contribution in development of the state , he reminded that it is due to the cooperation given by the central government that the poor in the state are receiving 5 kg of free rice, and Rs.400 crores are coming annually under Swachh Bharat. He further highlighted that prestigious projects like National Highways, AIIMS in Bibinagar, NIMZ in Zaheerabad, Kazipet Railway Coach Factory, Warangal Textile Park, and the revival of Ramagundam Fertilizers Factory became possible because of the central government. He stated that while the Center is developing the state to this extent, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is spreading lies for politics, claiming that the Center is not cooperating.

He called upon the party workers and leaders to go deeper into the public domain, stating that the people have high hopes for the BJP and are ready to give it power. He urged the District President and the cadres to hit the streets and launch intense protests division-wise over local public issues, the poor condition of roads, and the failures of the administration and the government.

Odisha: Two held for duping couple of Rs 90 lakh in dollar trading scam

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 20

The Commissionerate Police on Sunday arrested two persons, including a woman, for allegedly duping a Bhubaneswar-based couple of around Rs 90 lakh by luring them to invest in a legitimate online dollar trading business with the promise of high returns. The accused were identified as Nilima Satpathy (41) of Bharatpur area in Bhubaneswar and Manoj Kumar Satpathy (43) of Koeri area in Jajpur district. According to the police, the case (381/26) was registered at Nayapalli police station in Bhubaneswar on the complaint of Samarjit Baliarsingh, who alleged that the accused duo lured him to invest in the online dollar trading business, claiming it to be legitimate, by promising substantial profits to the tune of Rs 1.30 crore within six months.

Police said the victim, Baliarsingh, had known the accused Nilima since 2009 and trusted her. Taking advantage of the long-standing acquaintance, the accused allegedly persuaded the complainant and his wife, Sonakshi Lenka, to invest in the trading business between February and July 2025. During the investigation, the police found that the couple invested a total of Rs 97,28,700 in multiple instalments after being promised high returns. To gain their confidence, the accused initially returned



Rs 7,95,000. However, they allegedly failed to repay the remaining Rs 89,33,700 despite repeated demands. The police said the accused continued to mislead the complainant by citing banking issues and sending fake screenshots and fabricated digital documents to create an impression that the money transfer was in process.

When the complainant sought the return of the remaining amount, the accused allegedly abused and threatened him and his wife. During the investigation, police seized bank statements, WhatsApp chats, an affidavit executed by Nilima, a written settlement agreement and six post-dated HDFC Bank cheques. According to the Commissionerate Police, the documentary and electronic evidence, along with the statements of the complainant and his wife, prima facie established that substantial financial transactions had taken place and that the accused had promised to repay the outstanding amount. Following the investigation, police arrested the accused duo, who reportedly admitted to their involvement in the alleged fraud.

Andhra: Jagan alleges scam in privatisation of Ramayapatnam Port

AMARAVATI, JULY 19

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday slammed the Chandrababu Naidu government for what he termed turning the Ramayapatnam port into a scam to generate cash flows for the bigwigs of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). He alleged that disinvestment in the Ramayapatnam port is at the State's expense. The YSR Congress chief posted on X that the TDP government is offering a port on which the government is spending Rs 4,929 crores against an upfront payment of only Rs 1,500 crores

by private parties, causing significant loss to the State exchequer. He said the State government will have to endure the debt servicing burden to the tune of over Rs 3,500 crores. "What kind of economics is this," he asked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Jagan wrote that port-led development provides enormous potential for economic growth of Andhra Pradesh. He stated that the YSR Congress Party government ensured commendable progress in the development of three ports at Ramayapatnam, Machilipatnam and Mulapeta. He added that his government completed crucial tasks such as land procurement,



statutory approvals, including financial closure, and the execution of EPC contracts for the projects, ensuring significant physical progress before June 2024. He cited examples of economic development linked to the Ramayapatnam port, including BP-

CLs upcoming greenfield refinery and petrochemical complex and Indosol Solar's Giga Scale manufacturing plant. He said the BPCL plant, with a refining capacity of 9-12 MMTPA and an estimated investment of over Rs 1 lakh crore, is capitalising on the port's deep-water capabilities to import crude oil. The Indosol facility, he noted, is designed as a fully integrated "quartz-to-module" ecosystem, with proximity to the port crucial for importing raw materials and exporting finished solar modules. He further mentioned that JSW Steel is developing two berths at the Ramayapatnam port to handle bulk raw materials such

as iron ore and coking coal, which are needed for the integrated steel plant being constructed in YSR Kadapa district. He said these projects contribute immensely to job creation and to increasing the State's revenues. "While there are so many economic advantages possible from the development of Ramayapatnam port, both in terms of securing investments to the State and contributing significantly to the Tax and Non-tax revenues of the State Government, all that the TDP Government can think of is the means to turn the Ramayapatnam port into a scam to generate cash flows for the bigwigs of the TDP," he added.

Bengal: BJP leaders file complaints against Abhishek Banerjee

KOLKATA, JULY 19

BJP leader Abhijit Das alias Bobby on Sunday lodged a complaint at Nodakhali police station in South 24 Parganas district against Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee, alleging corruption in the distribution of financial compensation after Cyclone Amphan in 2020. He alleged that around Rs 30 crore was embezzled in the Budge Budge-II block through the creation of fake documents. The BJP leader claimed that most of the money provided by the central government to victims of Cyclone Amphan was not received by the intended recipients. He said applications were submitted under

different names using the same number or address, and money was distributed based on those applications. "In this way, around Rs 30 crore was embezzled," he alleged, adding that all this money entered fake accounts on Abhishek's "recommendation." A complaint was filed against the then-BDO of that block and several other administrative officials. He claimed that Abhishek had committed Rs 250 crore in corruption in the distribution of financial compensation after Cyclone Amphan. On the other hand, another complaint was filed against Abhishek Banerjee at Bishnupur police station in the same district on charges of issuing threats.

HYDERABAD, JULY 19:

Identifying electric cooking and electric mobility as two key pillars of India's long-term energy strategy, the Union Government has urged all States, including Telangana, to promote the large-scale adoption of clean and energy-efficient cooking technologies and electric mobility to support India's clean energy transition, lower consumer costs and strengthen national energy security.

The Centre has also called upon all stakeholders to join hands in achieving India's Net Zero emissions target by 2070 to ensure economic sustainability, environmental protection and safeguard the interests of future generations.

Addressing the National Workshop on Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) in Hyderabad, Secretary, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India, Milind Deore said India has set an ambitious target of achieving 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel (NFF) sources by 2030. As on June 30, 2026, India's installed non-fossil fuel capacity had already reached around 297.37 GW, accounting for nearly 59.5 per cent of the target.

"The immediate focus of our energy transition must be on expanding clean energy capacity and promoting clean and energy-efficient cooking technologies that benefit both individuals and society," he said.

Highlighting the strategic importance of electric cooking, Deore pointed out that while India has achieved near-universal LPG access through flagship initiatives

Centre urges states to promote large-scale adoption of electric cooking and mobility

to support India's clean energy transition.. Electric cooking can cut household cooking costs by 25-35%
Centre emphasises adoption of clean cooking technologies.. Calls for reducing dependence on imported LPG and LNG
BEE advocates distribution of induction cooktops to households, institutions and Anganwadi centres
Focus on affordable, energy-efficient and safe cooking technologies
BEE Secretary appreciates EESL's proactive initiatives in promoting clean energy through induction cooktops and utensils across States
BEE urges stakeholders to support Centre's ambitious Net Zero emissions target by 2070

such as the PM Ujjwala Yojana, the country continues to remain heavily dependent on LPG imports.

India currently imports nearly 60 per cent of its LPG requirement, exposing consumers and the exchequer to international price volatility and geopolitical uncertainties, particularly disruptions arising from conflicts in West Asia.

Electric cooking through induction technology directly addresses these vulnerabilities by:

- Eliminating indoor combustion emissions.
- Reducing household exposure to fuel price volatility.
- Improving cooking safety.
- Reducing dependence on imported fuels.
- Utilising India's rapidly expanding clean electricity infrastructure.

National Efficient Cooking Programme

To operationalise the Govern-



ment of India's "Go Electric" vision, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power, launched the National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP).

The programme aims to:

- Promote large-scale adoption of electric cooking.
- Create public awareness on induction cooking.
- Improve consumer confidence in electric cooking technologies.
- Reduce dependence on imported

LPG and LNG.

- Support India's clean energy transition while lowering consumer cooking costs.

Under the programme, induction cooktops are being distributed to households and institutions, including Anganwadi Centres. Studies indicate that induction cooking can offer a 25-30 per cent cost advantage over conventional cooking methods.

Why Electric Cooking? The Centre highlighted several advantages of electric cooking over conventional LPG-based cooking:

- 100 per cent smokeless cooking with zero indoor combustion emissions.
- Flame-free operation with no risk of gas leakage.
- Built-in child-lock features for enhanced household safety.
- Up to 85 per cent energy efficiency with minimal heat loss.
- Portable plug-and-play installation, making it suitable even in areas facing LPG supply con-

straints.

- Reduced dependence on imported LPG, thereby strengthening India's energy security.
- Advanced safety features such as pan detection, auto shut-off and cool cooking surfaces.
- Cooler kitchens due to minimal ambient heat generation.
- Faster cooking through rapid heating and precise temperature control.
- Lower monthly cooking expenses, with assessments indicating savings of 25-35 per cent compared to LPG under normal household usage.

EESL's Contribution Appreciated

The BEE Secretary appreciated Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) for its significant contribution towards India's clean energy transition and energy efficiency initiatives.

EESL has played a pioneering role through flagship programmes such as:

- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs

for All (UJALA).

- Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP).
- Smart Metering initiatives.
- Demand Side Management (DSM) programmes.
- Decentralised Solar Systems across the country.

These initiatives have resulted in substantial energy and economic savings while accelerating India's clean energy goals.

Renewable Consumption Obligation Critical for Energy Transition

Speaking on Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO), Milind Deore said that India's next phase of energy transition must ensure that the country's rapidly expanding clean energy capacity is effectively integrated into the grid and actually consumed by obligated entities.

"The RCO framework moves our focus beyond merely creating renewable energy capacity and places due emphasis on the actual consumption of non-fossil ener-

gy," he observed.

Under the Energy Conservation Act, the Ministry of Power has notified a year-wise RCO trajectory up to 2029-30. The obligation begins at 29.91 per cent in FY 2024-25 and progressively rises to 43.33 per cent by FY 2029-30.

The framework also provides separate targets for wind, hydro and distributed renewable energy.

Following extensive stakeholder consultations, the Ministry of Power issued a revised RCO notification on September 27, 2025, introducing several enabling provisions including:

- Corporate-level compliance.
- Virtual Power Purchase Agreements (VPPAs).
- Buyout mechanisms.
- Exemptions for electricity generated through Waste Heat Recovery Systems, waste-energy recovery and cogeneration, subject to prescribed conditions.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency has been entrusted with monitoring RCO compliance and developing the necessary operational framework.

Deore said the RCO framework presents a significant opportunity for industries, DISCOMs and other obligated entities to improve long-term energy planning, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and contribute meaningfully towards India's energy security and climate goals.

"Electric cooking and renewable energy consumption are not merely environmental initiatives. They are strategic national priorities that can reduce import dependence, lower consumer costs and strengthen India's clean energy future," he added.



EDITORIAL

The White Sheets of Jantar Mantar:
Dissent, Accountability,
and the War on Youth

The images coming out of New Delhi's Jantar Mantar carry a chilling symbolic weight. White bedsheets, held up by a phalanx of plainclothes police officers, were used to shield the public from viewing the forced removal of climate activist and education reformer Sonam Wangchuk. Wangchuk, a Ramon Magsaysay awardee celebrated for his ecological innovations in Ladakh, was on the 21st day of an indefinite hunger strike. He was fasting not for regional autonomy this time, but in solidarity with India's youth, demanding institutional accountability and the resignation of the Union Education Minister following catastrophic irregularities and leaks in national competitive examinations like NEET.

While the state justifies its early-morning swoop under the guise of medical necessity and compliance with judicial directives to save a citizen's life, the optics tell a different story. The white sheets did not just obscure a fragile 59-year-old man being bundled into an ambulance; they physically manifested a governance style that prefers to drape a curtain over systemic failures rather than confront them. The message was clear: dissent must be kept out of sight, out of mind, and out of the public consciousness.

The protest at Jantar Mantar, organized under the banner of the "Cockroach Janta Party" (CJP)—a moniker born from satirical digital anger against institutional rot—represents a critical shift in contemporary Indian democracy. Political movements traditionally employ symbols of strength and ferocity. By aligning with the cockroach—a creature viewed as undesirable, yet famously impossible to exterminate—the protesting students highlighted their own feelings of marginalization. They feel invisible, discarded by a broken examination system, yet resilient enough to survive. When an internationally respected elder like Wangchuk lends his moral weight to such a movement, it elevates a student grievance into a national crisis of conscience.

