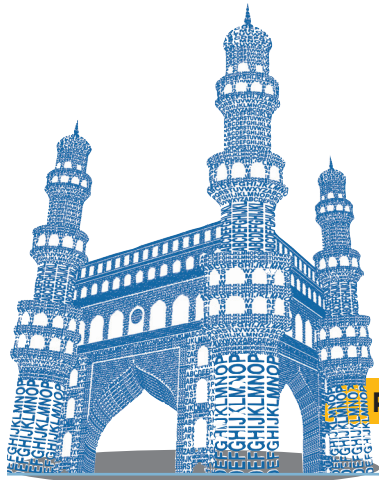




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Democracy is Strengthened by Dialogue..

OPINION

06

They Risked Their Future for Telangana..

SPECIAL

02



Student Organisations Call Bandh on July 24

Hyderabad, July 22: The Telangana unit of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), along with the Students' Federation of India (SFI), All India Students' Federation (AISF), Progressive Democratic Students Union (PDSU), AIFDS, AISB, AIPSU and several other Left-affiliated student organisations, has called for a statewide bandh of educational institutions on Friday (July 24).

The student organisations said the bandh is being organised to protest the alleged lathicharge on students in Delhi during demonstrations over the NEET issue, the detention of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and what they described as the Union Government's anti-student approach to education.

NSUI Telangana State president Yadavalli Venkataswamy said the

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CM CONDEMNS THE BRUTAL ATTACK ON CONGRESS LEADERS

❖ **for staging a protest against NEET paper leak**

❖ **Rahul Ganzhi's blood spilt on the ground**

❖ **The Centre is trampling upon constitutional rights**

❖ **Why attack students instead of punishing the accused?**

❖ **Why does the BJP have such an affinity for KTR's benami (proxy) entity?**

❖ **PM Modi and Dharmendra are plundering the country**

❖ **Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Kodangal protest**

❖ **Takes out massive protest rally to Ambedkar Crossroads**



KODANGAL, JULY 22

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy strongly condemned the Central Government's attitude towards Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, who stood in support of students protesting against the NEET paper leak.

The Chief Minister questioned whether peaceful protests warrant such brutal attacks. The CM participated in a massive protest rally held in

Kodangal in protest against the Centre's stance and the police's brutality.

CM Revanth Reddy criticized the BJP government for jeopardising students' futures through the NEET paper leak. The BJP leaders in states where the party is in power are playing with students' lives by selling questioned papers, the Chief Minister charged. The CM noted that political parties across the spectrum supported the

students' protest at Jantar Mantar, demanding the Union Minister's resignation.

CM Revanth Reddy questioned the centre's reluctance to remove Dharmendra Pradhan from the union cabinet and arresting those responsible for the NEET leak. The police assault on students is unwarranted. It was unfortunate that girl students, women and youth received

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Dharmendra Pradhan Must Resign

The Modi government has destroyed the education system - Rahul Gandhi



152 paper leaks in the last 10 years

***Repeated exam paper leaks have affected 7.5 crore students**

NEW DELHI, JULY 22

Rahul Gandhi said that although 152 exam paper leaks have occurred over the past 10 years, not a single person has been punished. He alleged that the government is failing India's students.

Wearing a black armband in protest against the police action on SJPY protesters, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said that the country's education system has become fraudulent, forcing millions of students and their families to pay the price. He added that India's education system, once regarded as one of the best in the world, has now turned into a system riddled with fraud.

Questioning the police action against students demanding accountability in

the conduct of examinations and calling for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Rahul Gandhi asked, "What is the fault of our students? Why are the security forces pointing weapons at them, beating them, and humiliating them?" He said that Dharmendra Pradhan should be removed from office because he is unfit to continue as Education Minister.

His remarks came a day after Delhi Police detained him while he was staging a protest near Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence against the police action on SJPY protesters demanding Pradhan's resignation over the alleged NEET paper leak. Visuals from the protest showed police personnel dragging Rahul Gandhi away, with

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Opposition Protests in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha

Congress demands Pradhan's resignation over the NEET paper leak
Centre says it is ready for a discussion on NEET

New Delhi, July 22: The government on Wednesday reiterated that it is prepared to hold a discussion in Parliament on the alleged NEET-UG paper leak and related issues. However, it accused the Congress of avoiding the debate by imposing preconditions. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, the government said it is ready to discuss the NEET issue, but alleged that the Congress is creating fresh conditions instead of allowing the debate to proceed.

On the third day of the Monsoon Ses-

sion, repeated disruptions caused by protests from opposition members in both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha forced multiple adjournments of the proceedings. Although the government maintained that it is willing to discuss the matter, the opposition, led by Congress President and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, made it clear that no discussion would take place until Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigns.

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ACCUSED IPS TRAINEE DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL

Hyderabad, July 22:

A significant development has taken place in the sexual harassment case involving a woman trainee IPS officer. Trainee IPS officer Uday Krishna Reddy, who is accused of sexually harassing a fellow trainee, was discharged from hospital on Wednesday.

Reddy had allegedly attempted suicide three days ago amid the controversy surrounding the case. After undergoing treatment for three days, he was discharged. However, while leaving the hospital, he declined to comment on the allegations against him.

El Niño Preparedness COMMITTEE MEETS

HYDERABAD, JULY 22

Concerned over the growing impact of El Niño and climate change, the Telangana Government on Wednesday convened the first meeting of its 27-member multidisciplinary State Expert Committee at Praja Bhavan to formulate a comprehensive contingency plan for agriculture and allied sectors.

The meeting, chaired by Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, focused on assessing the impact of the prevailing El Niño conditions, strengthening climate preparedness, and recommending mitigation and



adaptation measures.

The committee comprises representatives from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), ICRIASAT, ICAR-CRIDA, NABARD, agricultural, horticultural and veterinary universities, the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Indian Institute of

Oilseeds Research (IIOR), MARKFED, OILFED, National Seeds Corporation, Telangana State Seed Development Corporation and various government departments and research institutions.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Chinna Reddy said

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Centre Greenlights 8 LMT Rice Procurement

HYDERABAD, JULY 22

In a significant decision aimed at safeguarding farmers' interests, the Union government has approved the procurement of additional paddy from Telangana.

The Centre has given the green signal to increase the procurement target by 8 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of rice equivalent for the Rabi marketing season. With this revision, the Centre has fixed the rice procurement target from Telangana at 43 LMT, up from the earlier estimate of 35 LMT. Meanwhile, Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay welcomed the Centre's decision to procure additional rice from Telangana.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy said the decision reflected the Union government's com-



mitment to protecting the interests of Telangana's farmers and was taken in response to representations made by BJP public representatives from the state. He recalled that ahead of the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025-26, the Centre and the Telangana government had jointly decided, in the presence of officials from both governments, to procure 35 LMT of rice, equivalent to 52 LMT of paddy, from the state.

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ACB Books REDCO Engineer in DA Case

Assets Worth ₹ 27.65 Crore Unearthed



HYDERABAD, JULY 22

The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a disproportionate assets (DA) case against Mutyam Venkata Ramana, Divisional Engineer of the Renewable Energy Development Corporation (REDCO), for allegedly amassing wealth far beyond his known sources of income through corrupt practices during his government service.

