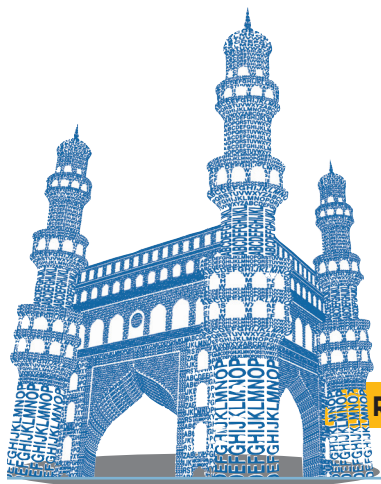




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328

VOL NO. 17

ISSUE NO.: 86

RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD)

PAGES: 12

RS. 1/-

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026

WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM



Where Duty Rose Higher Than the Himalayas

OPINION

06

Rahul Gandhi Went Back on His Word

SPECIAL

02



CJP Protest Over NEET Row Enters SECOND DAY



NEW DELHI, JULY 21

The Cockroach Janata Party (CJP)-led agitation over the alleged NEET-UG paper leak continued for a second consecutive day on Tuesday, a day after violent clashes between protesters and police during the 'Sansad Chalo' march in the national capital.

Thousands of students and youth activists regrouped at Jantar Mantar, reaffirming their demand for sweeping education reforms and the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra

Pradhan. The movement, which began as a satirical campaign, has now evolved into one of the largest youth-led protests in recent years.

Following reports that several demonstrators were detained after Monday's clashes, the CJP announced a sit-in outside the Delhi Police headquarters on Tuesday evening. However, the protest was later called off after party spokesperson Saurav Das confirmed that all detained protesters had been released. Delhi Police also clarified that no one remained

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



Modi Must Resign

Rahul Gandhi Stages Surprise Protest Outside PM's Residence

Protest against the alleged NEET paper leak and police baton charge on students

Congress places five key demands before the Centre

Three-hour sit-in ends with Rahul Gandhi and other leaders being detained and taken to a police station

NEW DELHI, JULY 21:

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra staged a protest outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence on Tuesday, demanding his resignation over the alleged NEET paper leak and the police baton charge on protesting

students. Rahul Gandhi called upon every patriotic Indian who believes in justice for students to join the sit-in outside the Prime Minister's residence. The protest was attended by Rahul Gandhi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, K.C. Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi, and several Con-

gress MPs. As a symbolic act of protest, Congress leaders wore handcuffs on their wrists.

The demonstrators raised slogans against "goondaism" and authoritarianism, condemning what they described as government repression. Delhi Police

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

PM Vows Strict Action in NEET Row

PM's Assurance at NDA Meet



NEW DELHI, JULY 21

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed strict action against those involved in the recent NEET examination paper leak case and safeguarding the interests of the country's youth. He said, the government is taking several measures to prevent such incidents. The Prime Minister said this while addressing the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Parliamentary Party meeting also known as Mangal Milan at Parliament House complex today.

Talking to the media, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that during the meeting, Prime Minister Modi said that the government acted immediately after receiving information about the NEET paper leak. Mr Modi said that all those involved in the paper leak case have been arrested, with 13 accused currently lodged in jail.

The Prime Minister stressed that those responsible should face the strictest possible punishment. Mr Rijiju said that during the meeting, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Revanth pulls up officials over delay in Hakimpet Education Hub works

HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday inspected the progress of construction works at the Young India Integrated Residential School in the Hakimpet Education Hub in Dudyal mandal of Vikarabad district.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the slow pace of construction, the Chief Minister directed officials to expedite the works and ensure timely completion. He instructed officials to submit monthly progress reports on every project being



executed in the Education Hub. The Chief Minister warned that strict action would be

taken against officials found delaying or neglecting their responsibilities. He said there

should be no hesitation in suspending officials if they continue to act negligently.

Revanth Reddy also expressed displeasure over the delay in allotting plots to farmers who had lost their land for the project. He directed officials to hand over the plot ownership documents (pattas) to the beneficiaries by next week.

Later, the Chief Minister held a review meeting on the development of Kodangal Assembly constituency. During the meeting, officials briefed the Chief Minister on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Devadula Pumps Will Run Round the Clock: Uttam



Nine pumping units to be operational from tonight to maximise Godavari lifting

Government Focused on Water Security, Not Politics

Water security across nine districts is Government's priority

HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday said the Telangana Government was fully implementing the assurances made during the recent Group of Ministers' review of the Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme and announced that

nine pumping units would be operating round the clock from tonight to maximise water lifting from the Godavari.

Responding to criticism by BRS leader T. Harish Rao during an informal interaction with media persons at his Secretariat chambers, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Harish alleges Congress-created irrigation crisis in Telangana



HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Former minister and BRS deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao has accused the Congress government of deliberately denying irrigation water to farmers despite the availability of adequate Godavari water, alleging that administrative negligence had pushed large parts of the

erstwhile Warangal district into an avoidable drought.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday, Harish Rao said the present crisis was "not a drought caused by El Niño, but a drought created by the Congress Government."

Recalling the BRS press conference held on July 12, Harish Rao said the party had demanded that the government immediately operate the Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme pumps. He said that the very next day, Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Bhatti Vikramarka and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy visited the project and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

DGP REVIEWS POLICE REFORMS, SECURITY RATIONALISATION

Hyderabad, July 21: Telangana Director General of Police C.V. Anand chaired a staff officers' meeting on Tuesday to review key reforms, modernisation initiatives and administrative issues within the police department. Among the major

issues discussed were rationalising security deployment to save nearly 400 personnel and bulletproof vehicles, conducting manpower and vehicle audits, integrating Greyhounds and OCTOPUS operations from a single campus, and finalising the Telan-

gana Police Manual.

The meeting also reviewed reforms relating to IPS uniforms, welfare of Telangana State Police personnel, creation of specialised enforcement wings for vigilance, food adulteration and drug control, establishment of a Traffic

and Road Safety Bureau, and revamping the technology wing. Progress of CCTNS 3.0, TGCOP 3.0 and HawkEye 3.0 was also reviewed. The DGP said suggestions made during the meeting would be considered while finalising the department's future policies.

TPCC CALLS 'CHALO RAJ BHAVAN'

MARCH OVER CONGRESS LEADERS' DETENTION



Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other leaders detained during protest over NEET paper leak.



Congress demands Parliament debate and resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.



TPCC condemns police action, calls it the "height of dictatorial behaviour".



Appeal to Congress workers across Telangana to join the statewide protest.



DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE SILENCED!



JOIN THE 'CHALO RAJ BHAVAN' MARCH



WEDNESDAY 11:00 AM



INDIRA GANDHI STATUE, NECKLACE ROAD, HYDERABAD

WE STAND FOR DEMOCRACY. JUSTICE. STUDENTS' FUTURE.

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER

Yellamma Kalyana Mahotsavam Celebrated with Grandeur and Devotion: Kota Neelima



HYDERABAD, JULY 21

The annual Sri Balkampet Yellamma Kalyana Mahotsavam, one of Hyderabad's most revered spiritual celebrations, was celebrated on Monday with great grandeur, devotion, and traditional splendour. Thousands of devotees thronged the historic temple to offer prayers and seek the divine blessings of Goddess Yellamma. The temple premises were a festive and devotional look, beautifully adorned with traditional decorations, flowers, lights, and sacred arrangements. Amid the chanting of Vedic hymns and devotional songs, the celestial wedding ceremony of Goddess Yellamma was performed in a spiritually uplifting atmosphere, filling devotees with faith and reverence.

On behalf of the Telangana Government, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar presented Pattu Vastram to the presiding deity. Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, TPCC Vice President and Sanathnagar Assembly Constituency In-charge Dr. Kota Neelima, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's wife Geetha Reddy and their daughter, along with public representatives, senior officials, and

several eminent personalities, participated in the celebrations and offered special prayers to the Goddess. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kota Neelima said that the Balkampet Yellamma Kalyana Mahotsavam was conducted in a highly organised and spiritually enriching manner. She said the Telangana Government had made comprehensive arrangements through coordinated efforts of various departments to ensure that devotees could take part in the festivities without any inconvenience.

Dr. Neelima stated that elaborate security arrangements were made with strong police presence, while essential civic amenities such as traffic regulation, sanitation, drinking water, and uninterrupted power supply were provided efficiently. She appreciated the efforts of officials and staff who worked with dedication to ensure the smooth conduct of the Mahotsavam.

She further noted that the State Government had allocated a special budget of ₹20 crore for the grand conduct of Bonalu festivities across Telangana. Dr. Neelima said Bonalu reflects the rich cultural heritage, spiritual traditions, and collec-

tive devotion of Telangana, and the Government is committed to preserving and promoting the festival with greater grandeur every year.

During the celebrations, Dr. Kota Neelima personally inspected the temple premises and reviewed the arrangements made for devotees. She coordinated with officials to streamline queue management and ensure hassle-free darshan, especially in view of the heavy footfall. She also distributed drinking water to devotees and paid special attention to the needs of senior citizens, women, and children.

Interacting warmly with devotees, Dr. Neelima listened to their concerns and instructed officials to address any issues promptly. She reaffirmed that the comfort, safety, and welfare of devotees remained the top priority during the sacred celebrations.

Praying to Goddess Yellamma, Dr. Kota Neelima wished that the divine Mother bless the people of Telangana with good health, prosperity, peace, happiness, and harmony. The Mahotsavam concluded in a deeply devotional atmosphere, leaving devotees spiritually fulfilled and blessed.

Implement Women's Reservation Without Linking It to Delimitation: Mahila Congress Protests in Delhi

NEW DELHI, JULY 21

Demanding that the implementation of 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha should not be linked to the proposed delimitation process, the All India Mahila Congress staged a massive protest in New Delhi on Tuesday. The protesters urged the Central Government to implement women's reservation in the existing 543 Lok Sabha constituencies before the next General Elections.

The protest was led by All India Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba and witnessed participation from Mahila Congress leaders from across the country. Telangana Mahila Congress President Errabelli Swarna, along with women leaders representing 29 districts of Telangana, attended the demonstration in large numbers. Speaking on the occasion, Alka



Lamba demanded that the Centre allocate 33 percent reservation, amounting to 181 seats, to women within the existing strength of 543 Lok Sabha seats instead of waiting for an increase in seats through the delimitation exercise. She stated that delaying the implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill was unjustified and alleged that the

constitutional rights of women were being used for political gains.

Lamba further expressed concern that the proposed delimitation process could reduce the representation and political share of South Indian states in Parliament. She urged the Central Government to demonstrate its commitment to women's empowerment by

ensuring immediate implementation of the reservation provisions.

Mahila Congress workers raised slogans demanding justice for women and called upon the Centre to provide adequate political representation to women without further delay.

Among those who participated in the protest were former Corporator Vijaya Reddy, Telangana Mahila Congress Coordinator Neelam Padma Venkataswamy, Medchal District Mahila Congress President Rajanolla Lakshmi, District General Secretary Merugu Sunitha, and leaders Durga, Jupalli Shobha Rani, and Tatikayala Komalatha, among others.

The Mahila Congress leaders reiterated their demand for a clear decision from the Central Government on women's reservation and urged that the 33 percent quota be implemented in time for the upcoming General Elections.

Rahul Gandhi Went Back on His Word: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi: Union Minister Jitendra Singh criticized senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of going back on his word regarding the demand for a parliamentary discussion on the NEET issue.

In a post on his X (formerly Twitter) account on Tuesday evening, Jitendra Singh said that changing the agreed terms and introducing two new demands was inappropriate.

In his post, he wrote: "Along with Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, we held discussions with Rahul Gandhi. Rahul demanded a parliamentary discussion on the NEET issue, and the government agreed to

hold that discussion. After initially agreeing, Rahul Gandhi went back on his word. He is now demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and has introduced two additional demands. Going back on one's word and adding new demands is not appropriate."

Earlier in the day, Jitendra Singh visited Rahul Gandhi, who was staging a sit-in protest near Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence. He held talks with Rahul Gandhi in an attempt to persuade him to end the protest. However, he requested Rahul Gandhi to withdraw the agitation, but the discussions did not lead to a resolution.

PM Vows Strict Action in NEET Row

FROM PAGE 1

Prime Minister said that strict steps have been taken to prevent such paper leaks in the future.

Mr Rijiju said that Prime Minister Modi also spoke about the Free Trade Agreements that India has signed with several countries. During the meeting, Mr Modi said that in every Free Trade Agreement, the interests of Indian farmers have been given the highest priority. He emphasized that all such agreements have been concluded keeping the welfare of farmers and the national interest at the forefront.

Referring to the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parlia-

ment, the Prime Minister said the NDA will play a constructive and positive role in ensuring the passage of Bills. Mr Rijiju appealed to opposition parties to cooperate in Parliament, saying that while political differences may exist, all Members of Parliament have been elected to serve the nation, safeguard its future, and work for the welfare of its youth. He called upon all political parties to work together in the larger national interest.

During the meeting, NDA alliance partners passed a congratulatory motion honouring Prime Minister Narendra Modi for becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India.

Revanth pulls up officials..

FROM PAGE 1

progress of the Maktal-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Project.

Revanth Reddy directed officials to ensure there are no delays in the project's land acquisition process. He clarified that the government is ready to sanction the necessary budget and provide the required surveyors for the land acquisition. The Chief Minister ordered the completion of land acquisition for the project as soon as possible. He instructed that the tender process should commence once the land acquisition is completed.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Harish alleges Congress-created...

FROM PAGE 1

announced that 38 TMC of water would be lifted to fill 22 reservoirs under the Devadula project, prompting farmers to begin transplantation.

"Today, those promises have been completely forgotten. The government is neither lifting water nor supplying irrigation to farmers who trusted its assurances," he said.

Harish Rao pointed out that farmers across Shayampet, Bhimadevarappally, Elkathurthy and several other parts of Warangal district were staging protests demanding irrigation water.

Questioning the government's inaction, he said that Sammakka Barrage, constructed during the BRS government, currently has sufficient water storage and receives substantial inflows from the Godavari River. Despite the availability of water, he said, the government had failed to operate all the pumps under the Devadula project.

"On July 13, the Ministers announced that all ten pumps would op-



erate. Even till July 20, only five pumps were functioning. Whenever Ministers visit, seven pumps are switched on for display, but once they leave, only three pumps remain operational," he alleged.

Harish Rao questioned why the government was not fully utilising the Devadula system when there was no

technical impediment.

According to Harish Rao, 105 TMC of Godavari water had already flowed past the Sammakka Barrage towards Andhra Pradesh, whereas the government had lifted only 1.9 TMC, despite having the capacity to lift nearly 12 TMC during the same period.

"The entire world is conserving every drop of water, but this government is allowing Telangana's water to flow away. If even a fraction of the available water had been lifted, all 22 reservoirs under Devadula could have been filled within the last 50 days," he said. The BRS leader further alleged that the government had delayed operating the Devadula pumps last year by nearly 50 days after failing to clear electricity dues, resulting in crop losses worth hundreds of crores of rupees.

The BRS leader also criticised the Congress government for repeatedly attacking the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project while failing to execute its own promises, including the proposed Tummidihetti project.

"For the last 30 months, they have only spoken about Tummidihetti. Not even a handful of soil has been moved. Instead of blaming Kaleshwaram every day, the government should focus on supplying water to Telangana's farmers," he said.

CJP Protest Over NEET Row Enters..

FROM PAGE 1

in custody and urged the public not to circulate unverified claims regarding detentions or denial of legal access.

Monday's 'Sansad Chalo' march witnessed intense confrontations after protesters attempted to march towards Parliament despite prohibitory orders. Police used batons and tear gas to disperse the crowd, while protesters alleged excessive force. According to police, 118 personnel were injured in the clashes, while protest organisers claimed that more than 60 protesters sustained injuries. Police have registered five FIRs in connection with the violence, stone-pelting and vandalism, and are examining over 250 videos to identify those responsible for the unrest.

The protests have drawn widespread political attention. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi termed the students' demands "legitimate" and accused the Centre of suppressing democratic voices. On Tuesday, he led Congress MPs in a march towards the Prime Minister's residence, demanding accountability for the police action.

The Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) also extended support to the agitation. Party chief Sharad Pawar and MP Supriya Sule visited the protest site at Jantar Mantar, backing the demand for the resignation of the Education Minister.

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda visited RML Hospital to meet those injured during the clashes and later held discussions with a CJP delegation, which submitted its list of demands to the government.

The month-long protest at Jantar Mantar gained nationwide attention after education reform activist Sonam Wangchuk joined the movement on June 28 and began an indefinite hunger strike in support of the students' demands. Wangchuk was removed from the protest site by police on Saturday and shifted to hospital, where he continues his fast.

With demonstrations continuing and political pressure mounting, the CJP has vowed to intensify its campaign until the government accepts its demands for accountability and comprehensive reforms in the examination system.

Devadula Pumps Will Run Round the Clock: Uttam

FROM PAGE 1

Government was focused on ensuring water security and protecting farmers, not engaging in political rhetoric. "As promised during our recent review of the Devadula project, nine pumping units will be operating at full capacity from tonight. They will function round the clock to maximise lifting from the Godavari and fill the 22 reservoirs serving nine districts," he said.

The Minister said engineers had been directed to operate the pumping system at maximum capacity to ensure that all reservoirs under the

Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme were filled as far as possible to tackle the emerging water scarcity caused by deficient rainfall.

He said the Government's immediate priority was to secure water supplies for people rather than indulge in political exchanges. "Every operational decision is being guided by technical requirements and the need to safeguard water availability during the current monsoon uncertainty. Our responsibility is to protect farmers and ensure drinking water security," Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

The Minister said Harish Rao was

attempting to divert public attention from the failures of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme. He said those who had taken crucial engineering and administrative decisions that ultimately led to the structural crisis at Medigadda should first answer for their own actions before commenting on Devadula.