For a nation that prides itself on its demographic dividend, the handling of the exam scandal and the subsequent protests is a damning indictment. Millions of young Indians spend years in grueling preparation, anchoring their families' socio-economic aspirations to examinations that have been deeply compromised by leaks and systemic corruption. Instead of offering transparent, proactive dialogue, the government's default response has been bureaucratic stonewalling, heavy barricading, and eventual police crackdowns. When peaceful hunger strikes are met with phone jammers, sudden electricity cuts, and physical scuffles, the state signals that it views its own youth not as the future, but as a law-and-order problem.

India has a long history of using fasting as a potent political weapon, deeply rooted in the Gandhian tradition. Its power does not stem from legal mechanisms but from its appeal to the collective conscience of society. By physically removing Wangchuk, the state may have temporarily cleared the stage, but it has failed to arrest the underlying anger. If anything, the heavy-handed removal has acted as an accelerant, prompting student volunteers to step into the vacuum and continue the fast.

A healthy democracy requires public spaces where citizens can stand as equals and demand answers from institutions. Jantar Mantar has long been that safety valve. When the government uses force to suppress a peaceful assembly, it erodes the foundational trust between the citizen and the state. True Raj Dharma (governance duty) lies in engagement, not containment. The administration must realize that paper leaks cannot be undone by clearing protest sites, and the legitimate anxieties of a generation cannot be hidden behind a white sheet.



A RADIANT SPARK OF NATURE WRAPPED
IN THE MANTLE OF HUMANITY: 'VISWAMBHARA'

Dr. C. Narayana Reddy's life was one that sprang from the soil and soared with its essence. He left an indelible signature through his fragrant poetry. Known affectionately as 'Cinare', is a literary luminary deeply rooted in the bond with the earth. Born on July 29, 1931, in Hanmajipet (in the erstwhile Karimnagar district), Cingreddy Narayana Reddy spent his childhood amidst the flowing waters of the Naklavagu stream.

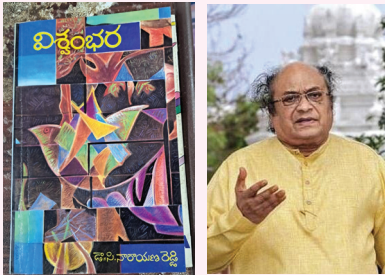
Emerged as a poet in 1953 with the collection Navvani Puvvu, his poetic voice has traversed great distances to touch the human heart, shining eternally. His bond with the village was evidenced by his conversations with figures like Pasula Poshamma was truly ineffable. Cinare's life spanned 86 years, and he authored 86 volumes collections, among this vast body of work Karpura Vasantarayalu, Nagarajuna Sagaram, Mantalu-Manavudu, and Viswambhara stand out as particularly significant.

Viswambhara is a monumental work of free verse. It is a philosophical long poem in Telugu, authored by Dr. C. Narayana Reddy in 1980. Centered on the theme of universal human brotherhood, the poem depicts humanity's quest to understand the ultimate purpose of life and the nature of the universe. It serves as a canvas illustrating the enduring efforts made by humans across ages to achieve spiritual, artistic, and scientific excellence. Moreover, Viswambhara is the outcome of Cinare's profound contemplation on the meaning and mystery of human existence.

This is a modern epic in which man himself is the protagonist. The poet envisions the universe as the canvas, where the concepts of eternity and the flow of time play pivotal roles. Through his masterful handling of the subject matter and a comprehensive portrayal that encompasses even the most fleeting elements, Cinare has crafted a sharp, unparalleled classic that has secured its place in history.

The life stream of his poetry rooted in human values, flowed not from the steel roads of society, but from the rivulets of sweat born amidst the dust of village paths. His poems endure in history as works that keep the spirit of humanity alive across the ages.

Viswambhara is a masterpiece of Cinare's poetry, while the work stands as a



milestone in his life. In Viswambhara, Cinare's poetry attained a cosmic dimension, and his pen achieved a magnificent, colossal stature, deeply embedding human values. Within the work, his poetic artistry and scholarly brilliance vie with one another in dynamic interplay. The density of his diction and the evocative power of his words move in perfect unison, like the plays of a double-edged sword. Perhaps this is why the magical waves of thought and the aesthetic essence of expression shine so vividly through Cinare's writing.

As one gently steps into Viswambhara specifically with the opening lines, "Before I was born / A blue veil overhead / A layer of dust beneath my feet"... the way Cinare profoundly and powerfully touches upon the contours of the natural world evokes the humanistic portrayal of nature that found in the works of Wordsworth, the nature poet. He posits that nature was already in motion long before the advent of humanity.

Robert Frost's nature poetry reveals the spirit of nature's verdancy depicting how trees, rooted in the dust-laden soil of the earth's womb, fill themselves with "green blood." Cinare's style in the epic Viswambhara is characterized by metaphors, poetic ornamentation, aesthetic beauty, fluttering symbolic imagery, rhythmic cadence, masterful word-weaving, and the refined elegance of classical poetry presents him to us as a modern-day Srinatha, a great poet. The magical quality of his work

manifesting as the evocative spirit of sound and a melodious, lyrical arrangement of words

captivates the reader and delivers an exhilarating, intoxicating experience.

It is proclaimed that the primal emotion the dawn's yearning to feel warm bodies against its bosom that lies at the very root of human existence. The act of questioning

"Who am I?" represents the heart of rational thought. Cinare described the "human form" as a voice emerging from the impassioned yearning shared by the Spirit of Nature (both feminine and masculine). He possessed a unique gift for weaving imagery likening that form to a cloud, and that gaze and smile to light or moonlight through a delicate, natural tapestry of words.

The mind flows like speech and sways like a game, it cloaks words while layering meanings, unfolding its imaginings in the lap of nature. To speak of pain, roars, and the grotesque darkness as things Time has hung out to dry along the fringes of the mind's veils is to delve deep into the inner self, that expression of emotion is truly magnificent.

The poet also suggests, through subtle symbolism, that penance casts those with distorted minds back into the lap of nature.

Observing that "desire is rooted in the mind, and movement is its nature," the poet notes that when ignited, it becomes hope, but when it intensifies, it turns into greed, a trait characterized by selfishness. He posits that without an attitude of equanimity, this desire can devolve into an addiction.

Indeed, the poem reflects a meticulous, almost research-like examination of desire in its every facet.

These two lines perfectly mirror Cinare's humanity:

"Heads bow to compassion,
Not to harshness."

The humanistic perspective here is magnificent, evoking the tenderness of nature like fingers sprouting compassion, pity, and kindness. The poet clearly illustrates how arrogance and turbulence breed chaos, contrasting this with the serenity and patience that form the bedrock of a peaceful life. Through Viswambhara, Cinare conveys a poetic message that establishes righteousness, compassion, and public welfare as the fundamental pillars of humanity.

Unfurling the bundle of life's experiences, Cinare observes that man is the protagonist in a drama played out amidst his grandiosity, arrogance, surging memories, and the sweet bonds of life

yet, in the end, all that remains for him are whirlpools and hardships.

"Knowledge of creation is the seed;

lar of democracy. Its duty is not merely to oppose the government but to encourage it to make better decisions. In a healthy democracy, the Opposition serves as both the eyes and ears of the government. If it confines itself solely to obstructionist politics, its own credibility inevitably suffers. At the same time, if the government dismisses every question raised by the Opposition as a political conspiracy and avoids meaningful engagement, the democratic balance is weakened. Both the ruling party and the Opposition must therefore discharge their constitutional responsibilities with seriousness and sincerity. If education is debated during this session, the focus must remain on the future of students rather than political gains. If inflation is discussed, the objective should be to formulate policies that provide genuine relief to ordinary citizens. If issues relating to national security, foreign affairs, or border management arise, national interest must take precedence over partisan politics. Parliamentary debate can be called meaningful only when it leads to sound policymaking and reassures citizens that their concerns are being addressed with seriousness.

Debate and dissent are not weaknesses of democracy; they are among its greatest strengths. However, when dissent gives way to disruption and debate is replaced by boycott, the very soul of democracy is wounded. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee rightly observed that the true test of democracy lies in the smooth functioning of Parliament. His words are more relevant today than ever before. A stalled Parliament is not the defeat of any one political party—it is the defeat of democracy itself. India today faces numerous pressing challenges. Young people seek meaningful employment; farmers aspire to better incomes; the middle class struggles with inflation; education and healthcare require substantial reforms; and amid uncertain global economic conditions, India must sustain its momentum of growth and development. At such a crucial juncture, the people expect Parliament to offer solutions, not political confrontation. If the entire session is consumed by partisan conflict, it is the ordinary citizen—whose voice Parliament is meant to represent—who suffers the greatest loss.

The dignity of Parliament does not rest merely on the Speaker's Chair or the grandeur of the parliamentary building; it is shaped by the conduct of those elected to

knowledge of perception is the radiance", in these words, Viswambhara reveals the fine line separating consciousness from servitude across the realms of spirituality, art, and science. The very fact that this marks the beginning of a transformation allows us to glimpse the luminous power of human knowledge. Such is the poetic brilliance of Cinare.

The radiant, explosive stream of humanism inherent in Cinare's poetry finds magnificent expression in these lines,

"Dividing hearts is not humanity;
Love cannot be born of hatred;
The flame of conflict cannot shine amidst the fires of ego

And even if it were to burn, it would lose its purity and become murky like stagnant water."

Finally, the poet observes:

"That light—
A rousing tap on the back of a slumbering era;
That steps

A new turn for a path that had come to a standstill."

Here, man is portrayed as an eternal voyager. Unfazed by looming threats or shadows, he marches onward, Like a pure element of light.

On the other hand, in Viswabhara Viswarupam, one witnesses a confluence of Triveni Sangam of Shakespearean theatricality, the romantic strain of John Keats, and Rayaprolu's Amalina Sringara (pure, sublime romantic love).

In Cinare's personal life, his home named 'Triveni' was the very heart of his existence. His four daughters were named Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati, and Krishnaveni. The very fact is that he so naturally chose the names of rivers reflects his innate love for nature. Similarly, his epic poem Viswambhara infused with a flowing spirit of humanity will endure for as many eons and ages of light as the earth and sky themselves exist.

The epic poem Viswambhara further amplified the literary recognition and honors accorded to the poet Cinare; indeed, Cinare's creative endeavor represents an extraordinary feat of verbal artistry.

(JULY 29TH IS THE BIRTHDAY OF DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY)

...: Dr. T. Radhakrishnamacharyulu ...
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sit within it. Members of Parliament must remember that they are not merely representatives of their political parties but of the entire nation. Every word they speak and every action they take contributes to India's democratic culture. Therefore, facts, reasoned arguments, and policy-oriented discussions should replace personal accusations and bitterness. The Bharatiya Janata Party has consistently maintained that it believes in development, good governance, and policy-driven politics. If that commitment is genuine, it should have no hesitation in providing factual and transparent responses to the important questions raised by the Opposition. Likewise, the Opposition must recognize that public confidence cannot be won merely through slogans or by disrupting parliamentary proceedings. It must present credible alternatives, constructive criticism, and practical policy recommendations. In a democracy, the success of both the government and the Opposition is inseparably linked to the success of Parliament itself.

In today's age of information and digital transparency, citizens observe everything. They can distinguish who participates in meaningful debate, who merely engages in political theatrics, and who genuinely raises issues affecting public welfare. Symbolic politics alone is no longer sufficient. People's representatives must perform their responsibilities with greater seriousness, sensitivity, and accountability. Former President and philosopher Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan described Parliament as "the voice of the nation's conscience." If that conscience is drowned in noise and disorder, the democratic path itself becomes blurred. The Monsoon Session should therefore become an opportunity for both the government and the Opposition to demonstrate that the true strength of democracy lies in dialogue, consensus, and thoughtful deliberation.

A strong and vibrant democracy requires an equally strong, responsible, and constructive Opposition. The Opposition is often described as the eyes of democracy. But when those eyes are blinded by perpetual confrontation and blind opposition, democracy itself loses its vision. Public opinion alone can compel the Opposition to introspect and improve. When citizens make it clear that they seek a constructive, policy-oriented Opposition rather than politics driven by slogans, political behaviour will inevitably change. The Opposition must honestly ask itself wheth-

er it is genuinely fighting for the people's concerns or merely pursuing the politics of power. The media, too, has a responsibility to promote informed, policy-based debates instead of glorifying disruption and sensationalism. Disagreement is an inherent strength of parliamentary democracy, but when disagreement loses direction, it turns into weakness. The need of the hour is to restore the dignity of Parliament. The Opposition must discharge its constitutional role with responsibility, while the government must shed any trace of arrogance and embrace dialogue as a democratic obligation. If Parliament is truly the "Temple of Democracy," it should not become merely a place where political power is celebrated; it must remain a forum dedicated to public welfare and national progress.