The case was registered by the ACB's City Range-2 unit under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Acting on credible information, ACB officials conducted simultaneous searches on Wednesday at Ramana's residence, office and seven other locations linked to his relatives, associates and alleged benamidars.

During the raids, officials unearthed assets worth ₹27.65 crore, including four residential flats at Serilingampally and Kukatpally valued at ₹1.23 crore, a G+3 commercial

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CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER

They Risked Their Future for Telangana.. TODAY THEY SEEK A FUTURE IN TELANGANA

Hyderabad, July 22, 2026: A powerful and emotional account of JNTUH's role in the Telangana Statehood movement was presented before the Telangana Movement Activists Recognition Committee at the Telangana Martyrs' Memorial Building on Tuesday. Telangana activist, lyricist and poet Dr. Rajesh Khanna Bhoothkuri, who attended the meeting on behalf of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad, submitted an 80-page detailed report explaining the contribution of JNTUH students, teaching staff, non-teaching staff, contract employees and outsourcing workers in the struggle for a separate Telangana State.

The meeting was held under the leadership of leaders Dr. Keshava Rao, Prof. Kodandaram Reddy and other committee members. Speaking at the meeting, Dr. Rajesh Khanna said the report was prepared with documents, incidents, names and evidence to ensure that the sacrifices made by JNTUH Telangana movement activists are not forgotten. He said the Telangana movement inside JNTUH was not an easy journey, but a struggle built with courage, pain, unity and self-respect.

Dr. Rajesh Khanna explained that before 2008, when JNTU was a combined university, students, teachers and non-teaching employees from the Telangana region faced discrimination and injustice. He said that even after JNTUH was formed in 2008, the problems did not fully end. According to him, the presence and dominance of employees who came from JNTUA and JNTUK continued to affect Telangana students and staff, and this increased the feeling of discrimination inside the university.

He said that when the second phase of the Telangana movement began around 2008-09, the situation in JNTUH was extremely difficult. At that time, even saying the words "Jai Telangana" was discouraged

JNTUH Telangana activists submit an 80-page report seeking official recognition, jobs, dignity and justice for their sacrifices in the Statehood movement.

and opposed. He stated that many students in the technical university did not initially have enough awareness about why a separate Telangana State was needed. From such a situation, JNTUH activists built the movement step by step and took it forward with coordination until Telangana State was achieved.

Recalling the beginning of the movement in JNTUH, Dr. Rajesh Khanna said that the first important meeting was held in 2009 at the Spandana Building Seminar Hall in the University College of Engineering, Hyderabad, under the chairmanship of Dr. Vinay Babu. He said that Dr. Eshwar Prasad, Dr. G.N. Srinivas, Dr. Narasimha Reddy, Dr. Balunaik, Dr. Rajesh Khanna, Dr. Srinivasa Reddy and other teaching staff participated in the early efforts. Non-teaching employees such as Yadagiri, Damodar Reddy, Balaraju and Madhava Reddy, along with students, contract employees and outsourcing workers, also became part of the first group that laid the foundation for the Telangana movement in JNTUH.

He emotionally recalled that when they tried to raise the Telangana voice in the university, the authorities, government and police stopped them from even saying "Jai Telangana." He said that Prof. Jayashankar, along with several others, was arrested and taken to the police station. Dr. Rajesh Khanna said those moments showed the level of pressure faced by Telangana supporters, but they also gave the activists more strength to continue the movement.

After that, he said, JNTUH became an active centre of the Telangana struggle. Students such as Mohan Chari, Damodar, Karunakar Reddy, Appala Srikanth, Venkateshwarlu, Srinu Naik, Bikshapathi



and many others took part in different programmes. Non-teaching employees such as Shankar Yadav, Ravikumar and Venkatesh also stood with the movement. He said the struggle was not limited to the main campus, as affiliated colleges in Jagtial, Manthani and Sultanpur also played an important role with the participation of faculty members such as Dr. Narasimha, Dr. Satyanarayana, Dr. Jagadish and many students.

Dr. Rajesh Khanna also highlighted the contribution of students from JNTUH private and affiliated colleges. He said activists such as Swamy Patel, Talapally Surrender, Shashidhar and others helped spread the Telangana movement among engineering students and youth. He stated that contract and outsourcing employees also joined the movement with great hope and commitment, even though they had no job security and faced personal risks.

He told the committee that many people who fought for Telangana did so with the belief that a separate State would bring justice, dignity and better lives. However,

he said that several student activists who participated in the movement are still unemployed or working in private jobs with very low salaries. He requested the government to recognize their sacrifices and provide them government jobs based on their qualifications. If needed, he said, special supernumerary posts should be created to give employment to genuine JNTUH Telangana student activists.

Dr. Rajesh Khanna also made a strong appeal for JNTUH contract and outsourcing employees who actively participated in the Telangana movement. He said they joined the struggle with the hope that their lives would improve after Telangana was formed. He requested that such employees be recognized as permanent employees from June 2, 2014, the day Telangana State was formed, and that all eligible benefits should be given to them. He said supernumerary posts may also be created for them if necessary.

He further said that many regular teaching and non-teaching employees who participated in the movement received Telangana increments and promotions, but

proper representation in JNTUH administrative posts is still lacking. He alleged that the dominance of non-Telangana employees in administration has not fully ended and requested that Telangana activists and local employees be given rightful representation in university administration.

Dr. Rajesh Khanna appreciated that after the present government came to power, several professors were given opportunities as Vice-Chancellors, TGPSC members and members of various education-related committees. However, he requested that this representation should be increased further. He said the experience, commitment and public spirit of those who participated in the Telangana movement should be used in public administration and educational governance.

He also requested that student activists and faculty activists who led the movement from the front should be given nominated posts and advisory positions. He said the government should consider appointing such activists as government advisors and giving them opportunities as MLCs under local bodies or Governor quota. He also said that, in view of the coming delimitation of constituencies, political parties in both ruling and opposition camps should provide opportunities to genuine Telangana movement activists to contest as MLAs and MPs.

Making an emotional statement before the committee, Dr. Rajesh Khanna said that there is no greater honour in life than being recognized as a Telangana activist. He requested the government to issue official "Telangana Movement Activist Recognition Certificates" to those who genuinely participated in the struggle. He said such recognition would give respect not only to individuals, but also to the history of the movement itself.

The 80-page report submitted by Dr. Rajesh Khanna includes detailed information about how the Telangana movement

was organized in JNTUH, the role of students and employees, the challenges they faced, the arrests and restrictions, and the sacrifices made by different sections of the university community. The report also contains practical recommendations on state-level honour for JNTUH activists, government jobs for student activists, regularization of contract and outsourcing employees, public opportunities for student and faculty leaders, use of regular staff experience in governance, and digital preservation of JNTUH's Telangana movement history.

Dr. Rajesh Khanna said that the history of the Telangana movement in JNTUH should be preserved in digital form so that future generations can understand how students, teachers and employees of a technical university contributed to the creation of Telangana State. He said this history belongs not only to JNTUH, but to the entire Telangana society.

He informed the committee that he and the student leaders are ready to submit all documents, proofs and details related to JNTUH Telangana movement activists whenever required. He said they would fully cooperate with the committee in identifying genuine activists and presenting evidence. According to Dr. Rajesh Khanna, the committee responded positively to the issues raised and the recommendations submitted.