"If Harish Rao wants to debate irrigation, he must first explain the decisions taken when he served as Irrigation Minister. Instead of spreading misinformation about Devadula, he should answer why the original foundation design at Medigadda was

changed during the BRS regime and who authorised those decisions," Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

The Minister also demanded that Harish Rao respond to K. Kavitha's public allegation that Kaleshwaram contractors had paid Rs 1,400 crore to the BRS. "Harish Rao should stop misleading farmers and answer Kavitha's allegation regarding the alleged ₹1,400 crore payments from Kaleshwaram contractors to the BRS. The people deserve answers," he said.

'Harish Rao Must Explain the Secant-Pile Decision' Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated

that records placed before the Judicial Commission showed that the original Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Medigadda had proposed a sheet-pile foundation, which was subsequently replaced with a secant-pile foundation during the previous BRS Government. He said the decision to alter the foundation design, and the structural failures that followed, required a credible explanation from those who were responsible at the time. "The BRS cannot escape accountability for the engineering decisions that have brought Kaleshwaram to its present condition," he said.

Modi Must Resign

FROM PAGE 1

detained Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders during the protest. Rahul alleged that the government had refused to allow a discussion on the NEET paper leak in Parliament. He accused the NDA government of lacking accountability and demanded that Prime Minister Modi break his silence and respond to the NEET controversy. Rahul also criticized the police for using force against those participating in a peaceful democratic protest. With

the Leader of the Opposition staging a sit-in outside the Prime Minister's residence during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, Delhi Police and paramilitary forces were deployed in large numbers. Movement around Parliament and the Prime Minister's residence was restricted. Although Union Minister Jitendra Singh stated that the government was ready for discussions and that students' interests were its priority, the opposition insisted that Prime Minister Modi himself must address the issue.

As tensions escalated, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Dr. Jitendra Singh held talks with Rahul Gandhi. However, the discussions failed to produce a breakthrough. The Congress Party declared that it would not withdraw its protest until its demands were fulfilled, stating that the issue concerned the dignity and future of every Indian family. After nearly three hours of protest, Delhi Police forcibly removed Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, and other

Congress leaders from the site, detained them, and took them to a police station.

Congress' Five Key Demands Independent Inquiry:

An immediate independent investigation by a sitting Supreme Court judge into the alleged police excesses against students protesting peacefully.

Education Minister's Resignation:

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan should resign immediately, taking responsibility for the paper leak and examination irregularities.

Compensation for Affected Students:

All candidates affected by the

NEET examination and other national-level examination irregularities should receive compensation.

Special Parliamentary Discussion:

A special discussion on students' issues and examination transparency should be held immediately in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the presence of the Prime Minister.

Stronger National Law:

Those responsible for examination malpractice should be punished, and a stringent national law should be enacted to prevent future question paper leaks and ensure the integrity of national-level examinations.



Delhi High Court's Landmark Verdict:

No Promotion for EWS Students Who Fail Re-Examination - Key Clarification on RTE Act!

- Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy
Renowned Educationist, Child Psychologist, Chairman - Lotus Lap Group of Schools

NEW DELHI

A recent significant judgment by the Delhi High Court has sparked nationwide discussion on the importance of quality learning in India's education system. This verdict is not just about a single student's case; it also provides clarity on fundamental questions such as: What is education? What does promotion truly mean? What is the real intent of the RTE Act?

In this case, a student belonging to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) failed the Class 5 annual examination. The school provided another opportunity by conducting a re-examination. However, the student failed again. As a result, the school decided to retain the student in the same class.

Challenging this decision, a petition was filed on behalf of the student,

arguing that under Section 16 of the RTE Act, the student must be promoted to Class 6. However, the Delhi High Court upheld the school's decision.

What Did the Court Say?

Justice Jasmeet Singh stated that Section 16 of the RTE Act should not be interpreted mechanically, but rather from the perspective of whether the student has genuinely learned the required concepts.

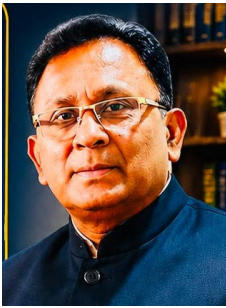
According to the court

* EWS students must be given additional opportunities, special support, and remedial teaching.

* However, if a student still fails to grasp basic concepts despite all support, promoting them to the next class does not benefit their future.

* Quality in education is equally important.

Why Is This Verdict Important?



For several years, concerns have been raised among educators that due to the "No Detention Policy," many students are being promoted without a strong academic foundation. As a result, even in Classes 8 or 9, some students struggle with reading, writing, and basic mathematics.

This verdict sends a clear message

Promotion is not a substitute for education. True learning is the ultimate goal of education.

What Parents Should Remember

The class a child is in is not as important as whether they possess the necessary skills for that level—language proficiency, mathematical foundation, and critical thinking abilities.

Spending an extra year learning is not a failure. A strong foundation is

essential for higher education, confidence, and a successful future.

Responsibility of Schools

This judgment also reminds schools of their responsibilities:

- * Identify learning gaps at an early stage.
- * Provide remedial teaching.
- * Maintain continuous communication with parents.
- * Ensure all necessary academic support is given before making decisions about promotion.

My Opinion

The Delhi High Court's verdict does not support punishment; it supports quality education. Every student should succeed, but that success should not merely be in the form of promotion—it should reflect real knowledge, understanding, and skills.

Rather than simply promoting students to higher classes, it is crucial to build a strong foundation for them. This is essential for the future of our nation's education system.

Education is not about changing classes... it is about changing lives.



Govt crafting action plan to shield state from El Niño impact: Bhatti

HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the Telangana government is formulating a well-structured and forward-looking action plan to ensure that global climatic changes such as El Niño do not adversely impact the people of the state, particularly in the sectors of agriculture, drinking water, and power.

He attended the State-level awareness seminar titled "From Pacific Ocean Warming to Telangana Preparedness", organised by the planning department at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad on Tuesday, along with Minister Mohammed Azharuddin.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "The government's objective is not just to take administrative decisions, but also to create complete awareness among the

people about the impact of El Niño. If the severity of the issue is understood in advance, every family and every village can prepare their own plans effectively".

He explained that scientific studies are being conducted to understand how temperature variations occurring in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, thousands of kilometers away, impact tanks, streams, and villages in Telangana. Based on these analyses, effective action plans are being developed. Advance strategies are being prepared to ensure that there is no shortage of drinking water, irrigation water, and also to meet the food and water needs of livestock, birds, and wildlife, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that the main objective of the seminar is to create awareness at individual, family, village, mandal, and district levels so that everyone is prepared.

To protect farmers from financial losses during drought-like conditions, the government is promoting alternative crop patterns that require less water, based on expert recommendations, he said.

Highlighting the importance of electricity in daily life, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government is implementing efficient energy management strategies to handle the increased demand caused by El Niño.

He noted that maximum utilisation of solar power during the daytime, when it is abundantly available at lower cost, helps reduce the financial burden on both the government and the public. Bhatti Vikramarka further explained that by effectively utilising solar energy during the day and systematically managing thermal power for later needs, grid stability is being maintained.

SCR GM Sanjay Kumar Srivastava Visits Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd

HYDERABAD

Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway along with Principal Heads of the Departments and other senior Railway officials visited the Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd. (HMRL) today i.e., 21st July, 2026.

The General Manager commenced his visit at the L&T Metro Rail Administrative building, Nagole, where he held a meeting with senior officials of Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited and L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad). Shri Ajith Reddy, Additional Managing Director, HMRL; Shri Shivendra Pratap, Joint Managing Director, HMRL; K.V.B Reddy, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad); Shri Sudhir Chiplunkar, Chief Operating Officer, L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) and other Metro Rail officials also participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, the officials of Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited and L&T Metro Rail gave a detailed presentation on the working of Metro Rail System including its operational framework, maintenance practices, patronage, on-going initiatives and future expansion plans. The Metro Rail officials also sought continued support from Railways for the successful execution of upcoming Metro Rail expansion projects at the Railway level crossings.

Further, Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, accompanied by team of senior Railway officials were given



a guided tour of the Hyderabad Metro Rail Maintenance Depot. During the tour, the General Manager visited the Operations Control Centre at HMRL depot, wherein he was briefed on various aspects of Metro Rail operations, train monitoring systems, safety protocols and disaster management mechanisms. The General Manager also visited the Maintenance Shed, where the Railway officials observed various sections involved in the inspection and maintenance of Metro coaches and witnessed the adoption of modern technologies in maintenance and operations.

The team of Railways officials also visited the pit line and observed the coach maintenance facilities. The General Manager and team also visited the Points & Crossings for the approach tracks for entry of metro

trains into the maintenance depot. During the visit, Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava and the other senior officials also participated in a tree plantation programme at the Metro Rail Depot, reaffirming the commitment of both organisations towards environmental sustainability and promotion of green initiatives.

Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR appreciated the maintenance standards of Hyderabad Metro Rail and commended the officials of HMRL and L&T Metro Rail for ensuring efficient train operations through the adoption of advanced technologies & good maintenance practices. He also expressed confidence that the continued cooperation between South Central Railway and Hyderabad Metro Rail would further strengthen urban transportation infrastructure in the region.

Ponnam challenges BJP chief to bring central funds for Telangana

HYDERABAD

Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday lashed out at BJP State president N. Ramchander Rao, accusing him of making baseless allegations and attempting to mislead the public merely to assert his political relevance.

In a statement here on Tuesday, the Minister challenged the BJP State chief to secure financial assistance from the Centre to help Telangana tackle the impact of the El Niño-induced drought-like conditions. Instead of levelling allegations against the State government, Ramchander Rao should use his position to obtain Central funds for the welfare of the Telangana people, he said. Ponnam Prabhakar alleged that since Ramchander Rao is not a member of any elected House, he lacks an official platform to express his views and therefore resorts to making unnecessary remarks ahead of Assembly sessions to gain political mileage.

The Minister said the State government would introduce the CURE Bill in the Assembly, where all political parties would have a full opportunity to present their views. The BJP, he said, could express its stand through its MLAs, MLCs and other elected representatives in the House instead of creating unnecessary controversy beforehand.

Proposals must match targets, says Suryapet Collector

SURYAPET

District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar directed officials to submit proposals strictly in line with the targets assigned for individual household toilets, water conservation, drinking water facilities and employment guarantee works.

Addressing MPDOs, MPOs and Panchayat Secretaries through a WebEx meeting at the district collectorate on Tuesday, the Collector reviewed the implementation of Swachh Bharat, Jalasiri, employment guarantee works and agriculture-related programmes.

He instructed officials to sanction toilets to every eligible household without one and submit separate proposals for Indiramma and non-Indiramma houses. He also directed them to upload photographs of sanctioned toilets on the Swachh Bharat Mission app to ensure timely release of funds.

Emphasising water conservation in view of the prevailing El Niño conditions, Pawar asked officials to accord top priority to Jalasiri, drinking water and water conservation works. He instructed them to prepare proposals for soak pits, borewell restoration, rooftop rainwater harvesting structures and farm ponds.

The Collector also urged horticulture and oil palm farmers to take up farm pond construction and borewell restoration works under the scheme. He directed



officials to submit proposals for rooftop rainwater harvesting systems in all government offices and for community sanitation complexes in village organisation buildings.

He instructed that estimates for school toilets be prepared immediately and forwarded for approval. Pending proposals should be submitted without delay, and monitoring details updated regularly. Officials were told not to wait for Gram Panchayat resolutions but to complete the required resolutions promptly and forward proposals.

Stressing the need for accuracy and accountability, the Collector said data should be updated correctly, proposals submitted on time, payments completed without delay and field-level verification carried out for all schemes. He added that daily monitoring and cluster-wise reviews would continue until all targets are achieved. DRDO Project Director Sanyasayya, ZP CEO Shirisha, DPO Yadagiri, Employment Guarantee Scheme staff and other officials attended the meeting.

Coordinated Action Needed for Accident Prevention

Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj in a Video Conference with District Collectors

SURYAPET

Special Chief Secretary of the Transport Department, Vikas Raj, directed district officials to work in coordination across all departments and implement effective road safety measures to reduce road accidents on national highways.

On Tuesday, Vikas Raj conducted a video conference from Hyderabad with

district collectors on issues



such as road safety on national highways, accident prevention, and implementation of Supreme Court guidelines. District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar participated in the conference from the Integrated District Collectorate Complex

(IDOC). Speaking on the occasion, Vikas Raj stated that enhancing road safety and reducing road accidents is the responsibility of everyone. He emphasized that all states must strictly implement the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court regarding accident prevention on national highways.

He noted that so far, only the states of Bihar, Karnataka, and Puducherry have submitted compliance reports to the Supreme Court, and advised the remaining states to take swift action and submit their reports.

Comprehensive Action Plan for the Development of Eco-Tourism :Chief Secretary

HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the development of eco-tourism in the state. On Tuesday, he chaired a high-level review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat to discuss eco-tourism development, tiger conservation, and the development of tiger reserves.

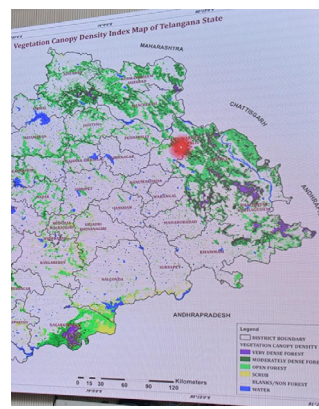
Senior officials from the Forest Department, Tourism Department, and other related departments attended the meeting and briefed the Chief Secretary on the progress of various development initiatives. Speaking on the occasion,



the Chief Secretary said that developing eco-tourism in the state has significant potential to generate large-scale employment for youth while also increasing the state's revenue

through tourism. He instructed officials to formulate suitable action plans for promoting eco-tourism in key areas such as Kinnerasani near Bhadrachalam, the Amrabad region in

the Srisailem-Nallamala forest area, the Kawal Tiger Reserve along the Godavari River, and the Adilabad and Mulugu regions. He emphasized the need to fully utilize the funds allo-



cated to the state under various Central Government schemes to promote eco-tourism. Noting that the state possesses rich forest resources, biodiversity, and scenic natural landscapes, he directed officials to prepare a comprehensive strategy to effectively leverage these assets for tourism development. The Chief Secretary also stated that implementing eco-tourism projects through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models would not only create employment opportunities but also contribute to the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

He advised the Forest Development Corporation and the Tourism Development Corporation to work jointly in de-

veloping the necessary infrastructure. He further stressed the promotion of eco-tourism in Future City, Ananthagiri, Vikarabad, and urban areas around the city.

He instructed officials to develop tourism infrastructure in forest areas while maintaining ecological balance and adhering to environmental regulations. He also emphasized providing better facilities for visitors and creating employment opportunities for local youth.

The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary for Tourism Vani Prasad, Principal Secretary Ahmed Nadeem, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Vinay Kumar, and other senior officials.



Renuka
confronts him
right to his face..!

Dharmendra
Pradhan is
left looking
embarrassed and
speechless..!

NEW DELHI, JULY 21

While Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who is facing allegations over the NEET paper leak issue, was in the Parliament premises, Renuka Chowdhury approached him and began criticizing the Modi government while standing right beside him. Referring to yesterday's "cockroach protest" and today's farmers' protest, she launched a sharp attack on the government. She reportedly called them "useless fellows." As Renuka raised her voice and continued criticizing him, Pradhan appeared taken aback, looked around awkwardly, and tried to quietly leave the spot. However, she did not let up and continued her criticism while walking down the steps alongside him.

Rebel TMC MLA Gives Mamata One Month to Quit Abhishek Camp

Senior TMC MLA Madan Mitra gave Mamata Banerjee a one-month ultimatum to break with Abhishek Banerjee and return to workers. His intervention at a parallel July 21 rally laid bare the party's deepening internal split.

Senior Trinamool Congress SMLA Madan Mitra on Tuesday gave party chief Mamata Banerjee a one-month ultimatum to distance herself from Abhishek Banerjee and reconnect with grassroots workers, while asking the TMC national general secretary to admit his "mistakes." Speaking at a parallel July 21 Martyrs' Day rally organised by the Ritabrata Banerjee-led dissident faction, Mitra accused both Mamata and Abhishek of sidelining workers and allowing the organisation to fragment. The annual July 21 observance, which marks the 1993 police firing that killed 13 Youth Congress activists during a protest led by Mamata Banerjee, saw

an unusual display of division this year. Three rallies were held in Kolkata by the official "Kalighat" faction, the Ritabrata Banerjee-led dissident camp which calls itself the "real Trinamool", and the Congress. Separately, the breakaway faction of the TMC's majority Lok Sabha MPs, now merged with the NCPI, observed the Shahid Divas programme in Delhi. Addressing the gathering at Mayo Road, Mitra said, "I am giving Mamata Banerjee one month. Leave Abhishek's hand and hold the hands of the Trinamool workers. The TMC is not Abhishek's party; it belongs to the workers. Why should everything revolve around Abhishek?" He added, "Who is responsible for this three-way split in the party? You weren't made chief minister by Abhishek or film celebrities whom you adore, but by the lakhs of Trinamool workers who toiled for you." He also said the party would welcome its supremo with open arms if she was willing to give up her support for Abhishek and re-



turn to the workers.