This Monsoon Session should devote its valuable time to legislation, policy formulation, and meaningful debate, rather than repeated adjournments. The representatives elected by the people must remain faithful to the issues and aspirations on which they sought public trust. The nation expects Parliament to become a platform of resolve, not confrontation. The government should listen to the Opposition; the Opposition should hold the government accountable; but both must remain guided by the larger objective of national interest and public welfare. If this session succeeds in replacing political bitterness with policy-oriented discourse, accusations with accountability, and deadlock with solutions, it will not merely mark a successful parliamentary session—it will open a new chapter in the maturity of Indian democracy. Parliament will truly deserve to be called the Temple of Democracy only when every voice raised within it reflects the hopes, aspirations, and concerns of the last person in the queue.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

A Landmark Study That Brings Media Professionals'
Mental Health into Focus

The media is often described as the fourth pillar of democracy, entrusted with the responsibility of informing the public, safeguarding transparency, and holding institutions accountable. Yet, while journalists tirelessly document the struggles of society, their own struggles have largely remained invisible. Long working hours, relentless deadlines, irregular lifestyles, professional uncertainty, external pressures, emotional exhaustion, and the constant pursuit of breaking news have silently taken a significant toll on the mental well-being of media professionals.

Against this backdrop, "Stress Among Media Persons – A Pragmatic Approach," the doctoral research undertaken by Dr. P. V. Balaji Deekshitulu and awarded a Ph.D. by Dravidian University, deserves recognition not merely as an academic accomplishment but as a meaningful contribution to occupational mental health research. Guided by the legendary psychologist, hypnotist, author, columnist, and two-time doctoral degree holder, the late Dr. B. V. Pattabhiram, the study fills a significant gap in understanding the psychological realities of one of society's most demanding professions.

One of the study's most significant findings challenges a widely held assumption. Contrary to the belief that journalists working in remote areas experience the highest levels of occupational stress, the research found that media professionals employed in urban and metropolitan environments reported even greater stress levels. This conclusion, supported by internationally recognized psychological assessment instruments, highlights the increasing pressures associated with modern, fast-paced newsroom environments.

The research carefully examined multiple dimensions of occupational stress, including excessive workloads, irregular working hours, night shifts, professional insecurity, financial instability, external influence, inadequate family time, unhealthy eating habits, sleep deprivation, and substance dependence. Rather than relying on anecdotal evidence, the study employed globally accepted psychological questionnaires to scientifically measure both occupational stress and coping abilities among media professionals.

What distinguishes this research is that it goes beyond identifying problems. It offers practical, evidence-based interventions designed to improve psychological resilience. Participants underwent a structured three-month Lifestyle Management Programme incorporating stress management techniques rooted in both scientific research and holistic well-being. The programme included yoga, meditation, hypnosis, principles of healthy living, positive thinking, and time management.

The study also explored complementary approaches that have rarely been examined within media occupational research, including aro-

matherapy, acupressure, hydration practices, hand mudras, colour therapy, appreciation of nature, music therapy, relaxation through specific musical ragas, mantra meditation, dance, walking, rhythmic movement, laughter therapy, and the cultivation of personal hobbies. By integrating these approaches into a comprehensive lifestyle intervention, the research demonstrated measurable improvements in participants' stress management and coping capacities.

The findings carry important implications beyond journalism. In an era where mental health has become a global public health priority, organisations can no longer afford to view employee well-being as an optional welfare initiative. Healthy organisations are built upon psychologically healthy employees. News organisations, educational institutions, policymakers, and corporate leaders would benefit from recognising occupational mental health as an essential component of professional excellence and organisational sustainability.

Dr. P. V. Balaji Deekshitulu's work reflects an interdisciplinary perspective shaped by his experience as a psychologist, alternative medicine practitioner, personality development trainer, public relations consultant, author, poet, guest lecturer, homeopathy practitioner, and Agama consultant. His academic contributions include approximately 70 national and international research papers, 20 books, participation in 11 national and international conferences, the development of two international research questionnaires, and the publication of more than 400 articles and poems across various publications.

More importantly, this doctoral research demonstrates what meaningful scholarship should aspire to achieve. Academic research must not remain confined to university libraries or institutional archives. Its highest purpose is to address real-world challenges, improve professional practice, and contribute to human well-being. In that respect, "Stress Among Media Persons – A Pragmatic Approach" stands as an exemplary model of socially relevant research. As newsrooms become increasingly demanding and the pace of information continues to accelerate, protecting the mental health of media professionals is no longer a matter of individual responsibility alone. It is an institutional, professional, and societal obligation. This research provides a scientific foundation upon which media organisations can develop healthier workplaces, strengthen resilience among journalists, and ultimately improve the quality of journalism itself.

A doctoral degree recognises scholarly excellence. A study that has the potential to improve lives earns something even greater—it becomes a lasting contribution to society.

DR. T. VENKATESWARLU
PRINCIPAL & COLUMNIST
7659820884



CM Yogi to launch Rs 542 crore development projects in Barabanki

LUCKNOW, JULY 19

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will visit Barabanki district on Monday, July 20, to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for 82 development projects worth more than Rs 542 crore. The ambitious programme will cover the Ramnagar and Dariyabad Assembly constituencies, marking a significant push for infrastructure and public welfare in the region. In Ramnagar, the Chief Minister will inaugurate 14 projects valued at over Rs 104 crore and lay the foundation stones for 22 projects worth more than Rs 178 crore.

Similarly, in Dariyabad, he will inaugurate 12 projects worth Rs 29 crore and lay the foundation stones for 34 projects with an investment exceeding Rs 231 crore. Together, these initiatives are expected to strengthen local infrastructure, improve civic amenities and boost economic activity in the district.

The event will take place at the grounds behind the historic Lodheshwar Mahadev Temple in Ramnagar, a site chosen to accommodate the large gathering expected for the occasion.

The programme will also highlight the government's commitment to balanced regional development and its focus on rural constituencies.

Several dignitaries will attend the ceremony, including Minister of State for Prisons Suresh Rahi, Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies Satish



Chandra Sharma, District Panchayat Administrator Rajrani Rawat, Members of the Legislative Council Anagad Kumar Singh, Engineer Avnish Kumar Singh and Umesh Dwivedi.

MLAs Sakendra Pratap Verma (Kursi), Dinesh Rawat (Haidergarh) and Ramchandra Yadav (Rudauli) will also be present. Baijnath Rawat, Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission, is among the key figures expected to join the programme.

Officials said the projects span multiple sectors, including roads, education, healthcare and public utilities, reflecting the government's multi-pronged approach to development.

The Chief Minister's visit is anticipated to energise local governance and reassure residents of the administration's commitment to improving living standards.

With over Rs 542 crore earmarked for Barabanki, the initiative is being seen as a major step towards accelerating growth in the district.

The large-scale rollout of projects underscores the state government's resolve to deliver tangible benefits to citizens and strengthen grassroots infrastructure.

HOMELAND

Assam Floods Turn Deadly, 57,000 Affected

GUWAHATI, JULY 19

Assam's flood situation remained grim on Sunday with more than 57,000 people affected across eight districts, while one person died in Sivasagar, taking the cumulative flood-related death toll in the state this year to five, officials said. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), floods have affected Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Charaideo, Tinsukia, Lakhimpur, Sivasagar, Udaiguri and Jorhat districts. A total of 22 revenue circles and 298 villages remain inundated, with 57,199 people reeling under the impact of the deluge. Nearly 3,874.84 hectares of crop area have also been submerged. Officials said the latest flood-related casualty was reported



from Amguri revenue circle in Sivasagar district. The total number of flood deaths recorded so far this season has risen to five.

The Burhidihing river at Chenimari (Khowang) continued to flow above the danger level, while no river was reported to be flowing above the highest flood level.

The ASDMA said 14 relief camps and relief distribution centres are operational across the affected districts. Around 440 people are currently taking shelter in relief camps, while another 3,648 people are receiving assistance through relief distribution centres. Floodwaters have also affected livestock,

with 37,558 animals impacted, mostly in Dhemaji district.

Authorities said rescue and relief operations are continuing in vulnerable areas.

Meanwhile, urban flooding continued to affect parts of Jorhat district.

Officials said two revenue circles and several localities, including Bohotia, Nasonolia, Bor Ahom, Sonari, Chirotia Gaon, Pachim Bongal Pukhuri, Tarajan Sonari Gaon, Rajamaidam, TRP Road, Parijat Nagar, Atilagaon and Kushar Nagar, remained waterlogged. Around 1,831 people have been affected by the urban flooding.

Officials said that the district administrations, along with disaster response agencies, are closely monitoring the situation and extending relief to affected residents.

Assam govt's flagship beneficiary schemes to resume from August: CM Sarma

GUWAHATI, JULY 19

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday announced that the BJP-led state government's flagship welfare schemes will resume from August, signalling the rollout of key social assistance programmes ahead of the new financial cycle. In a post on X, Sarma said, "Some familiar names are back at your doorstep. Starting this August, Orunodoi, subsidised essentials and our

student welfare schemes will once again reach the people of Assam." According to the schedule shared by the Chief Minister, the distribution of subsidised masoor dal and sugar will restart from August 1, while the monthly financial assistance under the Orunodoi scheme will resume from August 3. The government will also begin distribution of application forms for its student welfare initiatives -- Nijut Moina and Nijut Babu -- from August 6. Another flagship pro-

gramme, Jiban Prerana Asoni, is scheduled to restart from September. The Chief Minister described the initiatives as Assam's "blockbuster welfare schemes", asserting that they would once again reach beneficiaries across the state. Orunodoi is the Assam government's flagship direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme aimed at providing financial support to economically weaker households, particularly women. The scheme has been one of the state's largest social welfare pro-

grammes since its launch and has undergone periodic expansion to cover more beneficiaries. The subsidised food initiative enables eligible families to purchase essential commodities such as masoor dal and sugar at reduced prices through the public distribution system. The Nijut Moina and Nijut Babu schemes are focused on supporting students by providing financial assistance aimed at encouraging higher education and reducing dropout rates.

Dasoju accuses Revanth of using personal attacks to hide governance failures

HYDERABAD, JULY 19 :

BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan has launched a scathing attack on Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday, accusing the Congress government of weaponising personal invective to mask its own governance failures.

Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan, Sravan condemned the Chief Minister's persistent attacks on BRS President and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR).

Sravan argued that such remarks undermine the decorum of the Chief Minister's office, especially given KCR's legacy as the architect of Telangana's statehood.

"The Chief Minister is using personal attacks as a deliberate ploy to distract the public from pressing state issues," Sravan said, urging the administration to pivot from political rhetoric to substantive governance.

The BRS leader leveled serious allegations against the

Congress government's employment record. While the administration claims credit for 70,000 recruitments, Sravan countered that only 16,000 positions have actually been filled.

He highlighted widespread unrest among unemployed youth regarding the management of the Group-I examinations, the controversial implementation of GO 29, and delays in police department recruitments.

Turning to the economy, Sravan warned that Telangana is losing its competitive edge.

He contrasted the previous BRS regime's successful TS-iPASS investment framework with current trends, claiming that industries are now relocating to neighboring Andhra Pradesh due to policy instability.

Sravan further criticised the state's fiscal management, alleging that the Revanth Reddy administration is accumulating debt without creating productive capital assets for the state.

Elderly Woman Carried on Villagers' Backs as Douni Village Still Awaits Road Connectivity

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot, Uttarakhand: Despite repeated claims of rural development, residents of Douni village, under Khansi Gram Panchayat in Uttarakhand district, continue to struggle due to the absence of a motorable road. The lack of road connectivity forces villagers to carry sick and elderly patients on their backs to the nearest health facility during medical emergencies. On Sunday, 75-year-old Suratma Devi fell ill and required immediate medical attention. With no road access available, villagers carried her on their backs along the difficult foot trail before taking her to the Community Health Centre (CHC), Purola, where she received medical treatment. Residents said they have been demanding road connectivity for years, but the village remains cut off from the road network. They stated that patients, pregnant women, senior citizens and schoolchildren face severe hardships due to the lack of



basic infrastructure. During emergencies, delays in reaching hospitals can put lives at risk. The villagers urged the state government and district administration to expedite the construction of a motor road to Douni village so that residents can access healthcare, education and other essential services without hardship. Those who participated in carrying the elderly woman to the hospital included Ravindra Bartwal, Shishpal, Krishna, Jagbir, Yashwant, Kapil, Praveen Aswal, Ashish, Dinesh, Piyush, Vimla Devi, Radha Devi, Neelam Devi, and several other villagers, who collectively ensured she reached the health centre safely.

Centre's PM-KUSUM scheme ushers in new dawn for farmers in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, JULY 19

Farmers in the remote and tribal areas of Gujarat are no longer solely dependent on the Monsoon for farming. Solar-powered pumps have come to their rescue for mitigating water woes. This has been made possible by the Central government's 'PM-KUSUM' scheme. Under the PM-KUSUM Scheme, the central government provides a subsidy of up to 30% or 50% of the total cost for the installation of standalone solar pumps and for the solarisation of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps.