The meeting once again brought forward the emotional truth that Telangana was not achieved by leaders alone. It was achieved through the courage of students, the commitment of employees, the pain of families and the sacrifices of countless ordinary people who stood for self-respect. For JNTUH activists, the demand is simple but deeply meaningful: their struggle should be officially recognized, their sacrifices should be honoured, and their rightful place in Telangana's history should be protected.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1 CM CONDEMNS THE BRUTAL ATTACK ON CONGRESS LEADERS Pradhan Must Resign....

FROM PAGE 1
head injuries in the police attack. Dozens of students had also gone missing, raising questions about whether they had been taken away or kidnapped.

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi staged a protest outside the Prime Minister's residence in support of the students, and criticized the brutal treatment meted out to them while they were protesting peacefully. Rahul Gandhi also injured, the Chief Minister said that shedding blood for the country was nothing new for the Gandhi family. The CM highlighted the Congress party's history of fighting against British Colonial rule in India. Indira Gandhi's family is a role model for the country who sacrificed their lives.

CM Revanth Reddy recalled that Rajiv Gandhi had laid down his life for the country's unity, even though his body was torn apart in a bomb blast. Despite being in power for ten years, Sonia Gandhi never assumed the role of Prime Minister or even a ministerial position. The Chief Minister praised Sonia Gandhi as a role model who demonstrated a spirit of sacrifice by appointing Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister. Even while in the opposition, Sonia Gandhi appointed Kharge as the Leader of the Opposition rather than taking up any official posts herself. The CM criticized PM Modi for not allowing a debate on NEET paper leak in the Parliament. The Chief Minister asserted that the right to protest is a fundamental right guaranteed by Ambedkar's Constitution in a democracy.

"PM MODI AND DHARMENDRA PRADHAN ARE LOOTING THE COUNTRY"
CM Revanth Reddy blasted PM Modi and Dharmendra Pradhan, alleging that they colluded to loot the country. The Chief Minister recalled that in 2019, when the BRS was in power in Telangana, 'Globarena'—a proxy company linked to KTR—committed irregularities in the Intermediate examination results, leading to the loss of 27 students'

lives. KTR awarded the project to Globarena due to political pressure, despite the company lacking the necessary experience and qualifications. After the people's government came to power, Globarena rebranded itself as 'Coempt Education' and approached the Central government. KTR facilitated the contract for them through the Delhi BJP leadership. Emboldened by conducting the NEET exam, they felt confident enough to engage in fraud. The CM condemned the Central government's attitude, noting that students protested against irregularities in the CBSE and the NEET paper leak, yet instead of removing Dharmendra Pradhan from his post, the authorities cracked down on the students, causing injuries.

The CM warned that the Congress party would not remain a silent spectator while Narendra and Dharmendra looted the nation. CM Revanth Reddy affirmed that the Congress party is ready to fight against Modi while standing firmly with the students and the youth. The CM called upon party cadres to unite, fight to oust Modi from power, and ensure Rahul Gandhi becomes the Prime Minister.

"MASSIVE RALLY TO AMBEDKAR CROSSROADS"

A massive protest rally was held in Kodangal under the leadership of CM Revanth Reddy. The rally led by CM strongly condemned the police assault on students at Delhi's Jantar Mantar.

After reviewing the SIR at his residence in Kodangal in the morning, the Chief Minister took out on a rally to Ambedkar Crossroads alongside party leaders and activists. Accompanied by MLAs and local leaders, the CM walked to Ambedkar Crossroads in a massive procession, carrying a banner featuring images related to the attack on Rahul Gandhi. The CM paid floral tributes to the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Congress MLAs Rammohan Reddy and Manohar Reddy, Chairpersons of various corporations, important constituency leaders, and a large number of Congress cadres participated in the protest rally.

FROM PAGE 1
blood reportedly visible coming from his nose. Defending the protest, Gandhi said the focus should not be on how the police treated him but on the students. He said the Prime Minister should at least have the decency to apologize to the students. "I do not care how I was treated. The students are protesting peacefully and asking for nothing more than a fair education system. They are only demanding what this country owes them. They deserve an education system that works for them and is fair—but they do not have one," he said.

Rahul Gandhi further stated that repeated exam paper leaks have placed students under immense stress and that some, after studying for years, have even died by suicide. "Children

have died by suicide. Students go through tremendous pressure, only to be told at the last moment that the question paper has been leaked. This is no longer an isolated problem—it has become a serious national crisis," he said. He also alleged that repeated exam paper leaks have affected nearly 75 million students and their families, most of whom belong to middle-class and economically weaker households. Families spend their hard-earned money on their children's education, only to see their hopes shattered. "Someone, or a group of people, is destroying India's education system—one of the country's most valuable assets—and ruining the lives of our students. Yet the government has failed to ensure punishment in even a single case," Rahul Gandhi said.

Opposition Protests in the Lok Sabha..
FROM PAGE 1
Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju rejected the opposition's allegation that the Centre was trying to evade accountability. He said the government has been willing to discuss the issue ever since the Monsoon Session began. After the government agreed to a discussion on the

Centre Greenlights 8 LMT Rice..
FROM PAGE 1
Considering the higher paddy production expected in Telangana this season, Kishan Reddy said that he, along with BJP MPs and MLAs from the state, met Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi on July 8 and urged him to enhance the rice procurement target for Telangana. Responding positively to the

FROM PAGE 1
protest is aimed at defending students' democratic rights and expressing solidarity with students agitating across the country. He alleged that the detention of Rahul Gandhi while supporting protesting students reflected an attack on democratic values and the constitutional right to

peaceful protest. He appealed to government and private educational institutions, students, teachers and citizens across Telangana to extend support to the bandh. He also directed NSUI leaders and activists at the State, district, university, Assembly and college levels to coordinate with other student

organisations to ensure the bandh is conducted peacefully. Describing the agitation as a movement to safeguard students' rights and protect the education system, Venkataswamy urged students across the State to participate in large numbers and make the July 24 educational institutions bandh a success.

ACB BOOKS REDCO ENGINEER IN DA CASE
FROM PAGE 1
building in Kukatpally worth ₹1.82 crore, and a G+5 commercial building in Gut-tala Begumpet valued at over ₹2.90 crore. The searches also led to the seizure of bank deposits worth ₹52.02 lakh, 2,094 grams of gold ornaments valued at around ₹40 lakh, three vehicles worth ₹45 lakh, household articles and electronic gadgets valued at ₹30 lakh, besides 20 liquor bottles worth approximately ₹2.5 lakh. The ACB stated that the actual market value of the immovable properties is likely to be much higher than their registered value. Investigators further found that Ramana had allegedly

invested in the construction business through four firms registered in his wife's name. He is also suspected to have invested nearly ₹20 crore in constructing 10 residential apartments at Anjaneya Nagar in Moosapet. Ramana was produced before the Special Court for SPE and ACB Cases in Hyderabad.

Congress, BJP workers clash near Gandhi Bhavan

HYDERABAD, JULY 22
Political tensions flared in Hyderabad on Wednesday as Congress and BJP workers clashed near Gandhi Bhavan, triggering a major law-and-order situation.