Invoking the Mahabharata character Gandhari, Mitra suggested that Mamata Banerjee knew what was happening within the party but had chosen to stay silent. "If she has the courage, Mamata should come to this stage and apologise. We will spread our scarves beneath her feet. She just needs to admit once that she behaved like Gandhari. No one will throw even an egg at you," he said. Mitra also attacked Abhishek Banerjee directly. "You spoke of resigning within an hour of the rebels returning to Mamata. I am giving you two hours to walk here and

admit that you made mistakes. No one will throw eggs at you. Admit that the party has gone down because of you, and you want to absolve yourself of that sin," he said. Questioning Abhishek's use of private aircraft, Mitra alleged that the money spent on chartered flights and helicopters belonged to lakhs of party workers, though he did not offer proof for the claim. A long-time associate of Mamata Banerjee and one of the party's founding-era faces, Mitra recently shifted his allegiance to the Ritabrata Banerjee-led dissident faction amid discontent over the party's organisational functioning, the alleged sidelining of old guard leaders, and the widening rift between grassroots leaders and the Mamata-Abhishek camp. Mitra, who was earlier jailed for his alleged links to the Saradha ponzi scam, has also come under the ED scanner again, along with his wife and two sons, in a money laundering probe linked to the alleged municipal recruitment scam in Bengal. Recalling the

July 21 movement of 1993, Mitra said he had visited Mamata Banerjee's residence at 8 am on the day of the protest and insisted that the movement had been built by grassroots leaders and workers. "I, Bobby (Firhad Hakim), Deba (Debasish Kumar), Aroop (Biswas) and Chandrimadi (Bhat-tacharya) – we who belonged to south Kolkata – were all here. This is the same Gandhi statue. On that day, I went to Mamata Banerjee's house at 8 in the morning, but I will not disclose my purpose of visit since I am bound by honour," he said. He also criticised the way the Martyrs' Day event had changed over the years, saying, "If Mamata were on this stage today, the martyrs' families would once again be pushed to the back, while celebrities occupied the spotlight". Mitra's remarks at the parallel rally underscored the sharp divisions that marked this year's July 21 observance and his demand that the party leadership return its focus to workers.

National Flag - Our Pride and Collective Identity

(On the occasion of "National Flag Adoption Day" on 22 July)

The National Flag symbolises national pride, unity, integrity, sovereignty, justice, hope, patriotism, and the struggle for freedom, and is a tribute to the sacrifices of freedom fighters. The tricoloured National Flag of Independent India was adopted in its present form during the meeting of the constituent Assembly held on 22 July 1947. This present form of our National Flag came into existence in 1923, designed by "Pingali Venkayya" and had saffron, white, and green stripes with the spinning wheel placed the white section. It was hoisted for the first time on April 13, 1923 in Nagpur meeting. It was named Swaraj Flag and became the symbol of India's demand for self-rule led by the Indian National Congress. The resolution to adopt the tricolour flag was passed in 1931. On 22 July 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India chaired by Dr Rajendra Prasad, adopted the Swaraj Flag as the National Flag of Sovereign India with the Ashoka Chakra replacing the spinning wheel.

Meaning of Tricolour National Flag :

The National Flag of India is a tricolour of deep saffron (Kesari) at the top, white in the middle, and dark green at the bottom in equal proportions. The ratio of width of the flag to its length is two to three. In the centre of the

white band is a navy-blue wheel which represents the chakra. Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. Its diameter approximately the width of the white band and it has 24 spokes. The top saffron stripe is representing courage, the spirit of renunciation, and sacrifice. The middle white stripe is symbolising peace, purity, and truth, with a navy blue Ashoka Chakra at the centre, which signifies the eternal wheel of law and 24 spokes are representing continuous progress. The bottom green stripe is denoting growth, fertility, and auspiciousness of the land. National Flag Adoption Day is not only to honour the flag but also an opportunity to reflect on the values and sacrifices associated with India's freedom struggle. It reminds every Indian of their collective identity and the ideals that the flag embodies. Our flag serves as a powerful symbol of the country's rich heritage and ongoing journey towards progress and unity. This day is celebrated in the form of hoisting our national flag, educational programs, poster/slogan competitions, discussions, and awareness rallies can be organised. Let's be grateful for the stripes of courage, the band of truth, the ring of justice.

Jai Jawan ; Jai Kisan ; Jai Vidvan ; Jai Bharat.



YSRCP urges Centre to probe misuse of IT laws for social media takedowns

NEW DELHI, JULY 21

The YSR Congress Party has urged the Centre to order an independent inquiry into the alleged misuse of legal provisions to suppress social media content critical of the Andhra Pradesh government. A delegation of YSRCP Members of Parliament led by Y.V. Subba Reddy met Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi and Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw at Parliament House on Tuesday. The delegation submitted a detailed representation to Ashwini Vaishnaw seeking an inquiry into whether due process under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 was followed in legal requests reportedly made for the removal of social media content. The MPs stated that the Andhra Pradesh CID had allegedly submitted legal requests to X seeking action against content posted by opposition leaders, journalists, political workers and ordinary citizens. According to the representation, more than 770 social media posts across over 150 X accounts were reportedly covered by these requests. The delegation pointed out

that the accounts reportedly targeted include the Leader of the Opposition, journalists, political workers and several citizens.

They said that if the allegations are found to be true, they raise serious constitutional concerns relating to the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a), possible misuse of criminal law, the chilling effect on democratic debate, and the need for greater transparency and accountability in government requests made to intermediary platforms. The YSRCP MPs urged the Union government to conduct an independent inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the takedown requests, verify whether all statutory procedures prescribed under the Information Technology Act and the IT Rules, 2021 were strictly followed, ensure that legal powers are not selectively used against opposition leaders or citizens, and strengthen transparency and accountability in government requests made to social media platforms. The delegation said that democratic institutions must protect the constitutional right to free expression and ensure that legal mechanisms are not misused to silence dissent or target political opposition.

Delhi govt facilitates internship for 275 foreign medical graduates across 12 hospitals

NEW DELHI, JULY 21

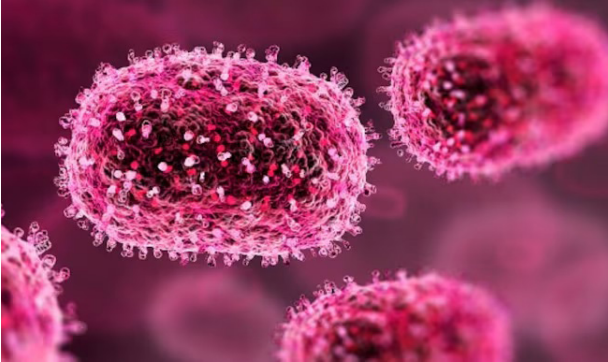
In a step towards strengthening Delhi's healthcare ecosystem and supporting aspiring medical professionals, the Health Department has facilitated the allotment of internship seats to 275 foreign medical graduates (FMGs) following the counselling process, an official said on Tuesday. The initiative addresses a long-pending concern of FMGs awaiting internship opportunities after qualifying the mandatory examination, enabling them to complete the final requirement

for registration and begin serving as medical professionals, said Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh. Of the total 275 internship seats, 68 seats have been allotted across seven teaching hospitals, including ESIC Medical College and Hospital, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Medical College and Hospital, and NDMC Medical College.

Chandipura Virus Claims Toddler; Gujarat Reports 12 Cases

A two-year-old girl from Rajasthan died at a Banaskantha hospital after testing positive for Chandipura virus. The death has heightened concern as Gujarat reports 12 confirmed cases and eight fatalities this year.

A two-year-old girl from Rajasthan died while undergoing treatment for Chandipura virus infection at a hospital in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, a health official said on Tuesday. Gujarat Health Minister Praful Pansheriya said 63 suspected cases of the virus have been reported in the state so far this year, of which 12 have tested positive and eight patients have died. According to Dr Sunil Joshi, medical superintendent of the Banas Medical College and Research Institute, the girl from Rajasthan's Sirohi district was brought to the hospital on July 13 in a critical condition. She tested positive for Chandipura virus the next day, was admitted to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and treated for six days before she died on July 19, he said. Talking to reporters on Monday, Pansheriya said, "So far, a total of 63 suspected cases of Chandipura virus have



been reported in the state. Out of these, 12 patients have tested positive. These include 9 cases from Gujarat and 3 cases from Rajasthan." He said eight patients have died so far. The Gujarat government on Monday confirmed that 12 patients had tested positive for Chandipura virus. "Out of the samples collected from the total 63 suspected cases, test results of 55 samples have been received, while results of the remaining eight samples are still awaited," an official release said. A review meeting chaired by Pansheriya was held on Monday to assess the geographical spread of cases in different districts, the reasons behind the spread of the virus, laboratory testing and the steps taken by the administration. According to the release, among the positive cases, two each were

reported from Panchmahal and Kheda districts, while one case each was reported from Sabarkantha, Mehsana, Bharuch, Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation areas. At the meeting, the minister said intensive surveillance must be maintained in any area where cases are reported. He instructed officials to carry out a detailed investigation into patients' travel history and case history to understand the source of transmission. The release said extensive health screening had been carried out in thousands of houses, including kutcha and pucca homes, in the affected areas. Dusting is also being carried out on a war footing in kutcha houses and around cattle sheds to control sandflies and insects considered carriers of the virus. Joshi said Chandipura virus infec-

tion can cause encephalitis, or inflammation of brain tissue, along with symptoms such as high fever, seizures, vomiting, diarrhoea, unconsciousness and, in severe cases, organ failure. The minister said the virus is generally more active during the monsoon and up to September. The release said adequate ICU beds for children, essential medicines and ventilators had been ensured at civil hospitals and super-specialty hospitals in all district headquarters. The government said the virus mainly affects young children and advised parents to immediately contact the nearest government hospital or a paediatrician if a child develops sudden high fever, seizures, vomiting, diarrhoea or loss of consciousness. The administration is fully alert, Pansheriya said, while urging people not to panic and to remain cautious. The death of the two-year-old girl from Rajasthan has come as Gujarat continues to track suspected Chandipura virus cases, with 12 confirmed infections and eight deaths reported so far this year, while surveillance, screening and preventive measures are being stepped up in affected areas.

GST on Raw Tobacco Should Be Reduced from 40% to 28%

NEW DELHI, JULY 21:

As per the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, along with fellow state ministers and Members of Parliament, met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament and submitted a representation requesting that the GST on raw tobacco (HSN 2401) be reduced from the current 40% to 28%. The delegation highlighted the challenges faced by tobacco farmers in the state and urged the Union Finance Minister to take immediate steps to safeguard their interests. The request clarified that the request pertains only to raw tobacco (HSN 2401) and has no connection with manufactured tobacco products. They explained that the increase in GST has had a significant adverse impact on the value of FCV (Flue-Cured



Virginia) tobacco produced in the state. Keeping farmers' welfare in mind, they requested that the GST rate be reduced from 40% to 28%. The delegation stated that such a decision would provide relief to tobacco farmers, dealers, and exporters, while also enhancing the competitiveness of Indian tobacco exports in

the international market.

The state ministers and MPs urged the Union Government to consider the request favorably and take an early decision on the matter.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Union Minister of State Bhupathiraju Srinivasa

Varma, State Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar, State Social Welfare Minister Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, Members of Parliament Dagubati Purandeswari, Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu, Kaliseti Appala Naidu, Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, Bastipati Nagaraju, Beeda Masthan Rao, and others.



Union and State Ministers Meet the Vice President

NEW DELHI, JULY 21:

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and Andhra Pradesh Minister for Agriculture, Cooperation, and Marketing Kinjarapu Atchannaidu paid a courtesy visit to Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan in New Delhi. During the meeting, they held detailed discussions on the current political situation in Andhra Pradesh, the state's overall development, farmers' welfare, strengthening the agriculture sector, and various welfare and development initiatives being implement-

ed by the government to increase farmers' incomes.

The ministers briefed the Vice President on the coalition government's schemes and key policy decisions under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, highlighting the priority being given to farmers' welfare and the support being extended to the farming community.

They also discussed how the Central and State governments are working in coordination to promote the state's progress, improve the welfare of farmers, and ensure the overall well-being of the people.

Odisha Govt approves 23 industrial projects worth over Rs 4,573 crore

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 22

The Odisha Government on Tuesday approved 23 major industrial projects worth Rs 4,573.87 crore with the potential to generate 22,873 employment opportunities across the state, marking another significant step towards achieving the vision of 'Samruddha Odisha' by 2036. The projects received clearance at the 148th meeting of the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA), chaired by Chief Secretary Anu Garg. "The approved projects represent a diverse mix of sectors including Information Technology and ITES, Green Energy Equipment, Battery and Energy Storage, Chemicals, Textile and Apparel, Food Processing, Steel Downstream, Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices,

Infrastructure, Healthcare and Tourism, reflecting Odisha's continued efforts to promote balanced industrial development and attract investments in both traditional and emerging sectors," the state govt informed in an official statement. It also added that the projects will be established across 11 districts: Angul, Balangir, Kataka, Ganjam, Jajpur, Kendujhar, Khordha, Mayurbhanj, Nuapada, Puri and Sundargarh, further expanding industrial activities across different regions of the State and creating employment opportunities at the local level. Among the biggest investments, ACME Cleantech Solutions Pvt Ltd will set up an alkaline electrolyser manufacturing unit with a production capacity of up to 3 GW per annum in Ganjam at an investment of Rs 778 crore, generating 480 jobs.

EDITORIAL

India's Dual
Climate Crisis:
The Fractured Monsoon of 2026

The current monsoon season of 2026 has starkly laid bare a fractured meteorological landscape across the Indian subcontinent. India is simultaneously battling two extreme climate vulnerabilities: an intensifying El Niño pattern driving a severe moisture deficit in South India, and a hyper-activated Himalayan system unleashing deadly cloudbursts and flash floods across North and Northeast India. This dramatic spatial divergence highlights that climate change is no longer a future projection. It is a present structural emergency that defies traditional monsoon predictability. In the southern peninsula, the building block of a “Super El Niño” has cast a long shadow. Historically, the warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean weakens trade winds, resulting in a delayed onset and uneven rainfall distribution over India. This season, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) has remained stubbornly neutral, failing to act as a counter-balancing moisture reservoir. Consequently, states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh are grappling with prolonged dry spells and plunging reservoir levels. This drought-like condition severely threatens the kharif sowing calendar, straining local power grids due to unprecedented cooling demands, and stoking fears of acute food inflation by the end of the fiscal year. Conversely, the meteorological reality in North and Northeast India tells a entirely different story. Over the past week, the monsoon roared back with devastating intensity along the Himalayan arc. Driven by strong upper-air cyclonic circulations, moisture-heavy air masses have been forced upward against mountain terrains, triggering sudden cloudbursts. From Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh down to Assam and Nagaland, the consequences have been catastrophic. Heavy downpours over short durations have overwhelmed mountain channels, leading to massive landslides, blocked vital highways, and wiped out entire residential pockets. The tragedy in Mon town, Nagaland, alongside submerged floodplains in Assam, highlights the extreme vulnerabilities of these regions to localized climate violence. This geographical polarity underscores a troubling climate paradox. While India's total aggregate rainfall may appear only moderately deficient on paper, the actual distribution is deeply destructive. The country is split into a parched south and a flooded north. This stark imbalance proves that traditional, macroscopic disaster mitigation policies are obsolete. Dealing with an El Niño-impacted monsoon requires a shift away from singular national projections toward dynamic, regional-specific strategies. For South India, policymakers must immediately implement aggressive water conservation measures, scale up micro-irrigation networks, and incentivize climate-resilient, low-water crops like millets. For the fragile Himalayan terrains of the North and Northeast, the priority must pivot toward strictly regulating mountain constructions, expanding early-warning systems for flash floods, and reinforcing real-time weather monitoring infrastructure. The erratic monsoon behavior of 2026 is a loud wake-up call. As global temperatures keep breaking records, the co-existence of severe drought and sudden cloudbursts will become our new normal. India's agricultural survival, economic stability, and human safety now depend entirely on its capacity to adapt to this fractured climate reality.

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

She stares at the stars, her heart full of ache,
Her son in the army, for the country's sake.
No sleep in her eyes, no food on her plate,
Just prayers in whispers and hands at fate.

“Oh Lord who knows all, where are You now?
Do You hear me weep? Will You show me how—
To bear this void, to brave this fear,
To hold my hope when he's not near?”

No answers come, just silent night,
She hugs her pain, holds it tight.
Alone she sits, her soul turned gray,
While the world laughs and lives away.

No one knows her waiting game,
Every ring of the phone, she whispers his name.
While others dine and sleep with glee,
She dreams of snowfields he may never see.

But believe the truth, Oh heart so worn,
The darkest nights meet brightest morn.
When sorrow's tide begins to slow,
The winds of fate may gently blow.

Nature arrived with a soft sunrise,
And tears gave way to joyful cries.
Her door flew open, no warning, no sound
She turned and found her son safe and sound!

She hugged him close, her fears undone,
Thanked every god, and the morning sun.
For now she knew, through pain and strife
Faith had kept her child and life.

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

OPINION

| July 22 is the birthday of Dasharathi

DASHARATHI'S DEFIANT VOICE OF
IDENTITY... POETRY OF FIRE STREAM...