Many farmers shared with IANS how the scheme made wonders in bringing a turnaround in their fortunes. Bharatbhai Waghmare, a farmer from Unarpada village in the tribal-dominated Dang district, said he is using the solar pump installed on his farm to irrigate continuously from sunrise to sunset and to cultivate crops in every season. "We have benefited from the PM-KUSUM scheme; the government provided this assistance. We grow paddy, tur (pigeon pea), urad (black gram), and various vegetables like eggplant and cowpeas," he said. Gavjibhai Vasava, a farmer from Gavan village in Tapi district,



explained how they were cultivating three crops a year with the help of a solar pump. They no longer have to stay awake at night for irrigation, nor do they worry about electricity bills.

Under the PM-KUSUM scheme, the Gujarat government has provided additional subsidies to help farmers install solar pumps and solar plants. Farmers in tribal and forest areas are receiving a 70% subsidy from the state government in addition to the 30% subsidy provided by the Centre. This scheme has not only increased the income of farmers dependent on agriculture but has also made their lives easier.

According to official estimates, about 256 solar power plants with a total capacity of 695 MW have been commissioned in Gujarat, leading to the solarization of approximately 2.97 lakh agricultural pumps. So far, 22,787 solar pumps have been installed under this component.



Ram Temple donation row: SIT files sealed status report in SC ahead of Monday hearing

NEW DELHI, JULY 19

The Uttar Pradesh government-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) has filed its status report in a sealed cover before the Supreme Court, which is slated to hear on Monday a batch of petitions seeking a court-monitored probe into the alleged financial irregularities in the handling of donations and offerings received by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. As per the causelist uploaded on the apex court's official website, the clutch of petitions is scheduled to be heard on July 20 by a Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joy-malya Bagchi and V. Mohana.

The petitions include a writ petition filed by advocate Narendra Kumar Goswami, a criminal writ petition filed by petitioner-in-person Ajay Kumar Raj, a separate plea moved by RJD MP Sudhakar Singh, and another petition filed by Hindu Dharma Parishad. Earlier, while issuing notice in the matter, the CJI Kant-led Bench had directed the SIT constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government to place its status report before the apex court. "Since it is averred in some of the writ petitions that some FIRs have already been registered and an SIT has been constituted to investigate the matter, we direct the SIT constituted by the State of Uttar Pradesh to submit a status report before this Court. The status report shall also give full particulars of the composition of SIT," the top court had ordered on July 13.

N.F. Railway to Begin Multi Section Digital Axle Counter Commissioning at New Jalpaiguri Yard

MALIGAON, 19 JULY, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway has achieved another significant milestone in its journey towards modernising railway infrastructure with the commissioning of the Multi Section Digital Axle Counter (MSDAC) at New Jalpaiguri Yard under Katihar Division. The commissioning work is scheduled to be undertaken from 26th to 28th July, 2026. This advanced signalling system will significantly enhance train detection capabilities, strengthen operational safety, improve reliability and facilitate smoother train movements through one of the busiest railway yards in the region. To facilitate the commissioning work, a few train services will be temporarily regulated as detailed below:

Cancellation of train:

- Train No. 55749/55750 (New Jalpaiguri – Haldibari –



New Jalpaiguri) Passenger commencing journey on 28th July, 2026 will remain cancelled.

Partial cancellation of trains:

- Train No. 22301 (Howrah – New Jalpaiguri) Vande Bharat Express commencing journey on 28th July, 2026 will be short-terminated at Kishanganj. Consequently, the service between Kishanganj and New Jalpaiguri will remain cancelled.
- Train No. 22302 (New Jal-



paiguri – Howrah) Vande Bharat Express commencing journey on 28th July, 2026 will originate from Kishanganj. Consequently, the service between New Jalpaiguri and Kishanganj will remain cancelled.

Rescheduling of trains:

- Train No. 14037 (Silchar – New Delhi) Express commencing journey on 27th July, 2026 will depart from Silchar at 21:10 hrs instead of 19:10 hrs.
- Train No. 12510 (Guwahati – SMVT Bengaluru) Express

commencing journey on 28th July, 2026 will depart from Guwahati at 07:45 hrs instead of 06:15 hrs.

- Train No. 13142 (New Alipurduar – Sealdah) Express commencing journey on 28th July, 2026 will depart from New Alipurduar at 12:50 hrs instead of 11:50 hrs.

Diversion of trains:

- Train Nos. 20504 and 12424 (New Delhi – Dibrugarh) Rajdhani Express, Train Nos. 20505 and 12423 (Dibrugarh – New Del-

hi) Rajdhani Express and Train No. 20501 (Agartala – Anand Vihar Terminal) Tejas Rajdhani Express commencing journey on 27th July, 2026 will be diverted via Aluabari Road – Thakurganj–Siliguri – Gulma. During the diversion, these trains will bypass New Jalpaiguri and make a temporary stoppage at Siliguri Junction.

Regulation of train:

- Train No. 15631 (Barmer – Guwahati) Express commencing journey on 26th July, 2026 may be regulated by approximately 60 minutes on its scheduled time.

The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available at IRCTC website and are also being notified in various newspapers and social media platforms of N. F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

Tulyada Villagers Warn of Assembly Election Boycott Over Dangerous Landslide Zone

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Chinyalisaur, Uttarakhand (Uttarakhand): Residents of Tulyada village have warned that they will boycott the upcoming Uttarakhand Assembly elections if the government fails to sanction and begin construction of a motor bridge near the village to ensure safe connectivity. The villagers say that the Pirada landslide zone, located near Tulyada on the Dharasu–Jogath Motor Road, has remained highly vulnerable for years. Frequent rock-falls from the hillside have made daily travel extremely dangerous for schoolchildren, commuters and local residents. According to the villagers, several lives have already been lost in the danger zone, yet no permanent mitigation measures have been



implemented. Local residents, including Harish Thapliyal, Anil Panwar, Vijaypal Parmar, Rahul Rajwar and Shubham Rawat, said they have repeatedly urged the government and public representatives to

construct a motor bridge near Tulyada to provide a safe alternative route. However, despite years of requests, no concrete action has been taken. The situation becomes even more critical during the monsoon

season, when continuous landslides and falling rocks increase the risk of accidents. Villagers said that sending children to school and travelling for work through the affected stretch has become

a daily challenge and a constant threat to life. Bhanupriya Thapliyal, Area Panchayat Member of Tulyada Ward and Junior Deputy Block Pramukh, said that if the proposal for the motor bridge is not approved and work does not begin soon, the villagers will be compelled to boycott the forthcoming Assembly elections. She stated that the community has received only assurances over the years, while the issue remains unresolved. The villagers have urged the state government to undertake permanent treatment of the landslide-prone zone and expedite the construction of the proposed motor bridge, stating that the issue is not merely about infrastructure development but about ensuring the safety and lives of local residents.

Pakistan appears to extend patronage to ISKP for pressurising Baloch rebels and Taliban: Report

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan seems to extend patronage to Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISKP), also known as ISIS-K or Daesh Khorasan, not due to ideological sympathy, but as an instrument to put pressure on the Taliban and Baloch rebels, a report has detailed.

On June 30, reports claimed about cross-border activity between Afghanistan and Pakistan, centred on the alleged hideouts of the ISKP. Such incidents have occurred repeatedly in recent years as Pakistan has created a plan to counter the Taliban through the other terror proxies in the region, according to the report in Tanzania-based The Citizen.

"Today, the evidence suggests that Pakistan appears to be extending patronage to ISKP - not out of ideological sympathy, but as a calculated instrument of pressure against both the Afghan Taliban and Baloch insurgents. The international community needs to pay attention to this

development as it can have global implications," Fatima El Hashimi, Moroccan researcher and journalist, wrote in the report in The Citizen.

"To understand why Pakistan's military would cultivate ISKP, it is important to understand Islamabad's failure to maintain relations with the Afghan Taliban, which have collapsed since August 2021. Cross-border skirmishes between Pakistani and Afghan forces have grown in frequency and intensity. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) launched over a thousand attacks in 2025 alone, inflicting casualties on Pakistani security forces across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," the author added.

All the efforts to mediate between Pakistan and Afghanistan have yielded no outcome. At the same time, Baloch armed groups have increased attacks against security forces and major infrastructure projects in Balochistan, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). China has raised its concerns about the



vulnerability of their personnel and projects at the highest levels in Pakistan, resulting in Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir facing serious pressure to deliver results.

Munir's response has been a "hard state" policy of coercion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, which has further alienated Pashtun and Baloch people and intensified

the crisis instead of resolving it. Facing these pressures, the Pakistan security establishment has started using the old playbook by ignoring legitimate political grievances and counterbalancing through new ties with terrorist outfits like the Islamic State.

At a United Nations (UN) forum in 2024, Baloch National Movement (BNM) chairman Naseem Baloch stated

that ISIS training camps in Balochistan function under Pakistani military oversight. This statement aligns with reporting that local pro-military outfits created ISKP facilities in Balochistan's Mastung and Khuzdar, which are reportedly used for suppressing Baloch resistance and offering a launchpad to conduct attacks in Afghanistan.

"Reports also indicate that

in 2025, LeT leadership had convened a meeting in Balochistan pledging armed struggle against what they termed "anti-Pakistan" forces, meaning Baloch nationalists and elements of the Afghan Taliban unamenable to Islamabad's influence. ISKP leadership figures, media commanders, foreign recruiters, and external facilitators have consistently surfaced near Pakistan's western border. This pattern does not suggest mere enforcement failure," Fatima El Hashimi wrote in the report.

"It suggests either selective enforcement or a deliberate grey-zone approach, in which militant pressure is allowed to flow in directions perceived as strategically useful - against the Taliban and the Baloch simultaneously. The Afghan Taliban has publicly flagged that Pakistan is using ISKP to destabilise Afghanistan. Kabul's intensive counterterrorism operations against ISKP compressed the group's operational space inside Afghanistan," the author added.

Putin thanks North Korea for its support in military operations



MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday thanked the North Korean authorities for their decision to send soldiers from the Korean People's Army to participate in the 'liberation of the Kursk region,' local media reported.

During a meeting with North Korean Foreign Minister Choi Son-hui, President Putin expressed gratitude for Russia's support for the Joint Military Operation, Russia's state-owned Tass news agency reported. "I would like to once again express my gratitude for the support of our special military operation and for the decision to send soldiers from the Korean People's Army to participate in the liberation of the Kursk region," the head of state said. Choe left Pyongyang on her official plane to visit Russia at the invitation

of her Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). It did not disclose further details, including the purpose of the visit or her itinerary.

Russia's foreign ministry announced Saturday (local time) that Choe had arrived in Moscow for an "official visit," without revealing other details, Yonhap News Agency reported. It marks Choe's first trip to Russia since October, when she visited Moscow on a "working visit" and Belarus to attend a global security forum.

Speculation has arisen that Choe is visiting Moscow to coordinate North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's potential trip to Russia, given the absence of major diplomatic events or anniversaries between the two countries. North Korea and Russia have been deepening their ties since Kim.

Qatari emir, Iraqi PM meet on US-Iran peace MoU, Hormuz Strait navigation



DOHA

Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani held talks here on Sunday with visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Ali Faalih Al-Zaidi, calling for the implementation of the US-Iran peace memorandum of understanding (MoU).

The two sides urged all parties to commit to dialogue and implement the understandings under the MoU, according to a statement released by the Emiri Diwan, the administrative office of the emir.

They called for ensuring the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and safeguarding regional security and stability, the statement said.

They also reviewed bilateral ties and explored ways to expand cooperation across various sectors, the statement added. The United States and Iran signed the MoU in mid-June, under which the two sides were expected to hold negotiations within 60 days toward a final agreement, Xinhua News Agency reported.

However, tensions have flared again recently as both sides have traded rounds of attacks across the Middle East.

Iran has ceased the fulfilment of its obligations under

the peace memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United States as Washington has violated its commitments under the deal, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said.

In an interview with state-run IRIB TV, Gharibabadi said the United States has effectively violated or suspended "all its commitments" under the MoU, stressing that Iran is now focused on defending itself, and there is "no news of negotiations." "What we are currently faced with is defending the country in a decisive manner," he said. "This time too, the Americans have already received their answer that these aggressive actions will lead nowhere. If they are wise, they should choose other solutions."

Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said that the US violation of a recently signed peace memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iran once again proved that US President Donald Trump's signature is worthless and invalid, according to Iranian media.

He made the remarks in a message to the Iranian people carried by Iranian media, in which he addressed the country's important issues.

Indian Embassy in Iran issues revised advisory for nationals amid increased instability

TEHRAN

The Indian Embassy in Iran on Sunday issued a revised advisory for Indian nationals amid an increase in levels of instability and conflict in Iran. The advisory asked the nationals to postpone travel to Iran and asked any Indians who are already in Iran to consider leaving temporarily.

"Indian nationals intending to travel to Iran for any purpose should postpone travel for the time being until the security environment improves. Indians already in Iran should consider temporarily exiting Iran, using available flight options," stated the advisory.

"Indian nationals who choose to remain in Iran should exercise the highest possible level of caution. They should carefully monitor the news to maintain full situational awareness and should avoid locations seeing higher levels of military activity, such as those along the southern



coast of the country. Instructions issued by local authorities should be complied with carefully," it added.