The confrontation erupted after BJP workers attempted to march towards Gandhi Bhavan in response to Congress protests held since the morning against the arrest of Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Tuesday. Workers from both parties allegedly engaged in physi-

cal altercations and attacked each other, creating a tense atmosphere. As the situation spiralled out of control, police intervened and resorted to a lathi charge to disperse the rival groups and restore order. Earlier in the day, BJP leaders and workers, led by Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao, began a march from the party's State office in Nampally towards Gandhi Bhavan as part of a protest against the Congress government. Police stopped the procession before it could proceed, leading to heated arguments

and jostling between BJP workers and security personnel. Police later detained Ramchander Rao along with several senior BJP leaders and shifted them to a police station. Following the detentions, BJP workers staged a sit-in protest on the road, raising slogans against the Congress government and condemning the police action. The protest caused severe traffic congestion in the Nampally area, prompting the deployment of additional police personnel around the BJP State office to maintain law and order.

El Niño Preparedness..

FROM PAGE 1
Telangana is experiencing unusual weather during the southwest monsoon, with the State recording a 30 per cent rainfall deficit from June 1 to date. While 10 districts received normal rainfall, 23 districts are facing deficient rainfall, raising concerns over agriculture and water availability.

He explained that El Niño develops when sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean remain at least 0.5°C above normal for several months, weakening the southwest monsoon over India. The current rainfall deficit, he noted, is primarily linked to the prevailing El Niño conditions.

Dr. Chinnna Reddy said district-and mandal-level data on rainfall, weather and crop coverage had been compiled to support scientific assessment and evidence-based policy decisions. He recalled that the State Cabinet, during its meeting on July 17, directed the constitution of the expert committee to recommend suitable measures to tackle the emerging climate situation. Stressing the need for sustainable resource management, he said environmental imbalance ultimately affects human life and called for responsible use of natural resources. He expressed confidence that scientific planning, co-ordinated governance and public participation would help the State effectively address climate-related challenges.

During the meeting, experts presented detailed analyses on El Niño, La Niña, the Oceanic Niño Index, sea surface temperature changes, the Indian Ocean Dipole

and their influence on rainfall and seasonal weather patterns. They also reviewed Telangana's historical rainfall trends, delayed monsoon onset, intra-seasonal dry spells and IMD forecasts.

The committee recommended promoting climate-resilient agriculture through scientific crop planning, crop diversification, intercropping, drought-tolerant varieties, low water-consuming crops such as millets, efficient irrigation practices and strengthened advisory services for farmers. It also stressed integrated water resource management, groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting and improved water storage infrastructure.

Irrigation Secretary E. Sridhar informed the committee that reservoir inflows in both the Godavari and Krishna river basins remain significantly below normal. He called for close monitoring of rainfall in Maharashtra and Karnataka, which directly influences water availability in Telangana, and stressed careful reservoir management to meet drinking water and irrigation needs.

Highlighting the energy sector, Special Chief Secretary (Energy) Naveen Mittal warned of reduced hydropower generation, rising electricity demand and possible power shortages. He recommended power conservation, greater adoption of solar energy and an integrated energy management strategy.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Vinay Kumar emphasized the role of forests and river catchments in maintaining climate stability and water security. He cautioned that prolonged drought

and rising temperatures could adversely affect forest ecosystems and wildlife, potentially increasing human-wildlife conflict.

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Commissioner Divya Devarajan advocated strengthening climate resilience in rural areas through rainwater harvesting, farm ponds, community water conservation structures and horticulture promotion.

Agriculture Director Gopi said uneven rainfall and declining groundwater levels—down by nearly one metre compared to last year—are expected to alter cropping patterns. Paddy cultivation is likely to decline, while acreage under pulses, oilseeds, millets and vegetables is expected to increase. He said district-specific crop advisories are being issued to help farmers adapt.

IMD scientist Dr. Stella warned that El Niño is likely to intensify from moderate to severe levels in the coming months. With the Indian Ocean Dipole expected to remain neutral, she said there is little possibility of offsetting El Niño's impact. She cautioned that Telangana may continue to receive below-normal rainfall during the remainder of the southwest monsoon and warned of harsher summer conditions and increased water scarcity if the phenomenon persists. Senior officials, scientists, university vice-chancellors, representatives of research institutions and members of the Farmer Commission attended the meeting and discussed coordinated strategies to strengthen Telangana's preparedness against climate-related challenges.



People had no access to govt during BRS rule: Ponguleti

HYDERABAD

Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy alleged that during the 10-year rule of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), people had no opportunity to present their grievances to the government, and even Ministers were inaccessible to the public.

The Minister participated in the 'Prajalatho Mukhamukhi' (Face-to-face with the public) programme at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, where he received petitions from the people. He issued on-the-spot directions to district collectors to address several grievances.

Addressing a press conference later, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that following the formation of the Congress government, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had directed that one Cabinet Minister interact with the public every week to hear and resolve their problems.

He said that a majority of the petitions received during Wednesday's programme were related to housing.

The Minister said people were hopeful that their dream of owning a house would be



fulfilled under the present government. In line with those aspirations, the government has sanctioned a total of seven lakh houses, in which 4.5 lakh in the first phase and 2.5 lakh in the second phase, he said.

The Minister said the government was constructing Indiramma Towers by treating each Assembly constituency as a unit, with the objective of enabling poor families to live in the places where they were born and raised. He said the houses being constructed would be worth between ₹40

lakh and ₹1 crore, and beneficiaries would also receive a share in the land on which the apartments are built.

"The government is implementing the Indiramma Towers project on a pilot basis in 16 Assembly constituencies. Those who had previously applied for Indiramma houses were advised to submit fresh applications through MeeSeva, WhatsApp, or the official website for consideration under the new scheme," he said. The Minister also assured that all land-related applications that could be resolved would

be addressed by the government. Condemning the Centre's handling of protests over the alleged NEET examination paper leak, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the lathi-charge on youth who were peacefully protesting in New Delhi, as well as on Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi, reflected the Union government's "authoritarian attitude." He demanded the immediate resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the issue.

UoH announces walk-in interviews for 3 TGT posts HYDERABAD

The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has invited applications for three Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT) posts on a contractual basis for its Campus School. The vacancies include Social Studies (OBC), Physical and Health Education (EWS) and Art Education (EWS), each carrying a consolidated salary of Rs.45,000 per month.

The appointments are for five months, up to December 26, 2026 subject to vacation breaks. Eligible candidates must report for the walk-in interview on July 30 between 9 am and 10 am at the UoH Campus School with the prescribed application forms and original certificates. Candidates arriving late will not be entertained.

The University said Unreserved (UR) candidates may be considered if suitable candidates are unavailable in the reserved categories. No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.

For further details, interested candidates are advised to visit the official university website at www.uohyd.ac.in. For any further clarification, through email principaluh@uohyd.ac.in or contact 040-23132700 / 2701. (NSS)

Attack on BJP office a dark day for democracy: BJP MLAs

HYDERABAD

BJP MLAs Palvai Harish Babu and Paidi Rakesh Reddy on Wednesday strongly condemned the alleged attack on the BJP's State office by Congress leaders and workers, describing the incident as "a dark day for democracy".

Speaking at a press conference at the BJP State office in Nampally, Sirpur MLA Palvai Harish Babu alleged that Congress leaders resorted to violence in front of BJP office while the police remained passive. He accused Congress MLC Venkat Balmoor and his supporters of attacking the BJP office.