*Dasarathi's poem "Naa Telangana" (My Telangana) embodies the very soul of the region's voice of defiant identity. It renders the verses of...
'Residing within the lake that spreads beneath the golden hill
of ten million Telugu people,
Blooming with beautiful flowers at the break of dawn,
Is my Mother Telangana; the Lotus-born Goddess.'
'Stretching forth from the Thousand-Pillar Temple,
Blooming within the caves of Ellora,
Blooming at the tip of the sculptor's chisel
My Telangana, a repository of countless virtues.'
'Giving voice to the silenced songs
Of millions of brothers, infusing them with poetic vigor,
Empowering and guiding my pen
My Telangana, a veena of priceless gems.'*

Dasarathi Krishnamacharyulu was a prominent poet, an activist in the anti-Nizam movement, and a film lyricist. As a young man, he played an active role in the Andhra Mahasabha movement, and served a prison sentence imposed by the Nizam's government along with 150 others in the Indur Fort in Nizamabad. Vattikota Alwarswamy was also among those imprisoned with him and was beaten for rendering poems on prison walls using the charcoal meant for brushing teeth. An eloquent orator, he ignited cultural consciousness across various towns through his stirring speeches. He was one of the founders of the Andhra Saraswata Parishat. In 1953, he established the Telangana Writers' Association and, as its president, fostered literary awareness across the districts. He served as the Poet Laureate (Asthana Kavi) of Andhra Pradesh from August 15, 1977, until 1983. He won awards from both the State and Central Sahitya Akademis. He earned a loyal following by penning lyrics for numerous films. He translated Mirza Ghalib's Urdu ghazals into Telugu under the title 'Ghalib Geethalu'. The poems he wrote about his mother and about 'Mother Telangana' continue to inspire many people to this day. Dasarathi Krishnamacharya was born on July 22, 1925, in Chinna Guduru village in Mahabubabad (earstwhile warangal) district. He spent his childhood in Madhira, Khammam district. He completed matriculation in Urdu, intermediate studies at Bhopal University, and a B.A. in English Literature at Osmania University. He was a scholar well-versed in Sanskrit, English, and Urdu. He acquired proficiency in composing poetry at a young age. Initially a member of the Communist Party, he left the organization during the Second World War disillusioned with its stance and participated in the movement against the Nizam's tyrannical

rule in the Hyderabad State. Dasarathi was a great progressive poet and a poet of defiance. He stands as a towering figure in modern Telugu literature and a guiding light for Telangana's identity. He authored numerous works, exploring themes such as darkness, the shackles of slavery, suffering, spring, and friendship. He received the Best Poetry Award from the Andhra Pradesh Sahitya Akademi in 1967 for his poetry collection Kavita Pushpakam, and the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award in 1974 for his collection Timiramtho Samaram. He was conferred with the title of 'Kalaprapurna' by Andhra University. Among other titles conferred upon Dasarathi in recognition of his immense literary contributions are 'Kalaprapurna' and 'Andhra Pradesh Asthana Kavi' (Poet Laureate, held from 1977 to 1983). He was also awarded an honorary D.Litt by Andhra, Agra, and Sri Venkateswara Universities. Dasarathi Krishnamacharya dedicated the poetic work Agnidhara to Vattikota Alwar Swamy a novelist and a freedom fighter who struggled against the Nizam's rule. He described him as a true Alwar of pure of heart and concluded by hailing him as a man who would willingly sacrifice his life for a friend and as the very embodiment of goodness, declaring that his was a truly meaningful life and dedicating Agnidhara to him. The poet's soul thrilled and his pen rejoiced in fulfillment as he dedicated his work to such a noble, warm-hearted, and devoted friend—a companion from his days in prison. Dasarathi's body of work includes numerous Khanda Kavyas (anthologies of short poems). Among them are Agnidhara, Mahandhrodasyam, Rudraveena, Khabaddar China, Amrutabhishekam, Alochanalochanalulu, Dhvajamettina Praja, Kavita-

pushpakam, and Timiramtho Samaram. His translated poetic works include Ghalib Geethalu, Lalitha Geethalu, a Telugu-English dictionary, the historical novel Maha Shilpi Jakkana, and Dasarathi Satakam. Dasarathi was a master wordsmith who brought Telugu literature to life through songs in colorful cinema. While his writing often touched upon themes of pain, sorrow, and human values, he also delighted audiences with cheerful, lighthearted lyrics. Just as he penned the romantic and spirited lines "Husharu golipEvendukE, nisha kanuladana..." (Why do you stir up such excitement, O maiden with intoxicating eyes?) for the film Iddaru Mitruulu filled with playful banter and joy, he also articulated a profound philosophy of life in the song "Nishaleni nadu husharemi ledu, khushleni nadu majalene ledu" (Without intoxication there is no zest, and without happiness there is no joy) from the movie Navaratni. Lines such as "Naalo enduko aashalu; nijamaina kalayaina miraashalo okatelen" (Why do hopes stir within me? Whether real or a dream, they are all the same in the face of despair) from the film Mooga Nomu, and the song "Life is so short, and youth even shorter" from Srimanthudu, which impart a profound truth about life—stand as immortal gems of his poetic brilliance. The Telangana government presents the 'Dasarathi Sahiti Puraskaram' annually on the birth anniversary of the poet Dasarathi, who inspired the Telangana movement by proudly proclaiming "Naa Telangana Koti Rathanala Veena" (My Telangana is a Veena of ten million gems), to writers who have made significant contributions to the field of literature in the state. This is a welcome initiative. Furthermore, the literary works of this great poet should be incorporated into the permanent curriculum so that students in every classroom can study them. The very essence of this soil lies in fostering a consciousness of Telangana among students through teaching and research grounded in substantive knowledge approached with fresh perspectives and ideas that ensure the radiant spirit of Telangana's identity remains undimmed, allowing its unique ethos to permeate every corner of the region. The 48 poems in Agnidhara constitute a free-flowing Gitanjali, a song offering resonating with the melodies of a 'fire-lute' (Agni Veena). It is a unique, cascading stream of

defiant voices that blends a multitude of emotions and sentiments. The poet chose themes such as the hardships faced by the people under the Nizam's rule, the Nizam's tyranny, the people's struggles, Indian independence, and the liberation of the Nizam's territory; these subjects were dictated by the historical context and the exigencies of that era. As part of the struggle against the Nizam, Dasarathi Krishnamacharyulu and Vattikota Alwar Swamy served prison sentences in Nizamabad Jail in 1948; this episode is a significant chapter in the history of Indur and the narrative of Telangana's identity. It was within these prison walls that Dasarathi penned a substantial portion, at least half of the poems featured in his anthology Agnidhara, published in 1949. Similarly, the chapter depicting the prison life of Kanthiravam, the protagonist of Vattikota Alwar Swamy's 1955 novel Prajala Manishi draws directly from the author's own experiences there. Vattikota's collection of stories, Jailu Lopali Kathalu (Stories from Inside the Jail), also contains accounts of his own experiences in prison. Meanwhile, the second edition of Dasarathi Krishnamacharyulu's Agnidhara was published in 1963. This collection features poems centered on romance and love. By incorporating translations of works by certain Urdu poets as well as translations and adaptations of poetry by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, the collection earned acclaim that transcended boundaries. That is why the poet's bold creativity shines, and will continue to shine through the kindling of fiery flames, the casting of a spell, the act of stirring the innermost depths of love, and, above all, the powerful voicing of defiance regarding one's very existence. Dasarathi Krishnamacharyulu renowned as a 'People's Poet' and a 'Great Poet' was a distinguished poet and writer hailing from Telangana. Dasarathi, the celebrated poet of Telangana, passed away on November 5, 1987, after losing consciousness following a fall in home at Hyderabad, Telangana. Countless are those who have benefited from the wisdom radiating from that pen... Dasarathi is the voice of Telangana's identity... he is the resonant call of the literary movement. That is why Dasarathi stands as the State Poet, a national creative force, and a radiant beam of emotion that swings across the horizons of the world...

**- DR. T. RADHAKRISHNAMA
CHARYULU
9849305871**

KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS: WHERE DUTY ROSE
HIGHER THAN THE HIMALAYAS

"As India commemorates Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26, the nation pauses to honour the extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and unwavering patriotism of the soldiers who defended every inch of its territory during the 1999 Kargil War."

The Indian soldier does not measure his duty by seasons. Blazing summers, relentless monsoons, or sub-zero Himalayan winters make little difference to the man who stands guard while an entire nation sleeps. Far from his family and often face to face with death, he carries on his shoulders not merely a rifle but the honour, sovereignty, and aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians. He asks for little, expects nothing, yet gives everything. Kargil Vijay Diwas is a tribute to those extraordinary men who, in the summer of 1999, climbed impossible heights under relentless enemy fire, reclaimed every inch of occupied Indian soil, and reminded the world that India's resolve is stronger than any mountain and mightier than any act of betrayal. July 26 is, therefore, not just another date on the calendar. It is the day when courage defeated deception, when sacrifice conquered aggression, and when the Indian Tricolour fluttered once again over the icy heights of Kargil. It is a day that celebrates not merely military victory but the indomitable spirit of a nation that refuses to bow before treachery. Every peak reclaimed, every bunker captured, and every inch of land recovered came at a price paid in blood. That is why Kargil Vijay Diwas is remembered with pride, observed with gratitude, and honoured with solemn reverence. Every year, the nation pays homage to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice. At the National War Memorial in New Delhi, the country bows its head before its fallen warriors. Yet the truest tribute does not lie in ceremonial wreaths or eloquent speeches. It lies in remembering that the peace we cherish today was secured by soldiers who chose duty over comfort, honour over fear, and the nation over self. **Operation Vijay: When Betrayal Met Unbreakable Resolve** The Kargil War was the largest direct military confrontation between India and Pakistan after the 1971 war. It erupted barely months after the Lahore Declaration had kindled hopes of lasting peace. While India extended the hand of friendship, Pakistan chose the path of deceit. Under the covert plan codenamed Operation Badr, Pakistani regular soldiers, disguised

as militants, secretly occupied strategic heights on the Indian side of the Line of Control, hoping to threaten the Srinagar-Leh highway and alter the strategic balance in Kashmir. The conspiracy began to unravel on May 3, 1999, when local shepherds reported suspicious movements in the Kargil sector. Two days later, Lieutenant Saurabh Kalia and five fellow soldiers were captured by Pakistani troops. They were brutally tortured and murdered in complete violation of the accepted norms of warfare. Their martyrdom shocked the nation and exposed the true face of the enemy. It was no longer merely an intrusion into Indian territory; it was an assault on India's dignity and national honour. India responded not with panic but with determination. On May 26, the Indian Armed Forces launched Operation Vijay, while the Indian Air Force commenced Operation Safed Sagar. What followed was one of the most demanding mountain warfare campaigns in modern military history. Fighting at altitudes of nearly 18,000 feet, where oxygen was scarce and temperatures plunged far below freezing, Indian soldiers had to climb steep, exposed cliffs while the enemy occupied commanding heights above them. Every advance demanded extraordinary courage; every assault was a race against death. Despite overwhelming odds, the Indian Army refused to yield. One by one, enemy positions crumbled. Documents recovered from captured Pakistani personnel established Pakistan's direct military involvement, exposing its carefully crafted deception before the international community. Tololing was recaptured after fierce fighting. Then came Tiger Hill—the defining battle of the war. After hours of relentless combat, Indian soldiers scaled near-vertical cliffs under enemy fire and hoisted the Tricolour atop the strategic peak on July 4. It was not merely a tactical victory; it was a powerful declaration that India would defend every inch of its territory, whatever the cost.

By July 11, Pakistani forces had begun withdrawing. On July 14, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced the success of Operation Vijay, and by July 26 every occupied Indian position had been recaptured. The war had ended, but its lessons and sacrifices would echo through generations. **A Victory Forged in Ice and Blood:** The Kargil conflict was unlike conventional warfare. It tested not only military strategy but also the limits of human endurance. Soldiers fought on snow-covered peaks rising nearly 18,000 feet above sea level, where survival itself was a daily challenge. The legendary Bofors howitzers proved decisive in destroying enemy bunkers hidden among the mountains. The Indian Air Force carried out hundreds of precision strike missions in one of the highest battlefields ever witnessed, while the Indian Navy's Operation Talwar exerted strategic pressure in the Arabian Sea, effectively restricting Pakistan's maritime options. Together, the Army, Air Force, and Navy demonstrated the strength of seamless joint operations. Kargil also transformed India's relationship with its Armed Forces. For the first time, millions of Indians witnessed the realities of war through television broadcasts. The nation saw young officers leading from the front, soldiers charging uphill under relentless fire, and families accepting unimaginable loss with extraordinary dignity. Kargil was no longer confined to the battlefield; it became a deeply personal story in every Indian home. The war produced heroes whose names have become synonymous with courage. Captain Vikram Batra inspired the nation with his fearless leadership and his iconic words, "Yeh Dil Maange More." Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey fought with unmatched gallantry until his last breath. Rifleman Sanjay Kumar and Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav displayed exceptional bravery in the face of overwhelming danger. Decorated with the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest gallantry award,

these soldiers became living symbols of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism. **Their Sacrifice Is Our Freedom:** The soldiers who fell in Kargil did not merely defend mountain peaks; they defended the soul of the Republic. Every drop of blood they shed strengthened the foundations of India's sovereignty. Every life laid down ensured that future generations would inherit a nation free, united, and secure. Their sacrifice cannot be measured in medals, memorials, or military victories alone. It lives in every peaceful morning, every fluttering Tricolour, and every citizen who enjoys the freedom they protected. Kargil Vijay Diwas is not simply about celebrating a victory from the past. It is about remembering the price of that victory and renewing our commitment to the values for which these bravehearts fought—unity, integrity, courage, and selfless service. Nations are not built by words alone. They are built by ordinary men who perform extraordinary acts when history demands it. The heroes of Kargil did exactly that. They stood their ground when retreat seemed easier. They chose sacrifice when survival appeared uncertain. They proved that patriotism is not measured by slogans but by the willingness to give everything for one's country. The snow on the mountains of Kargil may have melted long ago, but the story written there can never fade. It is etched forever in India's collective memory—a timeless reminder that courage knows no altitude, sacrifice knows no limit, and as long as brave soldiers stand guard at our frontiers, the Indian Tricolour will continue to fly high, proud, and undefeated. **Jai Hind.**

J M R DUNGA
M.sc(Maths), M.sc(Physics)
Senior Teaching Faculty in Maths

CHANDIGARH, JULY 21

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the Indian culture has always taught us to respect and protect nature. Protecting the environment is deeply embedded in our traditions, values and responsibilities. Referring to Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi's nationwide campaign Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, he said environmental conservation must be transformed into a people's movement. The Chief Minister was addressing a Youth Interaction and Tree Plantation Programme as the Chief Guest at the Apple Market in Pinjore, Panchkula. Earlier, accompanied by Forests, Environment and Wildlife Minister Sh. Rao Narbir Singh, the Chief Minister planted saplings at the Apple Market and flagged off four LED vans under Van Chetna Yatra-2026. These vans will travel across all districts of Haryana to encourage citizens to plant more trees and spread awareness about environmental conservation. During the programme, the Chief Minister also presented certificates to the youth who participated in the Thapli Nature Camp. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana and MLA Shakti Rani Sharma were also present. On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced that 1,000 youth would be included under the Mukhyamantri Teerth Yatra Yojana. He also announced the appointment of a Special Officer in the Chief Minister's Office to address issues concerning youth. He assured that Tikkar Taal in Morni would be developed as a mountaineering training centre on the lines of Manali, along with strengthening its sup-

Make Environmental Protection a People's Movement: CM Nayab Singh Saini

CM flags off four LED vans under Van Chetna Yatra-2026 to spread the message of environmental conservation across Haryana
Tikkar Taal to be developed as a Mountaineering Training Centre on the lines of Manali: Chief Minister
53 Herbal Parks being developed across the state for conservation of medicinal plants and biodiversity



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini addressing the gathering during the Yuva Samvad and Tree Plantation Programme organised at Pinjore, Panchkula district on July 21, 2026.

porting infrastructure. He further announced a dedicated electricity substation for the Pinjore Apple Market, as well as parking facilities and additional police security for vehicles bringing apples from Himachal Pradesh. The Chief Minister said planting a sapling is easy, but nurturing it into a tree is a much greater responsibility. He urged every young person to plant and care for at least one sapling on their birthday, their parents' birthdays or any special occasion, adding that such a collective effort would make Haryana greener. Quoting Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, he said just as we honour our biological mother, we must also respect Mother Earth, who nurtures and sustains us. He called upon every citizen to plant at least one tree for Mother Earth and inspire others to do the same.

He emphasised that development and environmental conservation are not contradictory but complementary. Haryana's development, he said, must be sustainable, protect natural resources, secure the future of coming generations and maintain ecological balance while ensuring economic progress. Expressing happiness at interacting with the youth amid the natural surroundings of Pinjore, the Chief Minister said the programme reflected a unique confluence of youth empowerment, environmental conservation and nation-building. He said the Thapli Nature Camp had given young participants an opportunity to closely experience nature, and these youth would now become ambassadors of environmental awareness in society. He also appreciated the efforts of hundreds of environmental

enthusiasts who have inspired others through tree plantation drives. The Chief Minister said that a youth who understands and values his heritage becomes a strong architect of the future. He said India's vision of becoming a developed nation can only be realised through the energy, discipline, purpose and social responsibility of its youth. **Pran Vayu Devta Pension Yojana Launched** The Chief Minister said the government has launched the Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme for trees that are more than 75 years old. Under the scheme, financial assistance of ₹3,000 per tree per year is being provided for their care and maintenance. He said such old trees deserve gratitude and special protection for the invaluable environmental services they provide. He further

said the state government has initiated the establishment of Oxy-Vans over an area ranging from 5 to 100 acres at every district headquarters to make Haryana greener. These Oxy-Vans will include facilities such as walking tracks and cycling tracks. While the Oxy-Van at Karnal has already been completed, work is in progress in Panchkula. The Chief Minister said that under the Panchvati initiative, tree plantation is being undertaken in every village to promote natural oxygen generation. Panchvati gardens are also being developed at 134 pilgrimage sites within the 48-kos Kurukshetra circuit. Other initiatives such as Shehar Gaon Pedon Ki Chhaon, Har Ghar Hariyali and Paudhgiri are also being implemented across the state. In addition, one youth from every village has been designated as a Vriksh Mitra to encourage tree conservation. He said 53 Herbal Parks have been established across Haryana for the conservation of medicinal plants and biodiversity. An international-level medicinal forest has also been developed in the Morni region. He added that Sultanpur National Park and Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary have received international recognition

as Ramsar Sites. The Chief Minister urged every young person to plant at least one tree every year and take responsibility for nurturing it until it matures. He also appealed to youth to actively contribute towards keeping their surroundings clean, conserving every drop of water, participating in the Drug-Free Haryana Campaign, and dedicating themselves to nation-building. He said the determination to contribute positively to society would make the youth great and would become the strongest force in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat-Viksit Haryana. **Positive results of the New Industrial Policy: Rao Narbir Singh** Forests, Environment, Industries and Wildlife Minister Sh. Rao Narbir Singh said that every citizen should plant and nurture at least two trees to improve the environment. He said extensive tree plantation is essential to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and to create a cleaner and greener environment. He said the state government has introduced provisions for skill development and industrial training to improve employment opportunities for youth.