The Embassy also asked any Indian nationals present in Iran who have not yet registered their details with the Embassy to do so immediately, and to regularly monitor the

Embassy's website and social media handles for further updates. The tensions between Iran and the US have flared again recently as both sides have traded rounds of attacks across the Middle East.

Iran has ceased the fulfilment of its obligations under the peace memorandum of

understanding (MoU) with the United States as Washington has violated its commitments under the deal, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said. Meanwhile, US forces have completed another round of strikes against Iran, with more than 50,000 US troops in the Middle East remaining "highly vigilant," US Central Command (CENTCOM) said.

"During the eighth consecutive night of US strikes, CENTCOM forces successfully hit Iranian military coastal surveillance and air defence facilities, maritime capabilities, and missile and drone storage sites to continue degrading Iranian military capabilities," CENTCOM said in a post on social media platform X. The US military also targeted Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which "launched attacks against US service members in Jordan on July 17," the command said.

Bangladesh faces concerns over spread of extremist narratives: Report

DHAKA

Bangladesh continues to face concerns regarding the spread of extremist narratives in public discourse. Extremist messaging does not rely only on underground organisations or physical networks.

Instead, people and groups use social media platforms to spread misinformation and conspiracy theories, a report has detailed.

The issue of violent extremism has gained attention after Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's statement in Jatiya Sangsad on July 15 said that his government would maintain "zero

tolerance" towards extremism and militancy. However, the challenge extends beyond any single government or political period, according to a report in Bangladesh-based Daily Sun.

For a nation which wants sustained economic growth and foreign investment, stability is not only a political objective but an economic requirement as investors consider infrastructure, market opportunities, institutional strength, public security and confidence in the rule of law.

"Bangladesh continues to face concerns over the spread of extremist narratives in public discourse. The challenge has now expanded into the digital world.

Extremist messaging no longer depends only on underground organisations or physical networks. Social media platforms allow individuals and groups to rapidly spread misinformation, inflammatory messages and conspiracy theories, sometimes transforming online anger into real-world mobilisation," the Daily Sun report mentioned. It added that the influence of online platforms became particularly visible during unrest following the killing of Inquilab Mancha spokesperson Osman Hadi in December 2025.



Bangladesh's women and children bear burden of humanitarian crisis: Report

DHAKA

Millions of people are struggling in Bangladesh's southwest coast for safe drinking water as ponds, tube wells and other water sources have been rendered undrinkable by severe salinity, stated a report.

Women walk for miles holding plastic containers in search of safe drinking water, and this is not just an environmental issue but a full-blown public health emergency, a report from 'Pressenza-International Press Agency' stated.

"The environmental disasters hitting this coastline do not occur in isolation. Salinity intrusion, frequent cyclones, destructive storm surges, riverbank erosion, permanent waterlogging, and extreme heat waves continuously reinforce one another. When a household loses its crops or fishing income to rising salinity, the cost of simple survival

skyrockets," noted the report. According to it, the families are also forced to spend a lot of their already small income just to procure water because the transport infrastructure is broken, along with routinely delayed medical care.

"The heaviest burden of this humanitarian crisis falls squarely on women and adolescent girls, who bear the primary responsibility for household water collection. Recent field data and studies show that women walk between two and five kilometres every day just to find safe water. This chore consumes several valuable hours daily-time stripped away from education, income generation, rest, and personal care," the report stressed.

The report said water-dependent occupations combined with long distances to health facilities significantly heighten reproductive health risks, citing a 2025 study conducted in Gabura Union.

"Women working in shrimp-fry collection and aquaculture spend hours standing hip-deep in saline water. As a result, coastal women are facing alarming rates of skin infections, urinary tract infections, and long-term reproductive health complications," it added.

According to the report, the Government and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) came up with several interventions, like rainwater harvesting tanks and pond-sand filters (PSFs), to reverse osmosis plants and temporary health camps, but with a lack of long-term maintenance funds and reliable backup sources, the infrastructure worth millions of dollars is now abandoned or broken. "The reality on the ground proves that isolated charitable activities cannot solve this systemic crisis," said the report by Pressenza.

Pakistan lacks response to India's nuclear capability: Report

NEW DELHI

Pakistan has no response to India's nuclear capability, as New Delhi quietly crossed a threshold where India may have nuclear warheads at sea while Pakistan does not have a submarine capable of carrying them and not even a realistic timeline for acquiring one, a report stated.

According to a report in Modern Diplomacy, "the gap is widening in a way that is restructuring the entire deterrence architecture of the subcontinent."

"Pakistan has not, and maybe cannot. And the gap between those two sentences is the most important strategic development on the subcontinent since Islamabad tested its first bomb in 1998. The opacity surrounding India's submarine operations is deliberate. A submarine whose location, weapons load,



and authorisation status are unknown to the adversary is a submarine that cannot be targeted in a first strike. India has spent a decade building toward exactly that, while the rest of the world was watching something else," highlighted the report.

With the INS Arihant commissioned over a decade ago, INS Arighaat being equipped with the K-4 missile that has a range of 3,500 kilometres, and the INS Aridhaman joining the fleet earlier this year, the INS

Arisudan is also anticipated to arrive in 2027, making four "on the water" Submersible Ship Ballistic Nuclear (SSBNs).

"There's always one at sea, one in transit, one in maintenance and one in training, the minimum rotation needed to maintain a year-round patrolling submarine force. India has also hardened its pre-emptive attack submarine base on its eastern coast, except for the name INS Varsha, and has an operational jetty in Agalega

Island in the western Indian Ocean, where they can receive top-up without returning to the Indian coast, a much larger area," noted the report.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) 2026 yearbook implies something India did not announce: that India has shifted from storing nuclear warheads ashore to deploying them on submarines at sea.

"A submarine on continuous patrol, armed with nuclear-tipped missiles, somewhere in the Indian Ocean is not targetable by definition. Its location is unknown. Its warheads are already mated to its missiles. Its patrol area can extend from the Bay of Bengal to the waters near Agalega Island, covering millions of square kilometres. The geometry of a disarming first strike against such a force



CCPA Cracks
Down on Service
Charges

NEW DELHI, JULY 19

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has initiated suo motu action against 41 restaurants across the country for violation of consumer rights and adoption of unfair trade practices by levying service charge by default on consumers' bills, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.

The action has been taken based on complaints received through the National Consumer Helpline (NCH). The complaints were supported by invoices showing that service charge had been automatically added to consumers' bills without obtaining their explicit consent.

Based on these complaints, CCPA conducted investigations and found that the automatic levy of service charge violated the Guidelines to Prevent Unfair Trade Practices and Protection of Consumer Interest about Levy of Service Charge in Hotels and Restaurants. In one such case, CCPA passed a final order against Chaayos (Sunshine Teahouse Pvt. Ltd.), imposing a penalty of Rs 50,000 for levying service charge by default and directing the company to reimburse the service charge collected from the consumer. The company has also been directed to modify its software-generated billing system across all its outlets to ensure that a service charge or any similar charge is not automatically added to consumers' bills. The other restaurants that CCPA has passed final orders against include Cafe Blue Bottle, Patna; China Gate Restaurant Pvt. Ltd.; Fiesta Barbeque Nation (Barbeque Nation Hospitality Private Limited); FOO Ahmedabad Restaurant; L'Opera French Bakery Private Limited; and Zorro – The Luxury Night Club. Further proceedings are also underway against other restaurants where complaints have been received and examined.

Odisha Gets
₹8,300 Cr
Coastal Highway

NEW DELHI, JULY 19

Odisha's coastline is set to witness a major transformation with the construction of the new 160.18 km Rameshwar-Paradeep Coastal Highway project to be developed by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) with a total capital cost of Rs 8,300.79 crore, according to an official factsheet issued on Sunday.

Designed to provide faster, safer and smoother travel, the project includes a 4-lane access-controlled highway from Rameshwar to Konark and a 2-lane highway with paved shoulders from Konark to Paradeep, with a design speed of 100 km/hour. Once completed, the corridor is expected to reduce travel time between Rameshwar and Paradeep by nearly 2 hours and 30 minutes, improving passenger movement as well as freight connectivity.

Aligned with the principles of PM GatiShakti, the project will connect 9 economic nodes and 5 logistics nodes, further strengthening Odisha's economic network. It will also improve access to important hubs such as Paradeep Port, Puri Railway Station, Puri Airport and other regional economic centres.w

MONEY MATTERS
Medicover Hospitals' 'MOVEMENTUM 2026' Celebrates

HYDERABAD, JULY 19, 2026



Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad, successfully hosted "MOVEMENTUM 2026," a unique patient engagement and wellness initiative commemorating the milestone of 25,000+ successful orthopaedic surgeries. The event brought together nearly 100 recovered orthopaedic patients, who had undergone successful surgeries under the expert care of Dr. Uday Krishna Myneni, HOD & Chief Robotic Joint Replacement Surgeon. Along with their families, they celebrated their remarkable journey of recovery, renewed mobility, and healthier living.

The highlight of the event was an energetic Zumba fitness session, where patients enthusiastically participated, demonstrating the confidence and active lifestyle they had regained following their

surgeries. The program also featured wellness activities, motivational interactions, and patient engagement sessions that reinforced the importance of rehabilitation, regular exercise, and long-term musculoskeletal health. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Uday Krishna Myneni, HOD & Chief Robotic Joint Replacement Surgeon, Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad, said: The greatest achievement for an orthopaedic surgeon is not just performing a

successful surgery, but seeing patients return to an active, pain-free, and independent life. Watching of our recovered patients confidently participate in today's Zumba session is a proud and emotional moment for our entire team. This milestone of 25,000+ successful orthopaedic surgeries reflects the trust our patients have placed in us and our unwavering commitment to delivering world-class, patient-centric orthopaedic care. He further emphasized

that joint replacement and other advanced orthopaedic procedures, when combined with proper rehabilitation, physiotherapy, and lifestyle modifications, enable patients to regain mobility and significantly improve their quality of life. Patients who participated in the event shared inspiring testimonials about their recovery journeys, expressing gratitude to the medical team for helping them overcome pain and return to their daily activities with confidence. Their stories served as a source of encouragement for others living with orthopaedic conditions.

The event was attended by Medicover Hospitals' distinguished Orthopaedics team, including Dr. K. Satish Kumar, Senior Consultant – Joint Replacement, Arthroscopic & Trauma Surgeon; Dr. Vinay Kandukuri, Consultant – Joint Replacement, Trauma & Sports Medicine; Dr.

Raveesh Ajmeera, Consultant Orthopaedic, Trauma & Joint Replacement Surgeon; Dr. Anudeep Peddineni, Consultant Orthopaedic & Spine Surgeon; and Dr. Raju B, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, who interacted with patients and highlighted the importance of early diagnosis, timely treatment, rehabilitation, and regular physical activity for maintaining lifelong joint health.

MOVEMENTUM 2026 concluded on a high note, celebrating not only the landmark achievement of 25,000+ successful orthopaedic surgeries but also the resilience, determination, and inspiring recovery journeys of Medicover's patients. The event reaffirmed Medicover Hospitals' commitment to delivering advanced orthopaedic care and supporting patients at every stage—from diagnosis and surgery to rehabilitation and long-term wellness.

Rahul Himalian Assumes
Additional Charge as Chairman
& Managing Director, IRCTC

NEW DELHI, JULY 19 :



Consequent upon the resignation of Shri Sanjay Kumar Jain as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), the Ministry of Railways has entrusted the additional charge of the post of CMD, IRCTC to Shri Rahul Himalian, Director (Tourism & Marketing), IRCTC.

A senior and distinguished officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) from the 1999 examination batch, Shri Rahul Himalian has over 26 years of rich and diverse experience in the Indian Railways and IRCTC. He has been serving as a Whole-Time Functional Director on the Board of IRCTC, a Schedule 'A' Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, since 16 February 2024. In his capacity as Director (Tourism & Marketing), he has been providing leadership to key departments including Tourism, Information Technology, Human Resource Development, Infrastructure, Administration and Rajbhasha. Shri Himalian has an out-

standing academic record. He was the Head Boy and Best Student at The Lawrence School. He graduated in Electrical Engineering with a Gold Medal from NIT Hamirpur and completed his post-graduation in Engineering from IIT Delhi, securing a perfect CGPA of 10.00. He was also awarded the prestigious President's Gold Medal for being the Best All-Round Student.

With the assumption of the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director w.e.f 20/07/2026, Shri Rahul Himalian will lead the overall operations and strategic direction of IRCTC while continuing to discharge his responsibilities as Director (Tourism & Marketing).

IRCTC extends its best wishes to Shri Rahul Himalian and looks forward to the organization reaching greater milestones under his leadership.

Piyush Goyal's
Europe visit strengthens
India's trade ties

NEW DELHI, JULY 19



Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has concluded a five-day visit to Spain, Belgium, Finland and Estonia aimed at deepening India's economic partnership with Europe, while building on the momentum generated by the successful conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, according to a statement issued by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Sunday.