Harish Babu further alleged that while BJP leaders heading towards Gandhi Bhavan were arrested and detained, the police allowed Congress workers to reach the BJP office without obstruction. He claimed the attack was premeditated, alleging that stones had been stockpiled in advance. He also stated that a journalist, Praveen, sustained serious injuries during the incident. He demanded that police register cases under Section 307 (attempt to murder) against MLC Venkat Balmoor and those allegedly involved in the attack.

Referring to the Congress party's protests in New Delhi,



Harish Babu criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he was engaging in inconsistent politics by staging protests near the Prime Minister's residence despite the Centre's willingness to discuss the NEET issue in Parliament. He also alleged that forces opposed to the government had united under Rahul Gandhi's leadership to weaken the country.

Armour MLA Paidi Rakesh Reddy criticised Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, alleging that the Congress was attempting to create confusion among students and unemployed youth for political gain. In fact, the Central Government had acted promptly to address alleged irregularities

in the NEET examination and was taking stringent measures to safeguard students' interests, he claimed and criticised "anti-national forces" and Left organisations for allegedly raising divisive slogans during protests instead of offering constructive solutions.

Rakesh Reddy said issues concerning NEET should be debated in Parliament rather than taken to the streets. Reiterating the BJP's commitment to its "Nation First, Party Next" principle, he appealed to students and unemployed youth not to be misled by the Congress party's political rhetoric and assured them that the Narendra Modi-led Central Government remained committed to protecting their interests.



Vivek launches ₹16.53-crore civic works in Ameenpur

HYDERABAD

Minister for Labour, Employment, Training & Factories and Mines, Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy, said the State government is giving top priority to strengthening civic infrastructure in the Ameenpur area of Sangareddy district.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for development works worth ₹16.53 crore to be undertaken in the municipality on Wednesday.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the government is committed to providing all essential infrastructure required for the rapidly growing urban area in a phased manner. He said the proposed works, including CC roads, underground drainage (UGD), storm water drains, development of the crematorium, and construction of central medians, would significantly improve the quality of life for residents.

Vivek Venkatswamy said the government has prepared a comprehensive development plan to transform Ameenpur into one of the model urban

local bodies in the State. He assured that if officials submit proposals for priority development works based on public needs, the government would sanction additional funds to ensure their timely execution.

The Minister said the State government is implementing both infrastructure development and welfare programmes with equal emphasis in urban areas. He added that every eligible family would benefit from schemes such as new ration cards, free electricity up to 200 units, distribution of fine rice, and construction of Indiramma LIG houses.

Reviewing preparedness in view of the possible impact of El Niño, the Minister directed officials to take proactive measures to ensure there is no shortage of drinking water. He instructed them to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the coming year and assured that additional funds would be released, if required, to meet future needs. The programme was attended by TGIIC Chairman Nirmala Jagga Reddy, MLC Anji Reddy, public representatives, and senior officials.

Advice to Elders: All discomforts are not diseases!!

HYDERABAD

"You are not sick, you are aging. Many conditions you consider illness are not. They are signs that your body is aging. Many of the illnesses need not be taken seriously and you need not worry unnecessary"-this is the advice and assurance given by medical professionals to the senior citizens.

Following are some of the tips

given to the elderly people: Poor memory is not Alzheimer's; it is brain aging, not a disease. If you forget where you put your keys, but you can find them yourself, it is not dementia. Walking slowly and having unsteady legs and feet is not paralysis, but muscle degeneration. The solution is not to take medicine, but to move constantly. Insomnia is not an illness, it is brain adjusting it's rhythm- a change in sleeping



pattern. Do not take sleeping pills. The best medicine for elderly people to get restful sleep is to get more sun during the day, and maintaining a regular sleep schedule.

Exercise is cure

Body aches and pains are not rheumatism, but a normal reaction to the aging of nervous system. Bones do loosen and thin, but 99 per cent of the body aches

and pains are not a disease, but rather slow nerve conduction that amplifies the pain. Exercise is the cure, not medication. Aging is not a disease, it is an inevitable journey that we should enjoy while we still can.

Don't be intimidated by the physical examination reports or misled by advertising. Aging is not the enemy, but stagnation is - stay Healthy, say medical professionals

KCR Pays Tribute on the Birth Anniversary of Dasarathi

■ Let us carry forward the spirit of protecting Telangana's identity inspired by Dasarathi — KCR

HYDERABAD

On the birth anniversary of poet and writer Dasarathi Krishnamacharyulu, who raised his voice and wielded his pen during the Telangana Armed Peasant Struggle, BRS President K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) paid rich tributes to him and remembered his invaluable contributions.

KCR praised Dasarathi as a champion of Telangana's identity who, even while imprisoned behind jail walls, roared with the immortal words, "My Telangana, the Veena of a Crore Gems" (Nā Telangana Koti Ratnāla Vīa).

Recalling Dasarathi Krishnamacharyulu's sacrifices and



his literary struggle for the protection of Telangana's identity, KCR said that the then BRS government had officially celebrated his birth anniversary every year and instituted a literary award in his name in recognition of his contributions. KCR stated that, at a time when Telangana's identity is under threat, the inspiration provided by Dasarathi Krishnamacharyulu—a literary warrior who challenged even rulers in defense of Telangana's self-respect and identity—is the need of the hour for Telangana society.

TOMCOM ties up with Career Consultz for safe global job placements

HYDERABAD

Minister for Labour, Employment, Training, Factories, and Mines, Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy, who also serves as Chairman of the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM), formally handed over the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) executed between TOMCOM and Career Consultz.

The pact was signed by TOMCOM Managing Director A. Nirmala Kanthi Wesley and Career Consultz CEO Meneni Rohith Rao. The collaboration highlights the Telangana government's commitment to expanding transparent, legal, and ethical employment pathways abroad for skilled youth across the state.

The collaboration will initially focus on employment opportunities in Japan, Germany, South Ko-



rea, Finland, Italy, and Norway. As part of the partnership, Career Consultz, a leading international career advisory and overseas employment organisation, will work closely with TOMCOM to identify, train, and prepare candidates for overseas careers. The organ-

isation will provide comprehensive support, including career counselling, language training, interview preparation, documentation, visa assistance, overseas placements, and post-arrival support. TOMCOM, an undertaking of the government of Telangana,

continues to play a pivotal role in connecting skilled youth with quality international employment opportunities through workforce development initiatives and strategic global partnerships.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives of Career Consultz expressed their commitment to supporting TOMCOM's vision of responsible and ethical international workforce mobility. Both TOMCOM and Career Consultz expressed confidence that the partnership would open up new global career opportunities for thousands of aspiring youth from Telangana. The event was attended by Manakondur MLA Kavvampally Satyanarayana, TOMCOM General Manager Nagabharathi, TOMCOM officers Shabana and Anil, Japanese delegate Sayuri Matsuno, and senior officials and staff of Career Consultz.

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KTR Writes to CM Revanth Seeking Clarity on Congress Government's Stand on Revival of Adilabad CCI Plant

- Says revival of CCI is crucial for Adilabad's industrial future and livelihoods of thousands
- Reveals Union Minister indicated revival is possible if Telangana contributes Rs. 250 crore
- Alleges delay is due to Congress government's lack of initiative over the past two-and-a-half years
- Reminds CM of his election promise to revive the Adilabad CCI plant
- Seeks answers to six key questions on the State government's commitment

HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) has written an open letter to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy demanding that the Congress government immediately clarify its official stand on the revival of the Cement Corporation of India (CCI) plant in Adilabad.