RPF of NFR Ensures Prompt Medical Care for Passengers Across Railway Network

MALIGAON, 21 JULY, 2026:

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of North-east Frontier Railway (NFR) continues to uphold its commitment towards passenger safety and welfare by providing timely medical assistance to passengers who fall ill during their journey. Through coordinated efforts with railway authorities and local medical facilities, RPF personnel ensure that passengers receive immediate attention whenever medical emergencies arise. On 17th July 2026, RPF personnel at New Jalpaiguri Railway Station rendered immediate medical assistance to an ailing female passenger travelling by Train No. 15607(Thiruvananthapuram Central – Silchar) Aronai Express. She was promptly shifted to the Railway Hospital at New Jalpaiguri by ambulance and was subsequently referred to a higher medical facility for specialized treatment. On the same day, RPF personnel at New Jalpaiguri Railway Station

also extended medical assistance to another passenger travelling by Train No. 13174 (Sabroom– Sealdah) Kanchanjunga Express. The passenger was shifted to the Railway Hospital at New Jalpaiguri for further medical treatment after receiving immediate assistance at the station. As part of these efforts, 12 passengers were provided medical assistance across NFR during the month of June 2026. Continuing this humanitarian service, 7 more passengers have been provided timely medical assistance during July 2026 (till date), reflecting the prompt response and dedication of RPF personnel in safeguarding passengers' well-being. Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to ensuring a safe, secure and passenger-friendly travel experience. The RPF, in coordination with railway medical authorities and other departments, continues to respond swiftly to medical emergencies, reinforcing Indian Railways' commitment to passenger care and humanitarian service

Students Need Answers, Not Politics: Pradhan Targets Congress

Dharmendra Pradhan's remarks came hours after Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, staged a protest outside the Prime Minister's residence over the police action against students protesting the NEET paper leak.



In his first reaction since the police crackdown on Cockroach Janta Party's protesters during the 'Chalo Sansad' march, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday accused Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and the Congress of using students as a political tool. Pradhan alleged that the Congress was attempting to create disruption during the Monsoon Session of Parliament instead of working towards resolving concerns linked to the NEET paper leak controversy. In a post on X, the Union minister claimed that Rahul Gandhi and the Congress had staged a protest outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence despite the government conveying its willingness to hold a detailed discussion on the NEET issue in Parliament. "LoP Shri Rahul Gandhi and INC continue to shamelessly exploit students as political tools to manufacture disruption during the Monsoon Session of Parliament," Pradhan said.

Pradhan's remarks came hours after Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, staged a protest outside the Prime Minister's residence over the alleged police action against students during Monday's CJP protest. The demonstration ended with several Opposition leaders being detained by Delhi Police before they were later released. **'POLITICAL SPECTACLE OVER DEBATE'** Pradhan alleged that the Congress protest outside the Prime Minister's residence caused inconvenience to the public and violated established security protocols. He claimed that even after the government conveyed its readiness to discuss the NEET issue, the Congress chose "political spectacle over democratic debate". "Their objective was never solutions for students, it was disruption for political headlines," Pradhan said, alleging that Rahul Gandhi

was attempting to manufacture confrontation despite the government opening avenues for dialogue. Reiterating the Centre's position, Pradhan said the government remained committed to discussing the NEET issue in Parliament and addressing genuine concerns of students. "The students of India deserve far better than being treated as props in a political campaign. They deserve certainty over chaos, solutions over slogans and responsibility over disruption," he said. The minister added that the government owed students "answers, reforms and accountability" and remained committed to strengthening the examination system. Meanwhile, government sources strongly criticised the Congress protest outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official residence, calling it a security concern and accusing the Opposition of setting a "wrong and dangerous precedent".

BJP Alleges CJP Is AAP's 'Proxy' Amid Congress Protest Controversy

BJP has accused the CJP protest of being an AAP proxy after Sanjay Singh targeted Rahul Gandhi's dharna. The clash has sharpened political questions around the month-long student agitation at Jantar Mantar.



The BJP on Tuesday called the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) a "proxy" of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), after AAP leaders criticised the Congress protest outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence and linked it to the ongoing student agitation over the NEET issue at Jantar Mantar. The exchange began after AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh alleged that Prime Minister Modi got Rahul Gandhi to stage the Congress protest outside his residence to weaken the student protest. The BJP said these remarks showed that the CJP agitation was not an apolitical student movement and accused AAP of backing it for political reasons. BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said Singh's comments showed that the ongoing CJP agitation was AAP's "proxy" protest and challenged the Arvind Kejriwal-led party to do politics openly. "Arvind Kejriwal's loud-

speaker is upset that Rahul Gandhi's protest is an attempt to weaken their proxy's protest. So, AAP admits that CJP is not an apolitical student movement. It has sponsored it. If you want to do politics, come out in the open," Malviya said in a post on X, taking a dig at Singh. Malviya also alleged that since Arvind Kejriwal has "no credibility", he is pushing students "into harm's way" to fulfil his political agenda. Earlier in the day, the Aam Aadmi Party, which has been openly backing the ongoing CJP protest, took a dig at the Congress' dharna outside the prime minister's residence, calling it a "jugalbandi" with the BJP government and accusing Rahul Gandhi of weakening the agitation. "Apparently, to undermine CJP's protest, Modi got Rahul Gandhi to stage a protest at his own residence," Singh

said in a post on X. Senior AAP leader and former Delhi chief minister Atishi also questioned how Rahul Gandhi was allowed to stage a protest outside the prime minister's residence while the Modi government has refused to talk to CJP supporters despite their month-long protest. Delhi AAP chief Saurabh Bharadwaj attacked the Congress, alleging that its top leaders remain silent on the ongoing movement while its social media handles and influencers have been trying to weaken the CJP protest from the beginning. The row saw the BJP and AAP trade charges over the Congress protest and the student agitation, with the BJP accusing AAP of using the CJP protest as a political front and AAP alleging that the Congress protest was aimed at weakening the month-long movement.

Cong, SP workers hold protests across UP over detention of senior oppn leaders

LUCKNOW: Police detained several Samajwadi Party and Congress workers who were staging a protest here on Tuesday over the forcible removal of senior Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav during their dharna outside the prime minister's residence in Delhi. Samajwadi Party (SP) workers staged protests near the Vidhan Bhavan and at Atal Chowk from where they were detained. Congress workers too were detained while they were marching to the Jan Bhavan to protest against the forcible removal of senior party leaders from the dharna site, state Congress chief Ajay Rai said.

"HOME COOKING CEREMONY" A LANDMARK STEP FOR PEACE IN MANIPUR PATH TO PEACE

SURRENDER OF 46 KCP CADRES FACILITATED BY ASSAM RIFLES AND SECURITY FORCES IN MANIPUR

IMPHAL, JULY 21:



In a major security breakthrough poised to usher in a stable and development-oriented era, a profound turnaround has been achieved in Manipur. On 21 July 2026, 46 active cadres of the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group) surrendered to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Y. Khemchand Singh, at the Mantripukhri Garrison, HQ Assam Rifles (South) in the Imphal East district. The event was graced by the presence of the Govindas Konthoujam Minister of Home and Khuraijam Loken Singh Minister of Art & Culture and Tourism of the Govt of Manipur along with senior government and security officials, including MLAs, Chief

Secretary, Security Advisor to the Govt. of Manipur, General Officer Commanding Spear Corps, DGP Manipur Police, IG Assam Rifles (South), Home Commissioner, DIG CRPF and other dignitaries from the State Administration, Security Forces and other stakeholders. Choosing to embrace mainstream civilian

life, these individuals voluntarily laid down 28 sophisticated weapons comprising AK rifles, 303 rifles, pistols, double-barrel rifles, single-barrel rifles, INSAS rifle, Self Loading Rifle, Carbine Machine Guns and Rocket Propelled Grenade launcher, alongside a large quantity of magazines, ammunition and explosives.

This mass transition is highly significant as none of these cadres were part of prior peace agreements. It directly addresses the legacy of the KCP, founded on 14 April 1980 by communist ideologues Y. Ibohanbi and Iboipishak. Over the decades, ideological decay fractured the group into numerous entities. The People's War Group (PWG) faction emerged as a highly disruptive splinter unit, severely impacting valley districts including Imphal East, Imphal West and Kakching through anti-social and anti-national activities. Historically, surrenders from the KCP (PWG) have occurred in much smaller increments, such as groups of five to twelve cadres yielding to authorities in recent years. The submission of 46



Sikkim Assembly mourns 11 killed in Namchi tunnel collapse

The Sikkim Assembly observed a two-minute silence after 11 workers died in the Namchi tunnel collapse. The state announced relief for affected families as rescue operations continued with central support.

The Sikkim Assembly on Tuesday observed a two-minute silence to mourn the death of 11 workers after a tunnel under construction in Namchi district collapsed. The tribute was paid at the start of proceedings on the second day of the budget session.

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang also expressed grief over the loss of lives and told the House that ex-gratia assistance would be given to the families of the dead and to the injured under the standard norms of the National Disaster Response Fund. He had earlier announced Rs 4 lakh for the next of kin of each worker who died and Rs 50,000 for the injured. He said the state government was closely monitoring the situation and extending all possible support to those affected. Speaker Mingma Norbu Sherpa led the House in observing the silence as a mark of respect to those who died after a tunnel of the NHPC Teesta Stage VI project collapsed at Jhorlunge in Samardung on Monday. He expressed grief over the incident, conveyed condolences to the bereaved families and wished a speedy recovery to those injured. As many as 25 workers, including some project officers, had been trapped in-

side the collapsed tunnel on Monday. Of them, 11 died, while efforts are underway to rescue the others. According to an NHPC statement, a sudden burst of suspected methane gas trapped inside the rocks led to the explosion, generating dense fumes and toxic gases. Tamang informed the House that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had spoken to him about the incident. He said he had apprised them of the ongoing rescue operations, and that both leaders assured him of all assistance from the Government of India. The House later took up legislative and financial business and passed two bills to establish a state medical council and to facilitate the setting up of a private open schooling board in the state. It also adopted the Motion of Thanks on the Governor's address. During the financial business, members discussed the General Budget 2026-27. The Speaker said the budget would be taken up for passing on July 23. Later, under the chairmanship of Deputy Speaker Raj Kumari Thapa, the House passed separate demands for grants for 2026-27 for the Public Health Engineering, Water Resources and Ecclesiastical departments, among others. The Assembly session began with mourning for those killed in the tunnel collapse and then moved on to its legislative and budget agenda, while rescue efforts continued and the state government said support was being extended to those affected.

Uyghur groups call for global action against China's Ethnic Unity Law

WASHINGTON

Over 50 Uyghur civil society organisations on Tuesday strongly condemned Beijing's Law on the Promotion of Ethnic Unity and Progress (Ethnic Unity Law), urging the international community to take meaningful action to repeal the legislation.

According to a joint statement, the law, which entered into force on July 1, 2026, is not a "technical administrative measure" but a "legislative instrument of forced assimilation". It noted that the legislation explicitly conflates the Chinese nation with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and demands that ethnic groups abandon their distinct identities in favour of loyalty to the Party, the Han-defined "motherland," and "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics." Under this framework, the organisations said, the Uyghur, Tibetan, Mongolian, and other non-Han identities are permitted to exist only insofar as they are absorbed into a single, CCP-defined Chinese nation.

Trump backs Lebanon, eyes lasting peace

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Tuesday pledged continued US support for Lebanon, saying Washington would help the country emerge from decades of conflict while backing efforts to strengthen the Lebanese Armed Forces and implement a new US-brokered framework aimed at ending hostilities with Israel.

Hosting Lebanese President Joseph Aoun at the White House, Trump described Lebanon as "a very mistreated country for a long period of time" and said his administration was committed to helping restore stability. "We're going to help it a lot," Trump said during opening remarks in the Oval Office. "We've already met a couple of times, and we've had some good meetings.

Pakistan witnessing its worst internal security slide under Asim Munir: Report

ISLAMABAD

Under Army Chief Asim Munir, Pakistan has heavily relied on narrative management, with every major failure portrayed as a foreign conspiracy, every protest considered security threat and every military escalation presented as national resolve. Munir, who is portrayed as a "global stabiliser", has presided over one of Pakistan's worst internal security slides in more than a decade, a report has detailed.

In 2022, Asim Munir took over as Pakistan's Army Chief, when the country was already facing renewed militancy, unrest in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and deteriorating ties with Afghanistan, according to a report in The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).

Under his control, Pakistan further moved deeper into a hard-security model built around military operations, arrests, cross-border strikes, bans and centralised army control. This approach did not produce stability. Instead, Pakistan faced increase in militant attacks, higher casualties among civilians and security forces, growing alienation in Baloch and



Pashtun regions and conflict with Afghanistan.

Munir was elevated to the rank of Field Marshal in 2025. However, security data of Pakistan does not support Munir's image as a successful stabiliser. According to the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), militant attacks increased from 380 in 2022 to 645 in 2023, 908 in 2024, and 1,066 in 2025. PICSS said 2025 was the year with highest militant attacks since 2014 and highest security-force fatalities since 2011 and the worst civilian fatalities since 2015.

"The same military leader-

ship that presents itself as a mediator in Iran has failed to mediate Pakistan's own internal conflicts. Balochistan remains alienated. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains violent. The former tribal belt remains militarized. Afghanistan relations have moved from tension to repeated armed escalation. A commander projected as a global stabilizer has presided over one of Pakistan's worst internal security slides in more than a decade," a report in MEMRI. "The contradiction is structural, not cosmetic, and sits at the center of Munir's security approach. Abroad, Pakistan speaks the language

of ceasefire, dialogue and mediation. At home, the state relies on coercion, bans, arrests, disappearances, military sweeps and collective punishment. The same leadership that seeks diplomatic space between Washington and Tehran to bolster its international image has failed to create political space for its own Baloch, Pashtun, and Kashmiri citizens."

Pakistan has also used its coercive approach in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), where the crackdown on the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) showcased another layer of Pakistan's internal security crisis.

Protests around Rawalakot and Muzaffarabad in PoK in June turned deadly after the JAAC, a civil-society group demanding political and economic rights, was banned under anti-terror laws.

"The wider pattern is that Pakistan's state keeps externalizing blame while avoiding internal reform. Every major security failure is attributed to hostile external forces. But the casualty curve shows that the deeper problem lies inside Pakistan's own security and governance model. The Munir era has relied heavily on narrative management," a report in MEMRI mentioned.

"Every major failure is reframed as a foreign conspiracy, every protest is treated as a security threat, and every military escalation is projected as national resolve. But narrative control cannot substitute for public security. HRW said Pakistani authorities in 2025 used vague and overly broad laws to intensify crackdowns on media freedom, political opposition and civil society.[14] The result is a state that polices criticism more aggressively than it resolves the conditions producing militancy," it added.



Houthis threaten ships in Saudi ports

SANAA

Yemen's Houthi have warned international shipping companies that ships trading with Saudi ports could face military action, in what appears to be an escalation, following the group's announcement of a maritime blockade imposed on Saudi Arabia.

An email notice, circulated last night by the Sana'a-based group's Humanitarian Operations Coordination Centre, specified that the warnings concern not only Saudi-flagged vessels but also those loading or unloading goods in Saudi ports.

The notice urges maritime operators to exercise "due diligence" in planning voyages involving Saudi ports, warning that vessels engaged in these commercial activities could become "targets" of attacks within the Houthi's range, Italian News Agency Adnkronos reported.

The warning came just hours after the Houthi announced a maritime blockade on Saudi ships. Regional governments, including Kuwait and Qatar, rejected the Houthi move and reiterated their support for freedom of navigation under international law. So far, no attack on a commercial vessel has been reported under the new measures. The development comes amid renewed tensions between the Houthi and Saudi Arabia, following a

dispute over the Houthi-controlled Sana'a International Airport. On July 13, the Saudi-backed Yemeni government stated that it had struck the runway of Sana'a airport to prevent an Iranian plane carrying an important Houthi delegation, returning from funeral ceremonies for the death of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, from landing.

The Houthi attributed the attack to Riyadh and launched missiles and drones towards the Kingdom. In the past, the Houthi have used missiles, drones, and naval weapons against ships accused of being linked to Israel and the United States during the war in Gaza, forcing shipping companies to divert vessels from the Red Sea, a vital corridor for international trade and energy shipments.

This latest development could further increase risks for commercial navigation in the region, in the context of the conflict between the United States and Iran for control of the Strait of Hormuz. Yemen has been ravaged by conflict since late 2014, when the Houthi captured the capital Sana'a and much of the north of the country, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to intervene in support of the Yemeni government in 2015. The latest developments have fueled fears that the de-escalation initiated with the 2022 United Nations truce could fail.