During the visit from 13-18 July 2026, the minister held multiple high-level engagements with ministers, senior government leaders, business executives and industry stakeholders across the four countries to expand investment linkages, strengthen technology cooperation and promote greater business-to-business engagement. He was accompanied by a high-level Indian business delegation.

The visit imparted fresh momentum to India's expanding economic engagement with Europe. The understandings reached during the visit are expected to strengthen technology partnerships, promote investment flows, improve market access for Indian exporters and expand cooperation in future-oriented sectors, the statement said.

During his visit to Spain, Goyal held productive discussions with Carlos Cuerdo Caballero, First Vice-President and Minister of Economy, Trade and Business, and Jordi Hereu Boher, Minister of Industry and Tourism. Goyal proposed an annual India-Spain Joint Commission meeting with business participation, while Spain proposed establishing a

dedicated "India Team" to facilitate bilateral engagement. Both sides also agreed to advance technical discussions on interoperability between India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Spain's Bizum digital payments platform. They identified significant opportunities for collaboration in the automotive, pharmaceutical, chemical, textile, renewable energy, tourism, and infrastructure sectors.

Addressing the India-Spain Business Forum, Goyal called upon businesses to forge early partnerships to maximise opportunities arising from the India-EU FTA and outlined an ambitious "10x10x10" vision to increase bilateral trade, investment and tourism tenfold over the next decade.

In Brussels, Goyal co-chaired the 3rd India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) Ministerial Meeting. He welcomed the adoption of the 2026-27 TTC Action Plan and the listing of 21 additional Indian fishery establishments, taking the total number of approved Indian establishments to 625. India also raised the issue of listing Indian ship recycling yards and proposed launching an India-EU dialogue on skills, education and talent mobility. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work towards the early signing and implementation of the India-EU FTA.

Low rates, rising savings
signal China may be
heading into a liquidity trap

NEW DELHI, JULY 19

China is showing increasing signs of slipping into a liquidity trap, with record-low interest rates, abundant bank liquidity and aggressive credit expansion failing to revive consumer spending, business investment or economic growth, according to recent economic data.

The world's second-largest economy grew 4.3 per

cent in the second quarter of 2026, falling short of Beijing's annual growth target of around 5 per cent and marking its weakest quarterly expansion in nearly three-and-a-half years, as per Dunham report.

The slowdown comes despite years of monetary easing by the People's Bank of China (PBOC), which has kept borrowing costs at historic lows while encouraging banks to extend fresh credit.

Kia Carens Crosses 3 Lakh Sales

NEW DELHI, INDIA, 19 JULY 2026:

Kia India, one of the country's leading mass-premium automakers, today announced that the Kia Carens Family has surpassed the milestone of 3 lakh cumulative sales in India. The Kia Carens has established itself as one of the defining products in Kia India's portfolio by consistently evolving in line with the changing aspirations of Indian families. Kia has remained deeply connected to customer feedback, leveraging real-world insights to continuously enhance the ownership experience through meaningful advancements in safety, technology, comfort, convenience and design. This customer-first philosophy has enabled Carens to remain relevant across every stage of its journey, setting new benchmarks in the family mobility segment. The success of the Carens laid the foundation for the expansion of the Carens lineup with the introduction of the Carens Clavis and Carens Clavis EV—two products developed in response to evolving customer expectations for more premi-

Evolution of Carens into multi-powertrain family demonstrates Kia's agility in responding to changing customer aspirations. Top trims and both 6- and 7-seater configurations continue to gain traction, reflecting growing customer preference for feature-rich vehicles with advanced safety, connectivity and comfort technologies. The Carens Clavis EV with up to 490 km range and 39-minute fast charging, further strengthens Kia's EV proposition for modern Indian families.



um experiences and future ready mobility solutions. While the Carens Clavis redefined premium family mobility with elevated design, advanced technology, enhanced safety and greater comfort, the Carens Clavis EV marked Kia's vision of bringing practical, accessible electric mobility to Indian families without compromising on space, versatility or everyday usability. This continuous evolution has not only earned the trust of more than 3 lakh customers but has also received

widespread recognition from the automotive industry. Today, the Carens lineup offers customers the flexibility to choose from petrol, diesel and electric powertrains, ensuring every family can select a mobility solution best suited to its lifestyle and evolving needs. This unique multi-powertrain strategy, complemented by regular feature enhancements and the democratization of premium technologies across safety and connectivity and more, has enabled the Carens family to stay

ahead of its competition.

Commenting on the milestone Mr. Sunhack Park, Chief Sales Officer, Kia India said, "The 300,000-unit milestone for the Carens underscores its position as a segment leader and a true gamechanger in the MPV space. This achievement is a direct result of our product-led strategy, our sharp understanding of customer needs, and our unwavering focus on quality. It strengthens our conviction that the Carens is the benchmark for its class, and we are energized to build on this momentum as we accelerate our growth journey."

Responding to the evolving aspirations of Indian families, Kia introduced Carens Clavis EV. The Carens Clavis EV combines spacious design, versatile seating with options of both 6- & 7-seater and electric innovation, making it a compelling choice for customers exploring practical EV options. Powered by 99kW & 126kW motor deliv-

ering 255 Nm torque, it offers smooth performance across commutes and road trips, with dual battery options—51.4 kWh (490 km range) and 42 kWh (404 km range)—and fast charging from 10% to 80% in just 39 minutes.

The Carens sales mix reflects changing customer preferences. Petrol variants account for 60%, followed by diesel with 30% and EV with 10% of cumulative sales. While Clavis EV offers best in the segment range, there is strong acceptance of Kia's refined and efficient gasoline powertrains even in the family movers.

Equipped with both 6-and 7-seater with unique blend of space & comfort, Carens can accommodate large families and varied travel requirements. Meanwhile, 18% contribution from top trims reflects growing customer willingness to invest in advanced safety features, connected technologies, and premium comfort amenities.

Kashmir Fruit Exports Get Global Boost

NEW DELHI, JULY 19

The first shipment of premium Areko cherries and Centrose plum from Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian and Pulwama districts to Singapore will provide growers with better prices, direct access to global markets and further strengthen India's agricultural exports, Union Commerce and

Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday. In a post on social media platform X, the minister described the development as a major milestone for orchardists in Shopian and Pulwama, saying the export initiative has been facilitated by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). "Yeh Dil Mange More.

This news is nothing short of joyous tidings for the orchard growers of Shopian and Pulwama," Goyal mentioned. "With the support of APEDA, the first shipment of premium Areko cherries and Centrose plum has departed for Singapore. This initiative will provide farmers with better prices, direct access to global markets, and a new boost to

India's agricultural exports," the minister explained. The latest export follows the successful shipment of fresh cherries and plums from Jammu and Kashmir to Abu Dhabi and Dubai in the UAE, further expanding the global footprint of Kashmir's premium temperate fruits. APEDA, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, organised the flag-off

ceremony for the first consignment to Singapore on July 16 in collaboration with Osum Food Solutions LLP and Fruit Master Agro Fresh Private Limited, Pulwama. Jammu and Kashmir's favourable agro-climatic conditions make it one of India's leading producers of high-quality temperate fruits known for their superior taste, texture and shelf life.

Royal Stag Tops Global Whisky Sales

NEW DELHI, 17 JULY 2026 :

Pernod Ricard India announced today that Royal Stag has been ranked the world's largest-selling whisky brand for calendar year 2025 according to the latest IWSR 2025 rankings, recording annual sales of 32.6 million cases for calendar year 2025. This achievement marks a milestone for Royal Stag.

"Royal Stag ranked the world's largest selling whisky for 2025 as per the IWSR 2025 rankings is a milestone for Pernod Ricard India. What makes this achievement truly meaningful is what sits behind it, the trust of our consumers built over three decades. Royal Stag's journey is an example that brands which evolve with changing consumer aspirations, stay rooted in culture and continuously raise the bar don't just remain relevant; they go on to lead the world," said Jean



Touboul, CEO, Pernod Ricard India A 30-Year Journey of Category Leadership
1995–2010 Creating a New Category

In the years following India's economic liberalisation, Royal Stag, familiarized consumers with grain whisky. From brand-new bottles to tamper-proof closures, every innovation reinforced its commitment to authenticity. Backed by its "No Artificial Flavours" campaign the brand aimed to educate con-

surers on the true taste of whisky and crossed the milestone of 10 million cases.

2011–2020 Establishing Category Leadership

As grain whisky was introduced, Royal Stag continued to innovate with Royal Stag Barrel Select This enabled the brand to premiumise while retaining an increasingly discerning consumer base. The brand crossed 18.5 million cases, firmly establishing itself as India's leading whisky.

2021–2026 | From India's

Finest to the World's Largest

As India emerged as a global force, Royal Stag expanded alongside it, with presence in 33 countries. The brand introduced Mark of Purity, bringing together quality checks, triple-barrel maturation, authentic blending and its longstanding commitment to no artificial flavours. Innovation continued through the evolution of the Stag identity, the introduction of Double Tamper-Evident Technology (DTET) closures and the launch of Royal Stag Double Dark, created a separate flavour profile within the category. Commenting on the achievement, Debasree Dasgupta, Chief Marketing Officer, Pernod Ricard India, said: Iconic brands aren't built in boardrooms - they're built in culture, one consumer at a time. Royal Stag becoming the world's largest-selling whisky isn't simply a scale

story; it's the outcome of three decades of staying relentlessly relevant and earning the right to be part of people's lives. We've never believed in following the category. We've believed in shaping it." Royal Stag's sustained growth has been powered by deep consumer understanding and continuous innovation. Over the years, the brand has built meaningful platforms across cricket, music and youth culture, including our marquee platform Royal Stag Boombox and partnership with the ICC T20 World Cup. At the same time, it has continued to premiumise its portfolio through innovations such as Royal Stag Barrel Select and Royal Stag Double Dark. This milestone further reinforces Pernod Ricard India's ambition to build globally admired brands from India, brands that combine commercial scale with enduring cultural relevance.

Turning a Childhood Hobby into a Career

How Creativity, Curiosity and Persistence Shaped a Digital Content Coordinator's Journey



Turning a Hobby into Paid Work

One of the most surprising moments in Halia's journey came when people began paying her for the work she loved doing.

Initially, friends at school asked for help designing online pages or creating digital graphics. Before long, complete strangers were requesting custom work. This happened during a period when personal webpages and online profiles could be heavily customized through coding. People wanted their pages to stand out, and Halia had the skills to make that happen. What started as helping friends gradually became freelance work. Without planning it, she had transformed a personal hobby into a source of income. The experience also gave her something many young professionals struggle to obtain—real-world client experience. She learned how to communicate with customers, understand design requirements, meet deadlines and deliver quality work. These lessons would later prove just as important as technical knowledge.

Building Years of Freelance Experience

Freelancing remained a major part of Halia's professional life for many years.

Working independently allowed her to continue developing both creative and technical skills while enjoying the flexibility that suited her working style. Every project introduced new challenges. Some clients needed websites. Others required graphic design work. Some wanted branding or digital artwork. Each project expanded her expertise and strengthened her confidence. Freelancing also meant wearing multiple hats. She wasn't just the designer. She became the project manager, customer support representative, marketer and business owner all at once.

These experiences taught valuable professional skills including:

- Time management
- Client communication
- Creative problem-solving
- Project planning
- Meeting deadlines
- Managing expectations
- Continuous learning

Although freelancing provided freedom, Halia occasionally considered whether a traditional workplace might offer new opportunities.

Considering a Corporate Career

For a long time, corporate employment didn't feel like the right fit. Busy workplaces often seemed overwhelming, and Halia hadn't yet identified the type of environment that would allow her to work comfortably and effectively. As a result, freelancing remained her preferred option. Over time, however, both the workplace and Halia herself evolved. Many organisations became more flexible, recognising that employees work best in different ways. Remote work, flexible schedules and greater awareness of neurodiversity created opportunities that simply hadn't existed earlier. When the timing felt right, Halia decided to explore corporate technology roles. Rather than abandoning her freelance experience, she viewed it as a valuable foundation. The practical knowledge she had built over years of independent work prepared her well for a professional digital content role.

Working as a Digital Content Coordinator

Today, Halia works as a Digital Content Coordinator, helping manage the myfuture digital platform. Her responsibilities involve much more than uploading content. She carefully reviews new material to ensure it follows established brand guidelines. Consistency is essential because every page contributes to the overall user experience. She also transforms wireframes into fully functioning webpages. A wireframe acts as the blueprint for a webpage, outlining where different elements should appear. From there, Halia builds complete pages that combine design, accessibility, functionality and user-friendly navigation. Her role requires a balance of technical ability and creative thinking.

Every page must be visually appealing while remaining practical and easy for users to understand. Attention to detail is critical because even small inconsistencies can affect the overall experience.

Creativity Meets Technology

One of the reasons Halia enjoys her work is that it combines two lifelong interests. Technology provides the structure. Creativity provides the personality.