In his letter, KTR stated that the revival of the Adilabad CCI plant is not merely an industrial issue but one that concerns the livelihoods of thousands of families, the industrial future of Adilabad district and the overall economic development of Telangana.

Referring to the BRS delegation's recent visit to New Delhi along with representatives of the CCI Sadhana Samithi, KTR said they met Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on July 15 and submitted a representation seeking revival of the Adilabad CCI plant. The delegation explained the employment potential and economic benefits that revival of the plant



would generate for Adilabad and the surrounding region.

KTR revealed that during the meeting, the Union Minister made it clear that revival of the Adilabad CCI plant would be possible if the Telangana Government came forward with a state contribution of ₹250 crore. According to KTR, the Minister informed the delegation that the process had been delayed because the State Government had neither submitted any formal proposal nor communicated its willingness to extend incentives or provide the required support. He said it was evident that the major hurdles to revival could be removed if the State Government took the initiative.

Criticising the Congress government, KTR said that despite the Union Government expressing a positive approach, the State Government had failed to announce its official position on the issue. He alleged that the delay over the last two-and-a-half years reflected the Congress government's lack of commitment. He also criticised the government for neither pursuing a coordinated approach with the Centre nor announcing an independent plan to revive the industry.

KTR reminded Chief Minister Revanth Reddy that he had promised during the Assembly election campaign in Adilabad to revive the CCI plant and had reiterated the commitment after assuming office as Chief Minister. However, he said those promises had remained unfulfilled. He alleged that the State

Government had failed to hold even basic official discussions with the Union Government, submit the necessary proposals or offer clarity on incentives, and that the Union Government itself had now confirmed these as the reasons for the delay.

Recalling the efforts made by the previous BRS government, KTR said former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had personally written to the Prime Minister seeking revival of the plant. As the then Industries Minister, KTR said he had also written to the then Union Heavy Industries Minister Anant Geete requesting revival of the Adilabad CCI unit.

He further noted that the BRS government had offered to extend all TS-iPASS incentives to the revived plant and had proposed a Centre-State joint venture on a 49:51 or 51:49 equity model, similar to the Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant. The previous government had also conveyed its willingness to take over and operate the plant independently if the Centre chose not to continue operating it.

KTR alleged that although the BRS government had demonstrated complete readiness, the then Union Government did not proceed with the project due to political considerations. He said the present Union Government had now made it clear that it was awaiting the Telangana Government's response. In such circumstances, he said, the State Government could no longer remain silent or evade responsibility.

30-Day Deadline to Remove Illegal Parking and Encroachments on Highways

■ District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar and SP K. Narasimha SURYAPET

District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar and Superintendent of Police K. Narasimha announced a 30-day deadline for removing illegal parking and encroachments along highways in the district. They emphasized that every life lost in a road accident is invaluable and warned that negligence toward road safety will no longer be tolerated.

They cautioned that officials violating the directives of the Supreme Court would face personal accountability and heavy penalties. In light of the Supreme Court taking suo motu cognizance of major road accidents in Rajasthan and Ranga Reddy district, a review meeting was held on Wednesday at the Collectorate with officials from the Transport, Revenue, Education, Health, Police, Roads & Buildings (R&B), Panchayat Raj, and National Highways departments.



During the meeting, the Collector and SP directed officials to immediately identify accident-prone black spots on National Highways and R&B roads across the district. They instructed authorities to prepare a comprehensive list of such locations within 45 days and to install high-intensity LED lights, speed cameras, and retro-reflective signboards at these locations within four months. Mandal-level committees will also be formed to conduct field inspections and submit detailed reports.

E-Challans for Illegal Highway Parking

The officials stated that parking

heavy vehicles on the main carriage-way or shoulders of National Highways is strictly prohibited. Vehicles should only be parked in designated lay-by areas or at petrol stations. They directed the concerned departments to ensure the availability of a lay-by facility every 75 kilometres. Violators will face e-challans, supported by GPS-based photographic evidence, and stringent legal action.

Deadline for Removal of Encroachments

The Collector and SP directed that all unauthorized dhabas, hotels, and commercial establishments located along highways in violation of regu-

lations must be removed within 30 days. No new construction permissions should be granted, and all existing permissions must be reviewed within the same period. Any illegal approvals must be cancelled. They also instructed officials to use drone surveys to identify and remove encroachments.

Cashless Treatment up to Rs 1.5 Lakh

The officials stressed the importance of providing immediate medical assistance to accident victims. They directed that a Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance should be available every 75 kilometres, and trauma care centres should be properly mapped. A scheme providing cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh for accident victims should be implemented effectively. They reiterated that road safety must be ensured through concrete action rather than mere discussion. A special task force will be constituted to oversee implementation, and follow-up review meetings will be held every 15 days.

ACB Raids TGNPDCL DE Muthyam Venkata Ramana's Properties



WARANGAL

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday conducted simultaneous searches at the residences and other properties linked to TGNPDCL Deputy Executive Engineer (DE) Muthyam Venkata Ramana over allegations of amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

A total of eight ACB

teams carried out raids at 12 locations simultaneously. According to preliminary information, officials have reportedly seized key property documents and cash during the searches. The raids are continuing at Muthyam Venkata Ramana's residence in Meenakshi Sky Towers,HITEC City. The operation is being supervised by ACB DSP Majid Ali Khan.



Demand to Dismiss Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

- Attack on Students Condemned as Brutal
- Lawyers Protest in Hanamkonda

WARANGAL

Lawyers staged a protest on Wednesday at the Martyrs' Memorial near Adalat Centre in Hanamkonda, condemning the Delhi Police's alleged assault on students who were holding a peaceful demonstration against the BJP government's policies. The protest was addressed by senior advocates Bairapaka Jayakar, Puli Satyanarayana, Sayini Narendra, Gandham Shiva, Dr. Jilukara Srinivas, and Wali Ullah Qadri.

Former Bar Council member Bairapaka Jayakar said that the Modi government ordering the police to use force against students engaged in a peaceful protest was a reprehensible act. He demanded the immediate resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him responsible for the alleged NEET paper leak.

Senior advocate Puli Satyanarayana said it was unacceptable to brand students, who had been protesting for the past month, as extremists and anti-nationals before subjecting them to violent action. He called upon lawyers across the country to stand in solidarity with the students.

Advocate Gandham Shiva demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the dismissal of the Union Education Minister.

Speaking at the protest, Sayini Narendra, State General Secretary of the Indian Legal Professional Association, demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah hold unconditional talks with activist Sonam Wanchuk, who is on a hunger strike, as well as with the protesting students. He further demanded that the government accept responsibility for the examination paper leaks and step down.

He also called for the abolition of the NEET examination for medical ad-

missions and urged that the authority to fill medical seats be restored to state governments. He alleged that excessive central control over state governments had led to paper leaks and was jeopardizing the future of students.

He demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the paper leak issue and held Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah responsible for the alleged police action against students, calling for their resignations as well.