Kuwait says its air defenses intercepting missiles, drones

KUWAIT CITY

Kuwait said its air defence systems were responding to "hostile" missile and drone threats on Tuesday, with warning sirens activated across the country. In a statement on social media platform X, the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces said that any explosions heard were the result of interceptions and urged the public to follow safety instructions from relevant authorities.

State news agency KUNA reported that sirens had been activated as the response to aerial threats continued.

Recent strikes on Kuwait targeted military installations and some vital infrastructure, including oil facilities and power and water desalination plants, causing injuries and material damage, according to Kuwaiti authorities. The United States has carried out multiple

waves of strikes on Iran in the past week, saying the operations were aimed at "degrading Iran's ability to threaten commercial shipping" in the Strait of Hormuz, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Iran has targeted US bases and facilities in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan with missiles and drones. Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy said in a statement that several power generation and water desalination plants in Kuwait were attacked on Monday evening, triggering fires at multiple facilities.

As a precaution, several electricity-generating units were taken offline to protect equipment and maintain the stability of the country's electricity and water supply systems, the ministry said, adding that damage assessment, repair and rehabilitation work are underway.

India delivers relief material to flood-stricken Afghanistan

KABUL

India on Tuesday delivered relief material, including food items and family tents, to Afghanistan's National Disaster Management Authority to support affected communities. India stands with the Afghan people at this difficult time," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) wrote on X.

At least 20 people have been killed and over 80 others injured due to floods in Parun city of Afghanistan's Nuristan

food items and family tents, to Afghanistan's National Disaster Management Authority to support affected communities. India stands with the Afghan people at this difficult time," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) wrote on X.

At least 20 people have been killed and over 80 others injured due to floods in Parun city of Afghanistan's Nuristan

province, local media reported.

Highlighting a statement released by the Taliban authorities, Afghanistan's Khaama Press news agency reported that more than 100 people still remain missing after floods in Parun and nearby areas.

In a statement, the Taliban-run National Disaster Management Authority said

that heavy floods had impacted Parun and several other areas of Nuristan, causing significant casualties and damage.

The National Disaster Management Authority's head of information and publications and spokesperson, Hafiz Mohammad Yousuf Hamad, said specialised teams had been rushed to the impacted areas to analyse the situation, search

for missing people and find the extent of the damage. Residential homes, agricultural land and shops were damaged or destroyed due to floods, causing heavy financial losses. Hamad said the casualty figures could change as search and rescue operations continue in the flood-affected areas.

With over 100 people reported missing, the authorities

fear that the death toll could rise as rescue teams continue to conduct searches for survivors and those who may have been swept away by the floods, Khaama Press reported.

The floods were reported after heavy rainfall in parts of Nuristan, where mountainous areas and limited road access could make it difficult to carry out rescue operations.

NSA Doval discusses enhancing energy security, protecting maritime corridors during Riyadh visit

RIYADH

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval reviewed the progress in India-Saudi bilateral relations and discussed the current regional situation during his official visit to the Middle East nation.

"Hon'ble NSA Shri Ajit Doval paid an official visit to Riyadh on 20 July. He was warmly received at the airport by H.E. Dr. Saud Al-Sati, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs, and Ambassador Dr. Suhel Khan," the Embassy of India in Riyadh wrote on X on Tuesday. "During the visit, the NSA met H.R.H. Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, Minister of Energy, H.H. Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and H.E. Dr. Musaed Al-Aiban, National Security Advisor," it added. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, the meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for Political Affairs, Ambassador Saud Al-Sati.

"Foreign Minister HH Prince received Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen the strategic part-

nership between the two friendly countries. They also discussed the latest regional developments and the efforts to enhance energy security and protect maritime corridors," the Saudi Foreign Ministry noted on X.

According to Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Energy, during their meeting in Riyadh, NSA Doval and Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz - the Saudi Minister of Energy and Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources - reviewed bilateral energy cooperation and discussed ways to expand it, including joint efforts to strengthen energy security and ensure stability of its supplies.

NSA Doval had also paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia in April and engaged in a series of high-level meetings with senior Saudi leadership to strengthen bilateral relations, enhance energy cooperation, and discuss key regional developments.

Top officials indicate that NSA Doval's recent visits to Riyadh underscore the growing strategic partnership between India and Saudi Arabia amid evolving geopolitical dynamics as the discussions have covered a broad spectrum of issues.

Nepal debates students' right to keep long hair as schools resist new law

NEW DELHI

Nepal is witnessing a debate over students' personal freedoms after the government introduced regulations barring schools from forcing students to cut or regulate their hair, a move that has sparked discussions on discipline, individual rights and state intervention in education, according to a media report.

Nepal has recently taken steps in asserting students' personal freedoms by introducing regulations that prohibit schools from forcibly regulating students' hair, reported The Kathmandu Post on Tuesday. This legislative shift comes after a sustained student-led campaign and broader civic engagement on the issue.

While it signals a move toward recognising the individual rights of students, the implementation and broader societal response raised debates on discipline, parental authority, and the role of the state in educational institutions.

Nepal schools have maintained stringent rules over students' appearance. Uniformity, professionalism, and a strict code of conduct often manifested through

hair checks, sanctions, and even public embarrassment for nonconformity. Samridha Karki, a grade 11 student in Kathmandu, talked about the repeated inspections and punishments he endured under his school's hair policy. Such measures, justified by administrators as promoting a "professional look", were experienced by students reportedly as intrusive and psychologically taxing.

Karki's accounts highlighted the tension between institutional enforcement and the autonomy of individuals under a framework of supposed academic discipline. The policy change is reportedly a result of online initiatives like SpeakUp Nepal, which platforms local grievances and, upon garnering sufficient public support, forwards them to relevant government authorities.

Karki's petition, backed by 250 signatures within its first month, reflects the power of civic mobilisation to effect policy changes even against long-standing institutional norms. Over 19 months, the petition traversed multiple educational oversight bodies before influencing the Ministry of Education to codify protections against forced haircuts.



The legislation explicitly prohibits coercive interventions regarding haircuts, personal appearance, and grooming, framing students' bodies and expressions as individual domains rather than institutional possessions. However, compliance remains inconsistent. Many schools in Kathmandu and surrounding regions continue the traditional practice, reporting a lag in adherence, said the report.

Students like Ariana (a pseudonym), observing nuanced school expectations around makeup, hair tying, and "mehendi", suggest the amendment addresses part

of broader issues of gendered expectations and differential freedoms within educational contexts. Such persistence underscores that policy changes alone are insufficient without corresponding cultural and procedural adaptations within schools. Resistance from certain educational stakeholders is apparent.

The report quoted Navraj Bhatta, representing a coalition of private schools, contending that hair, attire, and grooming standards should be negotiated between schools and parents rather than legislated by the state. He said the platform's official posi-

tion, clarified at a recent press conference with three other umbrella organisations representing Nepal's private education sector, is that the government overstepped.

"It's not right for the government to interfere in this matter," he said, arguing that such statutory interventions risk encouraging defiance rather than reinforcing discipline.

School administrators like Kalpana Oli Sitaula of Pathibhara Academy stressed transitional challenges, noting that teachers and students alike need time to adjust to a regulatory environment that privileges personal freedom



STAR Hospitals Launches Brain Health Centre in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, JULY 21:

Every second can make the difference between recovery and lifelong disability when it comes to brain emergencies. Recognising this, STAR Hospitals, Hyderabad has launched The STAR Centre for Brain Health - a dedicated Centre of Excellence that brings together advanced technology, experienced specialists, and round-the-clock emergency care under one roof. The Centre was formally unveiled by the hospital's leading neurosciences team during a special launch ceremony at Banjara Hills & Nanakramguda facilities. Guided by the philosophy "Every Second Counts. Every Story Matters," the Centre has been created to provide timely, accurate, and compassionate care for patients with neurological conditions - from life-threatening emergencies such as stroke and traumatic brain injury to epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, memory disorders, and complex brain tumours.

Meeting the Growing Need for Brain Care
Brain and neurological disorders are becoming one of

the leading causes of disability and death across the world. Yet, many of these conditions can have significantly better outcomes when diagnosed and treated early.

Stroke, for instance, remains one of the biggest neurological emergencies, with 1 in 4 adults at risk of experiencing a stroke during their lifetime. Treatments such as clot-busting medications and mechanical thrombectomy, when performed within the critical "golden hour", can reduce the risk of permanent brain damage by as much as 80%, giving patients a far better chance of returning to independent lives.

At the same time, conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, epilepsy, and movement disorders are affecting an increasing number of families. Early diagnosis through dedicated memory and neurological clinics can help slow disease progression, preserve cognitive function, and improve quality of life.

The STAR Centre for Brain Health has been designed to address the entire spectrum of neurological care - from emergency interventions to



long-term rehabilitation and preventive brain health. The focus extends beyond treating disease to helping patients regain independence, confidence, and dignity.

Expert Team Behind the STAR Centre for Brain Health

The STAR Centre for Brain Health is led by a highly experienced multidisciplinary team of neurologists, neurosurgeons, and interventional radiologists who work together to deliver comprehensive, evidence-based brain and spine care. Through a collaborative approach, the team ensures that every patient benefits from personalised treatment plans backed by advanced technology and clinical expertise.

Neurology
• Dr. Anitha Kotha
• Dr. M. L. Neeharika
• Dr. B. Santhosh Kumar
• Dr. Syed Osman
• Dr. Dushyanth Jasti

Neurosurgery
• Dr. A. Ajay Reddy
• Dr. Vishwak Sena Reddy P
• Dr. M. Sundeepp

Interventional Radiology
• Dr. Venkateswarlu Jampala
• Dr. Y. Gautham Reddy

Complex cases are reviewed through multidisciplinary clinical boards, where neurologists, neurosurgeons, interventional radiologists, and other specialists jointly evaluate every aspect of a patient's condition before deciding the most appropriate treatment approach. This collaborative model ensures

evidence-based, personalised care for every patient.

Advanced Technology for Greater Precision

The Centre combines expert clinical care with some of the most advanced neurological technologies available today.

Biplane Cath Lab Suite
Enables rapid, high-precision treatment for stroke, brain aneurysms, and other complex vascular conditions using advanced 3D imaging.

3 Tesla MRI with Functional Imaging

High-resolution MRI integrated with Functional MRI (fMRI) and Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI) helps surgeons accurately map critical brain functions before surgery, reducing the risk of neurological deficits.

Intraoperative Imaging & Neuromonitoring

Real-time imaging and continuous neurological monitoring during surgery allow surgeons to remove lesions with greater precision while preserving essential brain functions.

Dedicated Clinics Focused on Prevention and Early Diagnosis

The Centre also offers spe-

cialised outpatient clinics that focus on identifying neurological disorders at an early stage and preventing complications.

These include:
• Stroke & Cerebrovascular Clinic
• Comprehensive Epilepsy Clinic
• Movement Disorders & Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) Clinic
• Memory & Cognitive Health Clinic

Setting a New Benchmark in Brain Care

With emergency stroke services, advanced neurosurgery, interventional neuroradiology, neuro-oncology, neuro-critical care, pulmonary support, psychiatry, and comprehensive neuro-rehabilitation integrated within a single ecosystem, The STAR Centre for Brain Health represents a significant step forward in neurological care for Hyderabad.

By bringing together expertise, cutting-edge technology, and a patient-first approach, STAR Hospitals aims to ensure that every patient receives the right treatment at the right time - because when it comes to the brain, every second truly matters.



India Crosses 52,700 Public EV Charging Stations

NEW DELHI, JULY 21

India has made significant progress in expanding its electric vehicle charging infrastructure, with 52,718 public charging stations currently operational across the country, the Centre informed Parliament on Tuesday. Of these, 16,561 are equipped with fast EV chargers for cars, helping reduce charging time and address one of the key concerns among EV users, the Minister of State for Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma said in a written reply to Lok Sabha. According to the Ministry of Heavy Industries, the Centre has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen the EV ecosystem and encourage the adoption of electric mobility.

To expand charging infrastructure, the ministry has allocated Rs 912.50 crore under the FAME-II scheme and Rs 2,000 crore under the PM E-DRIVE scheme for setting up public EV charging stations across cities and national highways. The government also pointed out that the Ministry of Power has issued the "Guidelines for Installation and Operation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastruc-

ture 2024", which lay down standards for creating a connected and interoperable charging network, including battery swapping and charging facilities. It added that establishing EV charging stations has been classified as an unlicensed activity, making it easier for private entrepreneurs to invest in charging infrastructure.

To support domestic manufacturing of electric vehicles, electric passenger cars have also been included under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components. Under the scheme, financial incentives ranging from 13 per cent to 18 per cent are being provided on incremental sales of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) vehicles, including electric four-wheelers, to eligible manufacturers. The Government said Rs 4,391 crore has been earmarked under the PM E-DRIVE scheme for the deployment of 14,028 electric buses. Out of these, 13,800 buses have already been allocated to seven major cities -- Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune and Surat. The tender process for selecting operators for all 13,800 buses has been completed in two phases.

Navitas Planet Secures \$20 Million Utility-Scale Solar EPC Project in Zambia

AMHADABAD, JULY 21

Navitas Solar today announced that its dedicated Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) arm, Navitas Planet, has secured a USD 20 million contract to develop a 54 MW utility-scale solar power project in Serenje Province, Zambia. The project marks a significant milestone in Navitas Solar's global expansion strategy and strengthens its presence in Africa's fast-growing renewable energy sector.

Under the EPC contract, Navitas Planet will undertake end-to-end project execution, including engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning of the solar power plant. The project will also feature Navitas Solar's

Accelerating Africa's Energy Transition
54 MW project marks the company's entry into Africa's utility-scale EPC market, supporting Zambia's renewable energy goals and strengthening India's global clean energy footprint.

high-efficiency bifacial TOP-Con modules, along with other key components sourced from leading global manufacturers. The project is expected to be commissioned with an execution timeline of approximately seven to eight months.

Commenting on the development, Sunay Shah, Director, Navitas Solar, said, "This project represents an important milestone in Navitas Planet's international growth journey and reflects the increasing global demand for Indian renewable energy expertise. Zambia is actively diversifying its energy mix, creating strong opportunities for utility-scale solar development.



Through this project, we look forward to delivering reliable, high-quality clean energy infrastructure while building long-term partnerships that



contribute to Africa's sustainable energy future." Zambia is accelerating investments in renewable energy to strengthen energy security

and reduce its dependence on hydropower, which currently accounts for over 80% of the country's electricity generation and remains vulnerable to climate-induced droughts. The Serenje Province project aligns with Zambia's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and the Presidential 1,000 MW Solar Initiative, supporting the country's efforts to diversify its power generation mix and improve grid resilience.

Beyond expanding renewable energy capacity, the project is expected to deliver meaningful environmental and economic benefits. Once operational, the solar plant is expected to generate clean

electricity while reducing approximately 42,570 tonnes of carbon emissions annually. It will create local employment opportunities during construction and associated project activities, contributing to local economic development and skills creation. The project further supports Zambia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, which target a 47% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. As Navitas Planet's first utility-scale EPC project in Africa, the development establishes a strong foundation for the company's long-term growth strategy across the continent, where demand for reliable, affordable and sustainable energy infrastructure continues to grow.



MedPlus Health's Q1 profit falls 22 pc to Rs 33 crore

MUMBAI, JULY 21

Pharmacy retail chain MedPlus Health Services Limited on Tuesday reported a 21.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in its consolidated net profit for the first quarter of FY27. The company reported a net profit of Rs 33 crore for the April-June quarter, compared with Rs 42 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal (Q1 FY26), according to its stock exchange filing. Revenue from operations rose 21.8 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,879.6 crore during the quarter, up from Rs 1,542.6 crore in Q1 FY26.

However, profitability remained under pressure. EBITDA increased marginally by 1.9 per cent to Rs 133.2 crore from Rs 130.7 crore a year ago, while the EBITDA margin contracted to 7.1 per cent from 8.5 per cent. The company's gross margin also narrowed by 160 basis points to 24.5 per cent from 26.1 per cent in the year-ago quarter.

Operating performance remained subdued, with operating EBITDA declining to Rs 65.1 crore from Rs 72.8 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Operating EBITDA margin fell to 3.5 per cent from 4.7 per cent. During the quarter, MedPlus continued to expand its retail footprint by adding

146 new stores, including 131 franchisee outlets, strengthening its presence across key markets. Alongside its quarterly results, the company announced plans to diversify its healthcare and wellness offerings through fresh investments in Telangana.

MedPlus said its material subsidiary, Optimal Health Solutions Private Limited, intends to establish a food park in Hyderabad that will include a cold press oil extraction unit. The proposed project will involve an investment of around Rs 40 crore towards land development, construction, machinery, utilities, filling and packing lines, and other related capital expenditure. The company also plans to set up a Concierge Health & Wellness Services Facility in Hyderabad. The proposed centre will offer preventive healthcare, diagnostics, specialist consultations and wellness services through a subscription-based membership model. The project is expected to involve an investment of around Rs 115 crore, including capital expenditure of Rs 90 crore.

Shares of MedPlus Health Services Limited ended the day at Rs 802.40 on the BSE, gaining Rs 1.45, or 0.18 per cent, ahead of the earnings announcement.

Tira Brings Viral K-Beauty Brand Dr. Melaxin to India

MUMBAI, 21 JULY 2026:

Launches exclusively across online and select stores

Tira, the omnichannel beauty destination from Reliance Retail, continues to expand its portfolio of globally sought-after beauty brands with the exclusive launch of Dr. Melaxin, the fast-rising South Korean dermo-cosmetic brand renowned for its science-led approach to skincare. The brand will be available exclusively on Tira online and at select offline stores.

Dr. Melaxin is redefining K-beauty with targeted skincare inspired by the principles of vaccine science. Built around its philosophy of "slow aging," the brand develops clinically evaluated formulations that address specific concerns including pigmentation, enlarged pores, under-eye aging and loss of firmness, helping strengthen the skin's resilience over time.