Every webpage involves decisions about layout, spacing, colour, typography, images and content presentation. These choices influence how users interact with information. Her background in both coding and design allows her to approach projects from multiple perspectives. Rather than viewing design and development as separate disciplines, she understands how they work together to create better digital experiences.

Finding Workplace Strategies That Work

Being autistic has influenced the way Halia approaches work, but rather than viewing it solely as a challenge, she has developed practical strategies that help her succeed. One simple habit is arriving at the office early.

Getting there before the building becomes busy allows her time to settle into the environment and prepare mentally for the day ahead. This quiet start reduces stress and makes it easier to focus once colleagues arrive. Another important strategy is taking lunch breaks

in quieter locations. Busy lunch areas can be overwhelming, while peaceful spaces provide an opportunity to recharge before returning to work. These small adjustments make a significant difference to her energy levels throughout the day.

Creating a Comfortable Work Environment

Sensory comfort is another important consideration. Noise-cancelling headphones help minimise distractions and allow Halia to concentrate more effectively on detailed tasks. Comfortable clothing also plays an important role. For some autistic people, certain fabrics, lighting or sensory experiences can become distracting or uncomfortable. Choosing clothing that feels comfortable—even wearing sunglasses indoors when necessary—helps reduce sensory overload and supports productivity. Rather than seeing these adjustments as unusual, Halia recognises them as practical tools that enable her to perform at her best.

The Value of Flexible Work

One of the biggest factors contributing to Halia's success has been workplace flexibility. Her employer allows her to work from home for most of the week while coming into the office on quieter days. This arrangement of-

For many people, childhood hobbies remain treasured memories, tucked away as life moves in different directions. For others, however, those early interests quietly grow into lifelong careers. That is exactly what happened for Halia Demartini, whose fascination with technology, creativity and digital design eventually led to a rewarding role as a Digital Content Coordinator.

Today, Halia helps manage digital platforms, ensuring content is accurate, visually appealing and aligned with brand standards. Yet the journey to this role did not follow a conventional path. Instead, it was shaped by curiosity, self-learning, freelance opportunities and the confidence to embrace unique strengths.

Her story highlights how personal interests, even those developed simply for fun, can become valuable professional skills. It also demonstrates that there is no single route into a successful career, especially in today's rapidly evolving digital world.

A Passion for Creating Things Online

As a child, Halia was naturally creative. Rather than simply using the internet, she became fascinated by how websites were built and how they could be customized.

Long before web development became a com-

mon career choice, she began teaching herself HTML and CSS. Her original motivation wasn't to prepare for a future job—it was simply to make online spaces look more interesting and unique.

She experimented with layouts, colours and designs, learning through trial and error. Every new project became an opportunity to improve her skills. At the same time, she discovered digital design software such as Adobe Photoshop. Instead of cutting photographs and magazine pages to create collages by hand, she learned how to produce creative artwork digitally. Without realizing it, she was building an impressive portfolio of practical skills that would later become the foundation of her professional career.

Learning Without a Classroom

Unlike many professionals who begin with formal qualifications, Halia's education came largely through self-directed learning. Whenever she wanted to create something new, she searched for tutorials, experimented with different techniques and solved problems independently. Every challenge became a lesson. This approach allowed her to learn at her own pace while focusing on projects that genuinely interested her. The internet became both her classroom and playground. Instead of memorizing theory, she gained practical experience by actually building websites, editing graphics and improving digital layouts.

Those early years taught her something more valuable than software skills—they developed problem-solving abilities, creativity and confidence.

times takes additional time, the final result is often more polished and effective. In digital content creation, attention to detail is a valuable asset.

The Importance of Continuous Improvement

Rather than completing tasks as quickly as possible, Halia enjoys improving them wherever she can. This mindset reflects a commitment to quality rather than simply finishing work. Digital platforms constantly evolve. User expectations change. Technology advances. Design trends shift. Remaining curious and continuously learning helps professionals stay relevant throughout their careers. Halia's willingness to refine and improve her work demonstrates the value of lifelong learning.

Challenging Traditional Career Paths

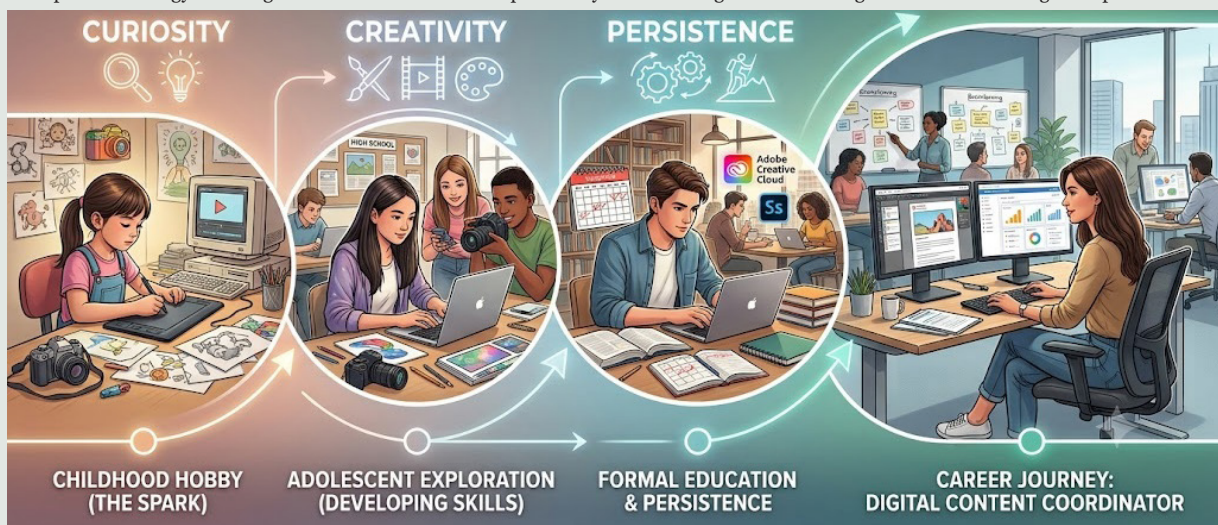
One of the most inspiring aspects of Halia's story is that her career doesn't fit the traditional model. She didn't follow a straight line from school to university to corporate employment. Instead, her journey included years of independent learning, personal projects and freelancing. Yet these experiences proved just as valuable as formal qualifications. In many creative and technical industries, employers increasingly recognise portfolios, practical skills and demonstrated ability alongside academic credentials. Real-world experience often speaks louder than a certificate.

Believing in Your Skills

For people who worry that they are "not qualified enough," Halia offers an encouraging message. Skills remain real regardless of where they are learned.

- Coding websites at home.
- Designing graphics for friends.
- Building personal projects.
- Experimenting with new software.
- All of these experiences develop genuine abilities.

They demonstrate initiative, curiosity and problem-solving. The important thing is to continue learning and creating. Confidence grows through practice rather than perfection.





SPAIN CONQUER THE WORLD AGAIN

Chennai GM 2026

Firouzja continues to lead after all games in round 4 end in a draw

CHENNAI: French Grandmaster Alireza Firouzja continued to lead the standings with a half-point advantage over India's Arjun Erigaisi after all match in Round 4 ended in draws in the fourth edition of the Chennai Grand Masters 2026, India's most prestigious classical chess tournament, at The Westin Chennai Velachery Hotel, here on Sunday. Over 500 chess fans watched the Round 4 action live and also got an opportunity to interact with the legendary Viswanathan Anand, who also made the first move in the match between Erigaisi and M Pranesh. The tournament witnessed eight grandmasters face-off in a robin format and offers a prize purse of Rs 75,00,000 and valuable FIDE Circuit points. Firouzja had won his first two matches while Erigaisi had scored one full point in the third round to heat up the title race on Saturday.

Asian Championship

Sangram Singh becomes first Indian to win Asian Championship title

KUALA LUMPUR: Sangram Singh, who successfully transitioned from wrestling to MMA, won hearts by defeating Pakistani fighter Mohammad Abid Ali in just one minute 20 seconds. It was his second victory over a Pakistani opponent and his fourth overall in MMA. He maintained his unbeaten record in the sport, doing so in the style of a true champion. With this triumph, he also became the first Indian to win the Asian Championship title. Sangram Singh dedicated his victory to 1.4 billion Indians, while Mohammad Abid Ali, popularly known as Mohammad Buta, continued making controversial remarks, just as he had during the face-off event. His frustration over the defeat was evident as he said that he loved all the Muslims in Malaysia. His comments were met with loud boos from the crowd.

HVR Kolkata Thunder Blades beat UP to stay in playoff hunt

GOA

HVR Kolkata ThunderBlades strengthened their playoff push with a convincing 10-5 victory over UP Prometheans, while Dempo Goa Challengers continued their unbeaten run in Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7 on Sunday. Kolkata's Indian duo of Ankur Bhattacharjee and Ayhika Mukherjee starred once again, while Goa survived a spirited challenge from PBG Pune Jaguars to remain the league's only unbeaten side.

Ankur swept Manav Thakkar before combining with Ayhika to maintain their unbeaten mixed doubles record, laying the platform for Kolkata's win. Earlier in the day, Goa edged Pune 8-7 after teenager Syndrela Das held her nerve in the deciding match, with Bernadette Szocs' flawless singles performance proving equally crucial. Kolkata seized control from the outset as Ankur edged Manav in successive Golden Point games before cruising through the third to complete a straight-games victory.

1-0 Victory Over Argentina

NEW YORK

Spain were crowned 2026 FIFA World Cup champions after edging Argentina 1-0 in a tense and closely contested final, securing their second World Cup title in memorable fashion. A solitary second-half goal proved enough as the Spaniards produced a disciplined defensive display to deny Argentina and lift football's most coveted trophy.

The final, played before a packed stadium and watched by millions across the globe, lived up to its billing as two of world football's finest nations battled for supremacy. Spain dominated possession for long periods with their trademark passing game, while Argentina looked dangerous on the counter-attack, creating several promising opportunities but failing to find the finishing touch.

After a cagey first half in which both goalkeepers made crucial saves, the breakthrough arrived shortly after the restart. Spain capitalized on a swift attacking move, with a perfectly timed pass splitting the Argentine defence before the decisive finish found the back of the net. The goal sparked jubilant celebrations among Spanish supporters while forcing Argentina to chase the game.

Argentina responded with increased urgency, throwing numbers forward in search of an equaliser. Their attacking stars tested Spain's resilient backline, but the European champions remained composed under pressure. Spain's goalkeeper delivered a series of vital interventions, while the defenders blocked several dangerous attempts to preserve the slender advantage. As the clock ticked down, Argentina continued to press relentlessly, earning late free-kicks and corners that raised hopes of a dramatic comeback. However, Spain's disciplined defence stood firm, frustrating every Argentine attack. After several minutes of stoppage time, the final whistle confirmed Spain as world champions, triggering emotional celebrations on the pitch.

The victory capped a remarkable campaign for Spain, who displayed consistency, tactical discipline and attacking flair throughout the tournament. They reached the final after defeating France in the semi-finals and carried that momentum into the title clash. Argentina, meanwhile, impressed throughout the competition with victories over England in the semi-finals and Switzerland in the quarterfinals but fell just short in the championship match. Spain's triumph marks another glorious chapter in the nation's football history, adding the 2026 FIFA World Cup to their previous world title and reaffirming their place among the game's elite. The players celebrated with the iconic World Cup trophy as fans draped in red and yellow filled the stadium with chants and cheers.

For Argentina, the defeat was heartbreaking after an inspiring tournament run, but their performances earned admiration from football fans worldwide. In the end, it was Spain's clinical finishing, tactical discipline and defensive resilience that made the difference, sealing a historic 1-0 victory and crowning them the champions of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.



K. L. Narayana Wins Four Gold Medals

at Annual Masters Swimming Championship

HYDERABAD

Shri K. L. Narayana, Additional Secretary to Government (Retd.), delivered an outstanding performance at the Annual Masters Swimming Championship conducted by the Hyderabad District Swimming Association today at the Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Indoor Stadium (GHMC) Swimming Pool, Ameerpet, Hyderabad.

The championship featured participants across various age categories, beginning from 25-29 years and extending up to 80 years & above.

Competing in the 80-84 years age group, 81-year-old Shri K. L. Narayana participated in four events and secured Gold Medals in all four, demonstrating remarkable fitness, determination, and sporting excellence. His performances were in the events 25 m Freestyle, 25 m Breaststroke, 25 m Backstroke and 50 m Freestyle.

Shri Narayana's exceptional achievement at the age of 81 is a source of inspiration, exemplifying the importance of lifelong fitness, discipline, and an enduring passion for sports. He daily practices at Vayupuri Swimming Pool. His success sends a strong message that age is no barrier to pursuing excellence and maintaining an active, healthy lifestyle.



Sindhu clinches historic Japan Open Super 750 title ahead of BWF World Championships

TOKYO

Former world champion PV Sindhu created history on Sunday by becoming the first Indian to win the Japan Open women's singles title, defeating home favourite Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-17 in the Super 750 final. Sindhu completed the tournament without dropping a single game, securing her first title since the Syed Modi International in 2024 less than a month before the BWF World Championships New Delhi 2026.