The protest was coordinated by Dr. Jilukara Srinivas, State President of the VCK Party and an advocate. Among those who participated were advocates Wali Ullah Qadri, Koonuru Ranjith Goud, Ijjigiri Suresh, Pendyala Anil Kumar, Sunny, Goda Bikshapathi, Eggadi Sundar Ram, Sai Pawan, B. S. Pani, Rajabapu, Yogi Ravan, Barupati Vinay Kumar, Dr. Konga Veeraswamy, Kumar, Yugender, Akshay Kumar, and others.



National Flag is the Symbol of Spirit of the India: District Governor Lion Mora Bhadresham

KARIMNAGAR

District Governor Lion Mora Bhadresham said that our tricolor national flag stands as a unique symbol of inspiration that continuously inspires the vast nation of India. Today, the National Flag Adoption Day rally organized by Lion District 320G was inaugurated as the chief guest and said that the saffron in our tricolor flag stands as a symbol of sacrifice, white stands for peace, and green stands for prosperity, while the 24 spokes of the Ashoka Chakra stand as a symbol of 24/7 hard work and charity.

As part of this program, a rally was held from the bus stand to the Tower Circle, displaying national flags and raising slogans in a way that showed patriotism. Speaking at the program, PDG Lion Chidura Suresh said that it is commendable that a large number of Lion members participated in the National Flag Adoption Day. Speaking on the occasion of the adoption of the national flag designed by Pingali Venkaiah by the Constituent Assembly of India on 22 July 1947, rallies are held every year across India, waving national flags.

PDGs Lion Hanumandla Rajireddy, Lion Konda Venumurthy, Co-Chairman Lion Inugurthi Ramesh, DCS Lion Ollala Krishna Hari, DDC Kolluri Anandha, RCLi Lion RSP Reddy, Lion B. Sarala, ZCs, Micro Cabinet Member Lion Mateen, senior leaders of 16 clubs and 150 Lions participated in this program and contributed to the success of the flag festival. The flag rally that started at the bus stand continued till Tower Circle. The Lions expressed their patriotism by joining their voices in the national anthem broadcast at 9 am at the tower. Members of the Tower Circle Friends Association actively participated in this event and added value to the event.

BJP Condemns Congress, Alleges Suppression of Peaceful Protest by Telangana Government

HYDERABAD

Former MLC and BJP National Co-Incharge for Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, Dr. Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, strongly condemned the Congress leadership led by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, alleging that its political campaign targeting the residence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi amounted to an attack on democratic values and constitutional decorum.

Dr. Reddy said the Bharatiya Janata Party has always upheld the principles of "Nation First, People First" while respecting democratic institutions and the Constitution.

He alleged that the Congress, unable to accept repeated electoral defeats and facing a credibility crisis, had resorted to disruptive and irresponsible politics. As a



mark of protest against the Congress party's actions, Dr. Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, along with BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao, State Secretary Kasam Venkateswarlu, BJP Ranga Reddy Rural District President Raj Bhupal Goud, Shivraj, Mahesh, and other

BJP leaders and party workers, participated in a peaceful demonstration.

According to the BJP leader, the Telangana government detained the protesting BJP leaders and workers at Goshamahahal Police Station instead of allowing them to exercise their democratic right to a peaceful

protest. Dr. Reddy alleged that attempts to suppress the opposition through arrests and intimidation would not deter BJP workers. He said the party would continue to defend democratic values and expose what he described as the Congress party's "anti-democratic" actions before the people.

BJP condemn arrest of state party president and term Congress dharna a "drama"

HYDERABAD

Telangana State BJP President N Ramchander Rao and score of party workers were taken into custody by police who were on way to Gandhi Bhavan in a peaceful rally.

Rao was leading a peaceful rally to besiege Gandhi Bhavan protesting dharna by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi in the high security zone near Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence in Delhi yesterday.

Later, Rao was taken to the Goshamahahal Police Station. Following arrest of party president and others, there was tense atmosphere among BJP cadres and protests by workers who raised slogan against the police behavior. BJP state unit leaders strongly condemned the arrest of the party president and others demanding their immediate release.

BJP state chief, in a social forum, said Congress has set a very dangerous precedent by staging dharna outside PM's residence yesterday, apparently with the intent of creating dangerous scene witnessed in our neighboring countries. This act is deeply condemnable and every Indi-

an is pained the way the Congress is attempting to create anarchy, he said.

BJP National Vice President and MP D.K. Aruna said "We strongly condemn the illegal arrest of BJP Telangana State President Ramchander Rao along with BJP cadres, who were carrying out a peaceful protest rally against Rahul Gandhi's inappropriate behavior forgetting his position as the Leader of the Opposition."

She expressed outrage, stating that the Congress government is resorting to devious politics by using the police force to suppress the voice of the Telangana BJP. The illegal arrest of Rao is proof of the authoritarian attitude of the Congress party, she alleged.

Even though the NDA government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre, clearly stated that it is ready for a debate in Parliament on the NEET issue, Congress is stooping low purely for its political survival, she said adding that the Congress should stop these dramas immediately and cooperate to ensure the smooth conduct of the Parliament sessions.

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar condemned the police action and

demanding immediate and unconditional release of state party president.

Stating that the people are laughing at the conduct of the Congress party. Union minister challenged Congress leaders to come prepared for a debate in Parliament if they have the courage as we are ready for debate on NEET issue in parliament. Party MP Eatala Rajender said when the parliament session is underway, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi are severely mocking the democratic system by conducting protests on the streets instead of discussing public issues in the House.

He said as the Leader of the Opposition, one should act as the voice of the people on the floor of Parliament. Instead of bringing issues to the attention of the House and securing solutions, it is deeply regrettable that Rahul Gandhi has abandoned his responsibility and resorted to sitting on the roads in protest. Creating obstructions to prevent the House from functioning and wasting Parliament's time on one hand, while staging protests in front of the Prime Minister's residence on the other, is clear proof of Congress's stooping political stand-



dards. Rahul and Priyanka are resorting to such actions with the malicious intent of slinging mud at the central government, he said and suggested Congress party to stop such dramas and cooperate with the government for the smooth functioning of parliament in the public interest.

In a separate statement BJP MP from Adilabad Godam Nagesh said the protests being conducted by the Congress party across the country are not for resolving public issues which are merely dramas staged to cover up their own political downfall.

Rahul Gandhi, having completely failed to act responsibly as the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, abandoned the House to create a ruckus on the streets a clear proof of his immaturity, he said.

Strongly condemning the arrest of state party president Ramchander Rao, party state chief official spokesperson and Media In-charge N V Subhash said "democracy murdered under the demonic rule of Congress party." He condemned the illegal arrest of our BJP Telangana State President along with party cadres by

the police while they were protesting peacefully against the irresponsible behavior of top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

In Telangana, the Congress government is using the police like their personal army to suppress the voice of the opposition. We will not be intimidated if they attempt to scare BJP leaders who question them by trampling upon fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, he said.

The NDA government led by PM Narendra Modi at the Centre has clearly stated that it is always ready for a debate in Parliament on the NEET issue. If Congress leaders truly have the courage, they should stop playing dramas on the streets and come for a debate on the floor of Parliament, Subhash challenged.

Condemning the arrest of state party president along with BJP cadres, party MLA Palvai Harish Babu termed it as Illegal arrests and inappropriate behavior of the police. The Congress government in Telangana is using the police force to stifle the voices of BJP leaders who are questioning democratically, thereby trampling upon constitutional rights.