Following its international expansion across the United States, Japan and Southeast Asia, Dr. Melaxin has rapidly gained global recognition, becoming the #1 K-beauty brand

on TikTok Shop in both the US and UK. The brand follows an 8-FREE clean formulation standard, with every product being cruelty-free, dermatologist-tested and suitable for sensitive skin. Independent clinical studies have demonstrated visible improvements in hydration, radiance and skin firmness within four weeks. Leading the India launch is the brand's globally viral Peel Shot range—a gentle exfoliating ampoule powered by rice-based AHA and BHA, Pentavitin and rice water to exfoliate, refine pores and visibly improve skin texture and radiance. India represents one of the world's fastest-growing beauty markets, with consumers increasingly seeking science-backed skincare that delivers measurable results. Dr. Melaxin's focus on concerns such as pigmentation, uneven texture, brightening and long-term skin resilience makes it especially relevant for Indian consumers and climate conditions. Launching exclusively



on Tira across its online platform and select offline stores, the partnership underscores Tira's commitment to curating globally acclaimed beauty innovations while offering customers access to authentic, high-performance brands backed by expertise and efficacy. Commenting on the launch, Yu Kyoung Hwa, Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Melaxin,

said: "Indian consumers are curious, informed and genuinely interested in effective skincare solutions. Their key concerns—from pigmentation to texture and firmness—are exactly what we have set out to address. Through our launch with Tira, we are excited to bring our most innovative products, including the Peel Shot line, to the people it was

created for." With the launch of Dr. Melaxin, Tira continues to strengthen its growing portfolio of globally sought-after beauty brands, reinforcing its commitment to bringing cutting-edge, science-backed innovations and the latest international beauty trends to Indian consumers. As the destination for premium beauty discovery, Tira remains focused on curating authentic, high-performance brands that cater to the evolving needs of India's increasingly discerning beauty community. Launched by Reliance Retail, Tira is India's fastest-growing omnichannel beauty retail platform, reimagining how beauty is discovered and experienced. Seamlessly integrating digital and physical worlds, Tira offers a curated assortment of the finest global and homegrown brands - making it the ultimate destination for all things beauty. With over 20 million app downloads, Tira provides a clutter-free, intuitive interface that allows cus-

tomers to explore products and access the latest in beauty trends, expert tips, and tutorials. Delivering to over 98% of India's pincodes, Tira brings beauty closer to every corner of the country. Our retail stores nationwide are designed to offer an elevated, immersive shopping experience - powered by cutting-edge beauty tech including virtual try-on tools, advanced skin analyzers, and a proprietary "Fragrance Finder." Expert in-store beauty advisors provide personalized consultations to help each customer meet their unique beauty needs. Tira's flagship store at Jio World Plaza, Mumbai, spans over 6,200 sq. ft. and showcases the most prestigious global luxury brands alongside signature services available exclusively at the Tira Beauty Suite. At Tira, we celebrate beauty in its most elevated form—where every touchpoint is crafted to inspire, indulge, and transform the way customers engage with beauty.



Best Onion Seed Varieties for Indian Farmers

In the vast landscape of Indian agriculture, few crops carry as much economic and culinary weight as the humble onion (*Allium cepa* L.). Affectionately dubbed the "queen of the kitchen", it is the backbone of Indian cuisine and a critical cash crop for millions of smallholders. However, onion cultivation in India is a high-stakes endeavor. Farmers frequently battle volatile market prices, unpredictable weather patterns, and the constant threat of post-harvest losses. While precise water management, balanced fertilization, and crop protection are vital, the foundation of a highly profitable harvest lies in a single choice made before a single seed touches the soil: selecting the right onion seed variety. Because India spans diverse agro-climatic zones and operates across three distinct cultivation windows—Kharif (monsoon), Late Kharif (autumn), and Rabi (winter)—a one-size-fits-all approach is a recipe for failure. To achieve maximum marketable yield and superior shelf life, growers must align their seed choices with seasonal realities.

Understanding the Seasonal Blueprint

Before diving into specific varieties, growers must understand the thermal and daylight requirements of Indian onions. Most indigenous varieties are "short-day" or "intermediate-day" types, meaning they require relatively shorter periods of daylight to trigger bulb formation compared to European or American varieties.

The Indian onion calendar is broadly divided into two major blocks:

The Kharif Cycle (Monsoon): Sown in June–July and harvested by October–November. This cycle faces intense rainfall, humidity, and high disease pressure (such as anthrax and purple blotch). Yields are typically lower, and the bulbs have a poor shelf life, meaning they must be marketed immediately. The Rabi Cycle (Winter): Sown in October–November and harvested in March–April. This cycle accounts for over 60% of India's total production. Rabi onions benefit from cooler maturing periods, leading to higher yields, tight skins, and excellent storage potential (up to 4–6 months).

Top Performing Varieties for the Rabi Season

The Rabi crop dictates national food security and export volumes. For this season, the primary criteria are high yield, uniform bulb shape, and exceptional "keeping quality" (storability).

1. Agrifound Light Red
Developed by the National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), this open-pollinated variety remains the gold standard for winter cultivation across India.

Characteristics: It produces attractive, light red, globular bulbs with tight skins and a narrow neck,

which significantly reduces the entry of rot during storage.

Maturity & Yield: Ready for harvest 160–165 days after sowing, it yields an impressive 30–35 tonnes per hectare (t/ha). Its high Total Soluble Solids (TSS) content of 12–13% guarantees excellent dehydration potential and a long storage life.

2. Bhima Kiran: Bred by the ICAR-Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (DOGR), Bhima Kiran has emerged as a powerhouse in states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, and Haryana. Characteristics: Known for its light red, round, highly uniform bulbs, it shows remarkable resistance to premature bolting (flowering, which ruins the bulb). Performance: It averages a marketable yield of 30–40 t/ha and can be safely stored for up to 5–6 months

without significant weight loss or sprouting, making it a favorite for farmers seeking to delay sales for better market prices.

3. Pusa Red: A time-tested release from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa Red is highly adaptable and resilient to fluctuating winter temperatures. Characteristics: It produces medium-sized, flattish-round bulbs with a bronze-red hue. It is less pungent than some of its contemporary counterparts, appealing heavily to specific domestic consumer markets. Performance: Maturing in 140–145 days post-transplanting, it offers a stable yield of 25–30 t/ha and possesses dependable keeping qualities.

High-Yielding Pioneers for the Kharif Season

Cultivating onions in the monsoon is tricky. Seed vari-

eties chosen for Kharif must possess quick bulb-development capabilities, resistance to waterlogging, and foliage that can withstand fungal attacks.

1. N-53 (Niphad-53): Perhaps the most iconic Kharif variety in India, N-53 has been the bedrock of monsoon onion farming for decades. Characteristics: It develops dark red, large, spherical bulbs that are highly attractive to traders. Performance: Its greatest asset is early maturity, ready for harvest just 90–100 days after transplanting. While its storage life is low (less than 2 months), it provides rapid field-to-market returns, allowing farmers to capture early-season price spikes.

2. Bhima Super: Specifically engineered by ICAR-DOGR to overcome the traditional yield barriers of

the monsoon season, Bhima Super is highly recommended for Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka. Characteristics: It yields bright red, attractive round bulbs with single centers (avoiding the split bulbs that reduce market value). Performance: It reaches maturity within 100–105 days after transplanting and boasts an average Kharif yield of 22–26 t/ha, outperforming older open-pollinated varieties under heavy rainfall conditions

The White & Hybrid Alternatives

While red onions dominate over 80% of the Indian domestic market, white and hybrid seeds are rapidly gaining ground due to export demands and precision farming techniques.

1. Bhima Shweta (White Onion): For farmers catering to the dehydration industry

or the export markets of the Middle East, Bhima Shweta is an exceptional choice. Characteristics: Suitable for both Kharif and Rabi, it produces perfectly white, round bulbs with high TSS (11–12%). It yields up to 30 t/ha in the winter and stores significantly better than traditional local white varieties.

2. Next-Gen F1 Hybrids (e.g., Seminis XP Red, BASF Nunhems Indam Marshal)

Private seed companies have introduced F1 hybrids that offer incredible vigor. Varieties like Seminis XP Red and Matahari F1 provide ultra-uniform bulb sizes, thick multi-layered protective skins, and localized resistance to thrips and soil-borne fungi. Though the seed cost is higher, the sheer percentage of "Grade-A" marketable bulbs often justifies the initial investment for commercial growers.

Maximizing Seed Potential: A Checklist for Farmers

Even the highest-quality seed cannot perform if basic agronomic principles are ignored. To convert premium seed genetics into profit, keep these rules in mind: Source Certified Seed: Always buy seeds from recognized government outlets, university extension counters, or authorized private dealers to avoid low germination rates. Nursery Care: Onion seeds require a meticulous nursery phase of 6–8 weeks. Treat seeds with *Trichoderma viride* or appropriate fungicides to prevent damping-off disease. Strict Seasonal Adherence: Never plant a variety designated for the Rabi season (like Agrifound Light Red) in the Kharif season, as it will fail to bulb properly under hot, wet monsoon conditions, leading to massive financial losses.

Why Field Sanitation is the Unsung Hero of Integrated Pest Management

In the modern agricultural playbook, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is frequently celebrated as a sophisticated dance of ecology and technology. We talk at length about biological controls—deploying parasitic wasps or predatory mites—and the precise application of narrow-spectrum biopesticides. We map fields with drones and monitor pest thresholds with pheromone traps. Yet, in our enthusiasm for these advanced interventions, we often overlook the most fundamental, cost-effective, and transformative pillar of the entire IPM pyramid: field sanitation.

Sanitation is not glamorous. It does not come in a pressurized chemical drum, nor does it arrive in a high-tech shipping container of laboratory-bred beneficial insects. It is the unvarnished practice of farm hygiene—the systematic removal of pest habitats, breeding grounds, and survival reservoirs from the agricultural environment. But do not let its simplicity fool you. In the relentless war against crop-destroying insects, fungi, and bacteria, field sanitation is the ultimate preemptive strike.

The Biological Rationale: Disrupting the Lifecycle

To truly appreciate sanitation, one must look at the farm through the eyes of a pest. For an insect or a pathogen, the period between crop harvests—or the quiet dormant months of winter and dry seasons—is a gauntlet of survival. Pests cannot simply vanish; they must find a place to overwinter, pupate, or shelter from the elements. This is where standard agricultural neglect becomes an open invitation. Leftover crop residues, fallen fruits, decaying rotting tubers, and unmanaged weeds along fence lines act as biological lifeboats. They provide the exact microclimate needed for pests to enter diapause (a period of suspended development) or for fungal spores to survive in a semi-dormant state.

The Ecological Compound Interest: A single pair of pests surviving the off-season in a heap of discarded crop residue can give rise to thousands of offspring in the very first generation of the spring. By eliminating that single hideout, sanitation breaks the lifecycle before the new crop is even planted, dramatically lowering the "initial inoculum" or starting pest population.

The Core Pillars of Practical Field Sanitation

Implementing effective sanitation requires a structured approach that spans the entire production cycle, from pre-planting to post-harvest. It is helpful to categorize these practices into four distinct, actionable strategies:

1. Debris Management and Residue Destruction

Once a crop is harvested,

the remaining plant matter is no longer an asset; it is a liability. For example, if a cotton field is left with standing stalks after harvest, it provides a perfect winter home for the devastating pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*).

Deep plowing, flail mowing, or incorporating crop residues into the soil accelerates decomposition. When plant tissues break down rapidly, soil microbes outcompete and destroy pathogens. In the case of severe viral or fungal infestations, pulling up infected plants by the roots and burning or deeply burying them far away from production plots is the only way to prevent an epidemic.

2. Roguing: The Art of Early Intervention

Roguing is the systematic identification and removal of diseased or infested plants during the active growing season. It requires a keen eye and disciplined scouting. When a farmer spots a single tomato plant showing signs of bacterial wilt or a distinct viral mosaic pattern, the instinct might be to treat it.

However, within an IPM framework, the correct action is often immediate extraction. Removing that single infected plant—along with its immediate root zone soil—creates a firebreak, preventing the vector (such as whiteflies or aphids) from spreading the pathogen to the rest of the healthy acreage.

3. Weaponizing Weed Control

Weeds are traditionally viewed as competitors for water, sunlight, and soil nutrients. But in IPM, weeds are dangerous because they serve as "alternate hosts." Many destructive pests feed and breed on wild vegetation surrounding the cash crop before migrating inward.

For instance, wild mustard weeds can host the diamondback moth, a notorious destroyer of cabbage and broccoli crops. By maintaining clean headlands, clearing ditch banks, and mowing fence lines, farmers eliminate these stepping stones, effectively creating a buffer zone of starvation around their primary fields.

4. Tool and Equipment Hygiene

Biosecurity does not stop at the edge of the dirt. Soil-borne pathogens, such as the devastating root-knot nematodes or *Fusarium* wilt spores, are routinely transported from an infested field to a clean one on the muddy tires of tractors, the blades of rototillers, and the dirty edges of pruning shears. Sanitation demands that equipment be thoroughly power-washed and tools disinfected with a simple bleach or quaternary ammonium solution when moving between different zones of the farm. The financial argument for field sanitation is ironclad. Chemical interventions are fundamentally reactive; they represent an ongoing cash outflow that escalates as pests develop resistance. Sanitation, by contrast, is a proactive investment of labor and discipline that drastically reduces the need for rescue chemical applications later in the season.





CRICKET

England's Bethell ruled out of The Hundred with knee injury



NEW DELHI

England all-rounder Jacob Bethell has been ruled out of this year's The Hundred with a right knee injury, casting doubt over his availability for next month's Test series against Pakistan and depriving the rising star of a valuable opportunity to captain Birmingham Phoenix.

Bethell suffered the injury during England's recent ODI series win over India and withdrew from the tournament after an MRI scan on Monday morning. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has not shared a timeline for his recovery. England's opening Test against Pakistan at Headingley is set to start on August 19.

"Jacob Bethell has been ruled out of The Hundred due to a right knee injury," the ECB said in a statement. "He sustained the injury during the Metro Bank ODI Series and had an MRI scan yesterday morning. He will start his rehabilitation, and we will provide updates as needed."



Stokes returns to 50-over action with gritty century in Durham's win

LONDON

Playing his first competitive match since retiring from Test cricket, Ben Stokes defied severe cramps to score a fighting unbeaten century to help Durham beat Derbyshire in the One-Day Cup on Tuesday. The all-rounder, who led England in the 50-over format, displayed all his usual grit as he battled repeated bouts of cramps to score 108 not out and helped his side chase a target of 257 and secure victory.

Stokes was playing his first List A game for his county in nearly 12 years and suffered cramps early in his knock, collapsing in pain as he reached his fifty.

Stokes could not weave magic with the ball as he went wicketless in his nine overs, as Derbyshire Falcons rode on Martin Anderson's well-paced century to post 256/9 in their 50 overs.

Durham were off to a poor start as Ben Aitchison's two early wickets pegged them back before Stokes came to their rescue. The former England captain got good support from Will Rhodes (45), Colin Ackermann and Ollie Robinson, as he hobbled past three figures to complete a stunning domestic return and seal a five-wicket win for his county.

The 35-year-old all-rounder, who surprised everyone with his retirement from international cricket during England's third Test against New Zealand, returned to domestic one-day cricket on the same day the new version of The Hundred started. Stokes missed the second Test against New Zea-

Budapest to launch new era in chess with official pilot of Total Chess World Championship

HUNGARY

A new era in elite chess will start this November when Budapest hosts the official pilot of the FIDE-approved Total Chess World Championship Tour, a ground-breaking global championship which aims to determine chess's most complete player by testing them in three different time controls in the same competition.

From November 10-21, 2026, the world's elite men and women, including World No.1 Magnus Carlsen, will battle at Budapest's iconic Anantara New York Palace Hotel across Blitz, Rapid and Fast Classic in an attempt to redefine how the world's best players compete—and how fans experience the sport.

Unlike traditional tournaments that focus on a single time control, the Total Chess World Championship Tour rewards versatility, consistency and adaptability. Players will be tested across the explosive pace of Blitz, the tactical intensity of Rapid and the strategic depth of Fast Classic, with cumulative performances determining the overall champion.

Created by Norway Chess, the event's format is designed to showcase every dimension of elite chess while creating a more dynamic and engaging competition for players, spectators and broadcasters alike.

The Budapest event will serve as the official pilot of the Total Chess World Championship Tour, delivering the same championship format, regulations and prize structure that will define the inaugural global season beginning in March 2027, when multiple tournaments across international host cities will culminate in the crowning of the FIDE World Combined Champion.

Kjell Madland, CEO, Total Chess, said: "The Total Chess World Championship Tour is built on a simple



belief—that the world's best chess player should be able to excel across every format of the game. By bringing together Fast Classic, Rapid and Blitz under one championship, we're creating a more complete sporting test while making elite chess more exciting and accessible for fans around the world. Budapest is the perfect city to launch this journey.

"As the official pilot of the Tour, this event will set the benchmark for the global championship that begins in March 2027. Chess heritage runs deep here, making it the ideal place to write the next chapter before the Tour travels to cities around the world," he said.

Highlighting the tour's potential to expand the global reach of chess and attract new audiences, Arkady Dvorkovich, President of FIDE, said: "As chess continues to evolve, FIDE's role is to embrace innovation that strengthens our sport while respecting its rich tradition. The Total Chess World Champion Tour is a natural evolution of the elite competitions we already have and celebrates the complete player by combining excellence in Fast Classic, Rapid and Blitz formats.