Facing former World No. 1 Akane Yamaguchi in front of a home crowd, Sindhu produced composed performance in the final. She took the opening game 21-17 before sealing the second by the same margin to clinch her maiden Japan Open crown.

"I had tears in my eyes because it was very, very important for me to win. I was really working hard on myself and kept believing that I could do it. Even though a lot of people were asking what was happening, I still believed in myself, my family, my coaches and my support staff," said Sindhu after the victory.

The title is Sindhu's first BWF World Tour title outside India since the Singapore Open in 2022 and adds another milestone to the career of the 2019 world champion, who has won five medals at the BWF World Championships, including the historic gold in Basel.

On her way to the title, Sindhu advanced to the semifinals after Japan's Nozomi Okuhara withdrew before their quarterfinal. In the last four, Sindhu was leading Tokyo Olympic champion Chen Yufei 21-19, 15-10 before the Chinese shuttler retired due to injury, setting up the final against Yamaguchi.

The milestone victory comes at a crucial juncture. With the BWF World Championships New Delhi 2026 returning to Indian soil after 17 years in less than a month, the five-time World Championships medalist and 2019 world champion heads into the sport's biggest event with winning momentum and renewed confidence.



3rd ODI: Rohit's 138 goes in vain as England beat India by 27 runs, win series 2-1

LONDON

Ben Duckett's sensational 141-run knock eclipsed a magnificent 138 from Rohit Sharma as a clinical England defeated India by 27 runs in a high-scoring thriller at Lord's on Sunday to clinch the three-match ODI series 2-1.

Chasing a whopping target of 388, India mounted a spirited challenge but ultimately finished at 360 for seven as the hosts executed a disciplined death-bowling display to seal a well-earned victory. Earlier in the day, England's batting line-up produced a relentless display of batsmanship that left India's bowlers bruised as they posted a mammoth 387/3, registering the highest List A score at the 'Home of Cricket.' The primary difference between the two sides lay in England's explosive finish with the bat, where they plundered a decisive 82 runs from the final five overs, and a game-changing post-30th-over spell from young Jacob Bethell.

With his part-time left-arm spin, Bethell turned the match on its head by delivering an economical seven-over spell, conceding just 49 runs and claiming the prized scalp of Rohit, which triggered an Indian batting collapse from a commanding 260 for one to a precarious 329 for seven. Apart from Bethell, Sam Curran stood out with his clever slower balls to strangle India's charge and end up with figures of 4-75.

Opting to bat, England's charge was led by a brilliant Ben Duckett hitting 141 off 135 balls, laced with 18 fours and one six. He was well-supported in a 192-run stand with Bethell, who hit a 93-ball 91, studded with 11 fours and two sixes. India endured a grueling day in the field as their depleted bowling attack failed to contain England. With pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah injured, the Indian team management elected to field only five frontline bowlers, a tactical move that backfired as they failed to wrest any control after Duckett and Bethell laid a solid foundation. Bethell, despite his struggles in between, batted with flair and confidence to get his first ODI fifty as an opener with a top-edge pull off Arshdeep Singh.



His knock carried emotional resonance, coming days after the passing of Sir Garfield Sobers, whom Bethell credited as a formative influence in his quest to play for England. He eventually fell for 91 to Prasidh, but not before stitching a monumental 192-run opening stand with Duckett - the highest for any wicket by England against India in ODIs.

Duckett, meanwhile, was in imperious touch as he showcased a masterclass in timing and placement. He reached his fourth ODI hundred with a blistering pull off Gurnoor Brar, and then marched past Viv Richards' iconic 138 not out from the 1979 World Cup final to set a new record for most runs hit by a batter in an ODI game at Lord's. When Prince Yadav's slower bouncer finally accounted for him, the crowd rose in unison to salute a knock that will be etched in Lord's folklore. Joe Root's arrival only deepened India's woes. In the form of his life, Root notched his sixth consecutive ODI fifty - an unprecedented feat in the format. Harry Brook's cameo of 14 ended when he holed out to Virat Kohli at long-on, giving Krishna his second wicket.

'Handling your nerves is the key in a World Cup final,'

NEW YORK

Former Germany striker and World Cup winner Jurgen Klinsmann believes handling emotions and staying true to a team's identity will be the key when Argentina and Spain battle for football's biggest prize in the FIFA World Cup final on Monday.

Defending champions Argentina take on Spain at the New York New Jersey Stadium, with Lionel Messi's side aiming to retain the title while the Spaniards chase their second World Cup crown after an outstanding campaign. Klinsmann, who won the 1990 FIFA World Cup with West Germany after defeating Argentina in the final, said playing in football's showpiece match is an experience unlike any other.

"It's a uniqueness of that game because everyone involved in a World Cup final understands it might only happen once in your lifetime. The magnitude is enormous; it's what everyone dreams about."





Anupama Hints at a New Beginning?

Though she is originally a Malayalam actress, Anupama Parameswaran has earned immense popularity in Telugu cinema, where she has acted in far more films than in her home industry. She initially built an image as the girl-next-door with traditional roles, but films like Rowdy Boys and Tillu Square transformed her on-screen persona. By taking on bold scenes, including lip-locks and intimate moments, Anupama successfully shed her earlier image and showcased a more versatile side. However, the actress has been keeping a relatively low profile in recent months, with fewer film releases compared to previous years. This has fueled speculation that her personal life may be the reason behind the slowdown in her career. For quite some time, reports have linked Anupama with her Bison co-star Dhruv Vikram, suggesting that the two had fallen in love during the film's shoot. Although neither of them ever confirmed the relationship, the rumours continued to circulate. Now, fresh speculation suggests that the alleged couple may have parted ways. The reason? Anupama's latest Instagram post. Sharing a series of photos, the actress posted a cryptic caption that immediately caught the attention of fans. She jokingly apologized for uploading a photo dump but went on to say that she no longer needed anyone's permission before posting pictures. She also mentioned that she didn't have to wait for someone else to choose the background music or come up with a caption for her posts. While the message appeared simple on the surface, many social media users interpreted it differently. Several fans felt the caption hinted at a newfound sense of independence, leading to speculation that Anupama may have been referring to a breakup. The post has since triggered discussions online, with many wondering whether it was an indirect message about her personal life. Interestingly, despite the dating rumours involving Dhruv Vikram, the two were rarely seen together publicly, and neither has ever addressed the speculation. On the professional front, Anupama was last seen in Mareechika and Lockdown. She is currently working alongside Sharwanand in the upcoming Telugu film Bhogi. Meanwhile, Dhruv Vikram is busy with a bilingual project being produced by Mythri Movie Makers. As of now, there is no official confirmation about either the reported relationship or the breakup. Until Anupama or Dhruv chooses to speak about it, the latest social media post remains open to interpretation.



'CM Vijay' Silently Ditched Jana Nayagan Buzz?

There was a time when Jana Nayagan was supposed to become one of the biggest openings in Tamil cinema. However, with just four days left for release, the film is not carrying the kind of heat that many had expected. The advance bookings too have started on a rather average note. One of the major reasons appears to be the repeated postponements. Every delay took away a bit of the momentum and the film gradually lost the urgency that it once had among movie lovers. At the same time, Vijay's transition into full time politics could also be playing a role. Ever since taking charge as Chief Minister, he has been making headlines almost every day with administrative decisions, public meetings and political activities. As a result, the spotlight has shifted from Vijay the actor to Vijay the Chief Minister. While this has strengthened his political image, it may have unintentionally diluted the excitement around Jana Nayagan. The film still has everything going in its favour. It is Vijay's final film before stepping away from cinema, and that emotional factor alone is enough to pull audiences to theatres. However, the team cannot afford to remain silent at this stage. With only four days left, an aggressive promotional campaign is the need of the hour to bring back the lost momentum. A solid second trailer or a powerful promotional video can completely change the game. If the makers manage to create one last wave of excitement before release, Jana Nayagan can still register the kind of opening that everyone expected from Vijay's farewell film.

Can Paradise Repeat Nizam Magic?



Natural star Nani's upcoming mass entertainer The Paradise has been generating a tremendous buzz even though the makers haven't yet announced the exact release date after pushing it from August to September. Trade circles are betting big on the film because of the massive hype in audience. The team has recently closed a solid deal as the distribution rights for Nizam region were acquired by Mythri Movie Makers for a staggering 37 crores. This is the biggest deal for a single territory in Nani's career so far. But, there is a bigger challenge ahead. The Srikanth Odela directional is being mounted on an ambitious scale and already emerged as the costliest production for Nani because the budget has surpassed the initial estimation. The film now needs to secure promising deals in all other areas to put the producer in safe zone before release. Ever since the team unveiled the unconventional first look poster of Nani and followed it up with the sensational chartbuster song Aya Sher, there has been a huge turnaround of hype for the film. Anirudh Ravichander's mass composition has become a euphoria and created unprecedented buzz. Though the production house recently dismissed claims of a 110 crore worldwide theatrical deal, inside sources suggest that the final business figures across all regions will no doubt going to be excellent because of the growing anticipation. While the Nizam deal is a major boost, the makers now need to

replicate similar business across the remaining territories. Considering the film's massive budget and lavish scale, strong pre release deals in Andhra, Ceded, Karnataka, Overseas and other regions are crucial to ensure the producer enters the release in a comfortable position. For that to happen, the film needs another major push in terms of content. As the team simultaneously focuses on pending shoot and post production, it would be wise to lock Anirudh's dates well in advance. With the composer expected to be occupied with other commitments in the coming months, Paradise should complete its music and promotional material without delays. Just as Aya Sher created a sensational wave, the makers should aim to release another impactful promotional asset, preferably a second single or an explosive teaser, at least a month before release. Sustaining the momentum with a well planned promotional campaign will be key to maximizing the theatrical business in the remaining territories and capitalizing on the enormous hype surrounding the film. This film marks Nani's return to the screen after a gap of over a year following HIT 3: The Third Case and also his second collaboration with the director after delivering a commercial success earlier with Dasara.

Preity Proves She Is Box Office Gold

Preity Mukhundhan is truly having a golden run this year, and her recent streak proves she is one of the most bankable young actresses in Tamil cinema right now. After going viral for her stylised action avatar in "Blast," which won her a whole new fan base, she followed it up with "Idhayam Murali" alongside Atharvaa. The coming-of-age drama released without much buzz but grew steadily on word of mouth, showing that Preity's growing popularity is genuinely translating into footfalls. The numbers back it up too. "Idhayam Murali" has now crossed the Rs 14 crore mark in India and become Preity's fourth-highest-grossing film to date, a solid feat considering the film's modest scale. With back-to-back hits like "Blast" and now "Idhayam Murali," Preity is clearly riding a hot streak, and industry watchers are already curious what she picks next. Along with her career high, Preity is also winning hearts with her style game. In her latest pictures, she looks ethereal in an olive green corset saree with a heavily embellished bustier and sheer floral-net sleeves, paired with a satin drape. Minimal jewellery, soft waves, and that bright smile round off a look that is elegant yet effortlessly glam, proving Preity is a total package on and off screen.



Sai Pallavi Ramayana stars share emotional experiences at Pratham Sankalp event in New Delhi The unveiling of Ramayana at the Pratham Sankalp ceremony in New Delhi turned into an emotional celebration of faith, devotion and cinema, as lead actors Sai Pallavi, Ranbir Kapoor and Yash reflected on their journey in bringing the epic to the big screen. Portraying Maa Sita, Sai Pallavi said the role was not something she chose, but a blessing that chose her. The actress described playing the revered character as a deeply spiritual experience rather than just another acting assignment. "I wanted to remain as pure as possible in my thoughts," Sai Pallavi said, adding that she meditated throughout the filming process and prayed for Sitamma's guidance in expressing every emotion authentically. She noted that the role transformed her personally, making the journey one of spiritual growth and self-discovery. Ranbir Kapoor, who essays Lord Rama, began his speech with chants of Jai Shri Ram. Apologising for wearing sunglasses due to an eye infection, the actor paid a heartfelt tribute to veteran actor Arun Govil, whose portrayal of Lord Rama in the iconic television series continues to inspire generations. Calling Govil the face of Lord Rama for millions of Indians, Ranbir said he would consider himself fortunate if he could portray even a fraction of the truth, grace and dignity that the veteran actor brought to the role. He described playing Lord Rama as one of the greatest responsibilities of his career. Actor Yash, who plays Ravana, said Ramayana represents a collective dream of Indian cinema. He credited producer Namit Malhotra for envisioning the project on a global scale and praised director Nitesh Tiwari for helping him understand the many dimensions of Ravana's character. Yash also lauded Ranbir Kapoor's complete dedication to portraying Lord Rama and described Sai Pallavi's performance as Sita as exceptional. The event showcased the emotional and spiritual commitment of the cast, setting the stage for one of Indian cinema's most ambitious mythological adaptations.



"Sita Changed My Thoughts"