"We are convinced that the tour will attract new audiences, commercial partners and greater media interest, helping us expand chess globally. FIDE is proud to be working closely with Norway Chess, and we are grateful to our Hungarian friends for hosting the first official pilot event. We look forward to seeing this new chapter begin in one of Europe's great chess capitals," the FIDE President added.

Budapest's selection as the host city carries special significance. Hungary has played a defining role in the history of chess, producing generations of world-class players and Olympiad success, while producing one of the sport's greatest icons in Judit Polgár, widely regarded as the strongest female chess player in history. This November, the city will once again take centre stage—this time as the launchpad for a new global vision for the sport, the organisers informed in a release on Tuesday.

The Total Chess World Championship Tour has already attracted significant international investment and commercial backing. Among its backers are football superstar

Erling Haaland and Norwegian investor Morten Borge through Chess Mates, alongside a group of high-profile investors that includes Olympic cross-country skiing champion Johannes Høsflot Klæbo. Their support reflects growing confidence in chess's commercial potential and the Tour's ambition to elevate the sport's global profile.

Developed by Norway Chess and approved by FIDE, the Total Chess World Championship Tour establishes a new benchmark for elite competition by combining sporting excellence with a modern, fan-first presentation. By bringing together three formats under one championship, the Tour offers a comprehensive test of skill while making top-level chess more accessible, compelling and engaging for audiences worldwide.

More than a pilot tournament, Budapest marks the official beginning of a new global championship that will reshape elite chess. It is where a new competitive format takes its first move—one that celebrates the complete chess player while bringing the sport closer than ever to fans around the world.



Barcelona to officially unveil Karim Adeyemi on Wednesday, confirms Laporta

MADRID

Barcelona president Joan Laporta has confirmed that the club will officially announce the signing of German player Karim Adeyemi on Wednesday, with the forward also set to be presented to supporters and the media.

Laporta revealed the development upon his arrival at Barcelona airport after returning from the FIFA World Cup final in New York. His trip to the United States had delayed the formal announcement, despite Adeyemi arriving in Barcelona last week to complete the move.

The 24-year-old forward joins the reigning La Liga champions from Bundesliga club Borussia Dortmund and becomes Barcelona's second major signing of the summer transfer window.

Capable of playing across the front line, Adeyemi is expected to add pace, versatility and attacking depth to Hansi Flick's squad. He can operate on either wing as well as in a central attacking role, giving Barcelona multiple options in the final third, reports Xinhua.

Adeyemi leaves Dortmund after making 146 appearances for the German club, scoring 36

goals across all competitions. During his time in Germany, he established himself as one of the Bundesliga's quickest and most dynamic forwards while also becoming a regular member of the German national team.

The forward has earned 11 senior international caps for Germany and will now look to make an immediate impact in Spanish football as Barcelona aim to defend their domestic title and challenge for European honours next season. His arrival comes after the departure of veteran striker Robert Lewandowski, whose contract with Barcelona expired at the end of June. Adeyemi is expected to play an important role in reshaping the club's attack following the Poland international's exit.

Meanwhile, young Swedish winger Roony Bardghji is reportedly expected to leave on loan after struggling for regular first-team opportunities last season.

Adeyemi is Barcelona's second signing of the transfer window following the arrival of England international Anthony Gordon from Newcastle United, as the Catalan giants continue strengthening their squad ahead of the 2026-27 campaign.

Glasgow CWG: Entering competition with a winning mindset, says quarter-miler Vishal TK on his debut

MUMBAI

The first Indian to go under 45 seconds in 400m, Vishal Thennarasu Kayalvizhi (Vishal TK) is looking to add a cherry on top of a magical season by winning a medal on his Commonwealth Games debut in Glasgow. The Indian quarter-miler heads into the CWG on the back of a historic season that has firmly established him as one of the country's premier sprint talents.

The 22-year-old Vishal made history earlier this year by becoming the first Indian man to break the 45-second barrier in the 400m, clocking 44.98 seconds to set the current Indian National Record in the event. A four-time National Champion, Vishal has rapidly emerged as one of Asia's leading quarter-milers and will step onto the track at Glasgow riding on the confidence gained from a breakthrough campaign.

His remarkable rise has also been underlined by success on the continental stage. Vishal played a pivotal role in India's relay teams winning gold in the mixed 4x400m relay and

silver in the men's 4x400m relay at the Asian Athletics Championships.

Ranked among the top 60 men's 400m runners in the world, the 22-year-old is one of India's leading hopes in the sprint events as the country looks to continue its resurgence in the one-lapper.

As he prepares to don the Indian colours at one of the biggest multi-sport events in the world, Vishal says his focus remains firmly on delivering his best performance when it matters most.

"I'm entering the Commonwealth Games with a winning mindset. Months of hard work, honesty, discipline, consistency and self-belief have brought me to this stage, and I trust the process and my coach Jason Dawson completely.

"My focus is on performing at my highest level and making every second count on the track. I don't set limits on what I can achieve. I believe in pushing my boundaries every time I compete. Representing India is the biggest motivation, and I'll give everything I have to make the nation proud," said Vishal.

Vishal credits the support system



around him for helping him prepare for the demands of elite international competition, highlighting the role of the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) in his journey.

"Success is never an individual effort, and I'm fortunate to have an incredible team supporting me. The Inspire Institute of Sport has provided everything an athlete needs—from world-class coaching and sports science to nutrition, recovery and mental conditioning. Their belief in me has given me the confidence to keep improving every

'The big jump will follow if I trust the process': Sreeshankar eyes CWG success

NEW DELHI

Murali Sreeshankar is refusing to get carried away by numbers as he targets another Commonwealth Games (CWG) medal, insisting his focus remains firmly on the process rather than chasing the elusive 8.42m mark. The Indian long jumper believes that if every technical aspect comes together at the right time, the distance will take care of itself.

"I'm sure it takes time. I don't want to focus on just one distance and end up compromising other areas. I'd rather keep trusting the process and ensure the technical skills come together. If all three aspects align at the right moment, the big jump will follow. I just want to make sure I am in good shape physically," Sreeshankar said.

The Commonwealth Games silver medallist believes the sought-after 8.42m mark is within reach but noted that achieving such a jump depends heavily on conditions.

"Jumping well at the Common-



wealth Games and Asian Games really relies on the environment because 8.42m is a huge jump. That distance has likely won a medal in the last 50 editions of any Olympic or World Championship, so it's a significant mark. Matching that performance will need favourable conditions, and I'm not sure if that will happen this season."

The 27-year-old remains hopeful that the breakthrough will come soon. "I'm very confident that I'll achieve that jump very soon. I'm not saying it's going to happen in Glasgow or in Nagoya, but I believe that jump is defi-

nately within my reach because I have already cleared 8.38m, which is very close to the national record. Even in Chennai, I had a jump that just grazed the red cone at 8.42m, so I know that distance is within me."

Sreeshankar stated that his current focus is on fine-tuning the technical aspects of his event. "The only things I need to work on are my body position in the air and my landing. My approach has been very good up until the Inter-State Championships and during my training in Spala. That was the main takeaway from Bhubaneswar. Once I enhance those technical elements and merge them with the effective approach I've been using, I'll be able to achieve a big jump."

The Kerala athlete heads to Glasgow looking to build on his already impressive career, which includes Commonwealth Games and Asian Games silver medals, a World Championships final appearance, and a remarkable comeback from the knee injury that sidelined him from the Paris Olympics.



Badminton star Kidambi Srikanth meets CM Revanth

HYDERABAD

Renowned badminton player Kidambi Srikanth called on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at his Jubilee Hills residence in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The courtesy visit comes on the heels of Srikanth's impressive performance at the US Open (BWF Super 300) tournament, where he finished as the runner-up. During the interaction, the Chief Minister commended the Ace shuttler for his continued



contribution to Indian sports and wished him success in his upcoming international tournaments.



SJ Suryah's FL From Sardar 2: Dragon, Darkness & Swagger

Starring Karthi in the lead, Sardar 2 is the sequel to the blockbuster Sardar, which became a huge success across Tamil and Telugu. The film promises to expand the franchise with a bigger canvas, international action, and high-octane thrills. Directed by PS Mithran and produced by S Lakshman Kumar under Prince Pictures, the film has music by Sam CS. Sardar 2 is progressing with its shoot. The makers of Sardar 2 have dropped a massive surprise on the occasion of SJ Suryah's birthday, unveiling his striking first-look poster from the much-awaited spy action thriller. Along with introducing the versatile actor's character, the team has also officially confirmed that the film will hit cinemas worldwide on September 10. The birthday poster presents SJ Suryah in an ultra-stylish avatar. Dressed in a sharp navy-blue suit with



tinted sunglasses, he is seen descending a spiral staircase with unmatched confidence. The dimly lit backdrop featuring a gigantic dragon mural adds mystery and power to his presence, hinting at a formidable character with global connections. The sleek design and dark aesthetics perfectly

complement the espionage world created by director PS Mithran. With Karthi and SJ Suryah sharing screen space, expectations have soared for one of the biggest action entertainers of the year. The makers are expected to unveil more exciting updates in the coming days.

The India Story Reveals Powerful New Poster



The makers of The India Story have unveiled a striking new poster that intensifies the conversation around one of the country's most concerning public health issues pesticide farming. Starring Kajal Aggarwal and Shreyas Talpade, the latest poster offers a glimpse into the film's hard-hitting narrative while emphasizing the silent dangers associated with the excessive use of pesticides in agriculture. The newly released poster carries a strong visual message, reflecting the film's core theme of exposing the hidden risks that often go unnoticed in everyday food consumption. With an intense and thought-provoking design, the poster further builds anticipation for the film, which promises to blend compelling storytelling with a socially relevant subject. Kajal Aggarwal and Shreyas Talpade take center stage in a story that aims to raise awareness about an issue affecting millions across generations. Speaking about the film's message, Kajal Aggarwal said, "The India Story is a film that carries an important message for every household. What drew me to the project was its courage to address a subject that directly impacts our daily lives yet often goes unnoticed. I hope the film encourages audiences to think more deeply about the food they consume and the choices they make." Shreyas Talpade added, "This story is not just about farming practices; it is about the health and future of generations to come. The new poster reflects the urgency of the issue we are highlighting through the film. We wanted to be part of a project that sparks meaningful conversations, and I believe The India Story has the power to create that awareness among audiences." The India Story has already garnered significant attention for tackling the alarming impact of pesticide farming and its long-term consequences on human health. The film seeks to shed light on how harmful agricultural practices can silently affect present and future generations, encouraging audiences to question what ultimately reaches their plates. Through its powerful narrative, the film aims to spark meaningful discussions and drive greater awareness about food safety and public health. Presented by Zee Studios in association with MIG Production & Studios, The India Story is directed by Chettan DK and written and produced by Sagar B. Shinde. The film is slated for a worldwide theatrical release on July 24, 2026, and will arrive in theatres in Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil. The project is backed by co-producers Swati Vinayak Saindane, Anita Jadhav, Vinayak Saindane, Kalpesh Shah, Devyani Khorate, and Prem Joshi. The technical team includes cinematographer Nishant Bhagwat, music composer Mangesh Dhakde, editor Ashish Mhatre, lyricist Shakeel Azami, and sound designer Anmol Bhawe. With its powerful message and relevant subject matter, The India Story continues to build momentum ahead of its release.



'Hi' Heads to Theatres on Aug 14

The makers of Hi, starring Nayanthara and Kavin in their first on-screen collaboration, have officially announced that the family entertainer will release in theatres worldwide on August 14. The announcement was made through a special release date video. Directed by debutant Vishnu Edavan, the film also features K. Bhagyaraj, Prabhu, Radhika Sarathkumar, VTV Ganesh, and others in key roles. Produced by Zee Studios, Rowdy Pictures, and Seven Screen Studio, Hi has already created strong buzz after its first single received millions of views online. Describing the film, Vishnu Edavan said Hi is a warm, feel-good family entertainer filled with humour and emotions, set across Chennai, Coimbatore, and Pollachi. The film marks the director's debut after working with Lokesh Kanagaraj on films like Kaithi, Master, and Vikram. With its fresh pairing and family-friendly narrative, Hi is one of the most anticipated Tamil releases of the season.

Janakiram Trust Brings Joy to Kids

Guided by the belief that "The smiles of children are the true wealth of society," the Nandamuri Janakiram Trust organized a meaningful community service initiative at the Anganwadi Centre in Kondakal Village, reaffirming its commitment to the welfare and development of young children. Responding to a request from the Anganwadi teachers, the Trust donated chairs to provide a more comfortable learning environment for the children. As a gesture of love and care for their health and well-being, nutritious dry fruits were also distributed to all the children. Children are the foundation of a brighter future, and investing in their education, health, and overall well-being is a shared social responsibility. Every act of kindness towards them contributes to building a stronger and more compassionate society. On the occasion, Mrs. Nandamuri Deepika Janakiram personally participated in the service programme, handed over the chairs and dry fruits to the children, and spent time interacting with them. The joyful smiles and heartfelt blessings of the little ones made the initiative even more memorable. Speaking on the occasion, the Trust reiterated its commitment to serving society through meaningful initiatives that create a positive impact in the lives of children and underprivileged communities. With the motto, "Service is Our Commitment, Children's Welfare is Our Mission," the Nandamuri Janakiram Trust continues its journey of serving society under its guiding principle: "Seva Paramo Dharmah" (Service is the Highest Duty).



Jr NTR Is Always There For His Bala Babai!

Earlier today, Nandamuri Balakrishna sustained a minor injury while shooting for his ongoing NBK111 film under the direction of Gopichand Malineni. He was immediately taken to a nearby hospital and is currently recovering from this minor injury. Social media is loaded with posts with people, wishing Balayya a speedy recovery from this injury. And now it is the turn of Jr NTR to share his message on this incident. "Get well soon Bala Babai. Wishing you a speedy recovery and good health. Looking forward to seeing you roar back in full form..." NTR posted a few minutes back. For a long time now, there have been several murmurs and speculations about the strained relationship between Balakrishna and NTR. At the end of the day, blood runs thicker than water and this Babai-Abbai bonding is held reasonably tightly when a situation comes up. NTR had always fondly referred to Balakrishna as Bala Babai and he did the same while wishing his uncle today while he recovers from a minor leg injury he sustained while shooting for his film. On the other hand, Nandamuri Kalyanram had also shared a message for Balayya as he wrote "Get well soon Babai. Wishing you a speedy recovery. I'm sure you will be back in action in no time, doing what you love the most."

Award Glory for Eesha Rebba

Eesha Rebba is celebrating a big win after receiving the Best Actor award at the NEXA Indian Streaming Academy Awards 2026 for her role in the web series 3 Roses. The recognition marks a special moment in her career, honouring her strong performance in the popular OTT series. Sharing pictures from the star-studded evening, Eesha looked absolutely stunning in a

royal blue one-shoulder gown with intricate floral embroidery detailing on the shoulder, paired with soft curls, delicate earrings, and a diamond bracelet, as she proudly held her trophy. In another picture, she is seen in an elegant navy corset-style top with matching draped satin skirt, striking a confident pose. As of now, Eesha does not have any new movie announcements lined up after her recent release Om Shanti Shanti Shantihi failed to make a mark at the box office.



What Is the Toxic Team Really Trying to Sell?

With every new promotional asset, Toxic is generating discussion—but not necessarily for the reasons fans initially expected. The latest song from the Yash-starrer features Tara Sutaria in a romantic track packed with hugs, kisses, and sizzling chemistry clearly aimed at younger audiences. Much like the previously released song Tabahi, this track also leans heavily into bold romantic visuals. Even the tune carries a familiar vibe, making the similarities hard to ignore. Since both songs released so far have highlighted the same aspect of the film, it's only natural for viewers to wonder whether Toxic is relying more on bold content than on its action-packed narrative. The promotional material released till now has largely reinforced that perception. Director Geetu Mohandas took on the huge responsibility of helming a pan-India film of this scale, and many initially questioned whether she could handle such a massive project. The teaser managed to ease some of those concerns, but fans are waiting for the trailer to get a complete picture of what the film has to offer. One of the biggest talking points surrounding Toxic is

the speculation that Yash will be seen in a dual role, reportedly playing both father and son. The teaser has already dropped enough hints, raising huge expectations about the face-off between the two characters. However, the makers have yet to reveal visuals that showcase this much-awaited conflict. The film's promotional strategy has also become a topic of discussion. Instead of highlighting the action, emotional drama, or larger storyline, the team appears to be focusing primarily on the romantic and sensual side of Yash's character. Whether this approach will ultimately benefit the film remains to be seen. Toxic is a film that largely rides on Yash's star power. While Geetu Mohandas is respected as a filmmaker, she does not carry the kind of commercial market or mass image that typically drives a big-budget pan-India release. That may explain why the announcement of this combination did not create overwhelming excitement initially. For the director, this project represents the biggest challenge of her career. Meanwhile, the business deals for Toxic, which is scheduled to release on August 26, are gradually being finalized.

Ruhani Sharma Serves Denim Chic In NYC

Ruhani Sharma is currently exploring New York City in style, and her recent pictures are giving major travel fashion goals. In her New York diaries, she was seen in a chic denim vest paired with a flowy white maxi skirt, along with sunglasses and gold hoop earrings, giving off an easy, breezy summer look. She was also spotted enjoying a fun tech moment, trying out a VR headset at an Apple Store, adding a playful touch to her trip. The city's iconic streets and buildings made a perfect backdrop for her candid clicks. On the work front, Ruhani was last seen in the Tamil film Mask, playing the role of Radhi opposite Kavin, directed by Vetrimaaran's team. Unfortunately, the film did not perform well at the box office. As of now, Ruhani seems to be taking a relaxed break, enjoying her time exploring New York City, away from the big screen.