The Major Controversies Surrounding Sonam Wangchuk

Sonam Wangchuk has once again become a prominent figure in the news. He launched a hunger strike at Jantar Mantar in protest against the alleged NEET question paper leak. Wangchuk is an engineer from Ladakh who gained recognition as an education reformer and environmentalist. Some argue that rather than naturally gaining prominence, certain groups helped bring him into the spotlight.

However, there is another side to the story. His public life has been marked by a series of controversies involving allegations related to national security, violations of foreign funding regulations, public statements, environmental initiatives, and land-related projects.

Between 2023 and 2026, he reportedly faced multiple investigations. These included the cancellation of the FCRA license of his NGO, allegations of violations involving foreign funding, accusations of provocative speeches, national security concerns, remarks about Hindu deities, and criticism of environmental and institutional projects in Ladakh.

NEET-UG Hunger Strike Brought Wangchuk Back into the National Spotlight
Sonam Wangchuk returned to national attention after be-

ginning an indefinite hunger strike at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi in protest against alleged systemic irregularities and question paper leaks in the NEET-UG medical entrance examination.

On June 28, 2026, he officially began the hunger strike at 2:00 PM. As the protest continued, the matter reached the courts. On July 16, 2026, the Delhi High Court directed the Central Government and the Delhi Government to urgently respond to a petition seeking his transfer to a government hospital and permission to administer liquid nutrition to protect his life.

Sonam Wangchuk: Engineer, Education Reformer, and Environmentalist
Sonam Wangchuk is an Indian engineer, education reformer, innovator, environmentalist, and activist from Ladakh. Born on September 1, 1966, in Uleytokpo near Alchi, Ladakh, he is known for his work in education reform, sustainable development, and climate innovation. He earned a Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.) in Mechanical Engineering from the National Institute of Technology (then Regional Engineering College), Srinagar, in 1987. He later studied earthen architecture at the CRATerre School of Architecture in Grenoble, France. In 1988, Wangchuk founded the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL) to reform



education in the region. He later established the SECMOL campus, which emphasizes practical learning, life skills, and sustainable living. He is also widely associated with popularizing the Ice Stupa, a technique that stores winter water by freezing it into tower-like ice structures. His work has earned him a large social media following. His official X account (@Wangchuk66) reportedly has 542,700 followers and 1,225 posts. His Instagram account (@wangchuksworld) has around 2.9 million followers and 522 posts. His YouTube channel (@SonamWangchuk66) has approximately 1.85 million subscribers across 199 videos. His official Facebook page has around 2.6 million followers.

Ice Stupa and Chewang Norphel

Although Sonam Wangchuk popularized the conical Ice Stupa technology, the text claims that Padma Shri Chewang Norphel was its original creator. According to the

text, Norphel had developed horizontal artificial glacier systems decades earlier, and Wangchuk's Ice Stupa concept was based on the same principles of water conservation and artificial ice storage. Over the years, Norphel reportedly built more than 15 artificial glaciers across Ladakh. His largest project, in Phuktse village, is said to measure about 1,000 feet in length, 150 feet in width, and 4 feet in depth. Built at an initial cost of ₹90,000, it reportedly supplies water to an entire village of around 700 residents. While Wangchuk became internationally recognized through initiatives such as the Ice Stupa and environmental campaigns, the text argues that Norphel pioneered artificial glacier technology in Ladakh decades earlier. Known as the "Ice Man of India," Padma Shri Chewang Norphel developed artificial glaciers to address Ladakh's seasonal water shortages. He also reportedly constructed more than 300 irrigation canals, helping irrigate nearly

Other Controversies Mentioned

- Allegations of Provocative Speeches**
The text states that Sonam Wangchuk became controversial after making speeches referring to referendums and plebiscites, allegedly internationalizing the Ladakh issue and drawing comparisons between Ladakh and territories in China and Pakistan. According to the text, these speeches allegedly triggered strong protests and raised concerns relating to public order and national security.
- Alleged Links to a Pakistani Spy**
The text claims that Ladakh Director Gen-

eral of Police S. D. Singh Jamwal alleged that Sonam Wangchuk had links with a Pakistani intelligence operative and was passing sensitive information across the border.

3. Remarks About Lord Rama and Sita
The text states that Sonam Wangchuk also sparked controversy after making remarks about Lord Rama and Sita at a public gathering. According to the text, he said that Lord Rama rescued Sita from Ravana but later "put her up for sale in a public market."

Centre Cancels SECMOL's FCRA License

The Ministry of Home Affairs cancelled the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) license of SECMOL, the NGO founded by Sonam Wangchuk, on September 25, 2025. According to the text, the decision followed investigations into alleged financial irregularities and violations of foreign funding regulations. The organization was accused of mixing domestic and foreign funds in violation of FCRA rules. Investigators allegedly claimed that a grant received from Sweden was used to fund studies related to "national sovereignty," which the government considered contrary to national interests.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also reportedly initiated an investigation into the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL) over alleged suspicious transactions involving ₹1.68 crore in foreign funds allegedly diverted to Wangchuk's personal bank accounts. It was also reportedly investigating transfers of ₹3.23 crore to foreign entities.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, Nadda said Rahul Gandhi had referred to around 150 paper leaks in his presentation in Parliament, but maintained that the government was prepared to investigate every case. "This is a matter of investigation, and the government, being a responsible government, will investigate and present the truth before the public and the nation," Nadda said.

PAPER LEAK CASES IN OPPOSITION-RULED STATES
Seeking to counter the Opposition's attack on the Centre over the NEET controversy, Nadda cited alleged paper leak incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal (under TMC), Punjab, Kerala

Govt ready for in-depth Parliament discussion on paper leaks: JP Nadda

Nadda's briefing came hours after Leader of Opposition and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, in a media briefing, claimed that 152 examination paper leaks have taken place over the past 10 years without a single conviction.



Former BJP president and Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, JP Nadda, on Wednesday assured that the government is ready for an in-depth discussion in the Parliament over the ongoing protests and the NEET paper leak issue. He slammed Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, asked him and other political parties not to politicise the matter and work with the government to find a solution to the deadlock.

"Regarding the students' demands and the issues they have raised concerning the paper leak, my first appeal is that we should not politicise this matter; seeking political gain from it is inappropriate. This is a serious issue that requires in-depth discussion," Nadda said.

"We are open to discussions and the best place for discussions is the Parliament. We are ready for a discussion. We are ready to discuss every aspect of the issue," the Union Minister added. Nadda accused Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi of selectively raising the issue of examination paper leaks to target the Centre while ignoring similar incidents in Congress and Opposition-ruled states.

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PAPER LEAK CASES IN OPPOSITION-RULED STATES
Seeking to counter the Opposition's attack on the Centre over the NEET controversy, Nadda cited alleged paper leak incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal (under TMC), Punjab, Kerala

and Karnataka. He alleged that many of these incidents took place under Congress or Opposition governments. "I want to ask Rahul Gandhi why you are so selective. Why have you not discussed Congress and Congress-supported governments? This clearly shows that your objective is not the welfare of students or improving the quality of education. You only want to gain political mileage from students' issues and demands," he said.

'READY FOR 12-HOUR OR 18-HOUR DEBATE'

Nadda reiterated that the Centre was willing to hold an extensive debate on paper leaks in Parliament and urged the Opposition not to "shift the goalposts." "We have always wanted the issue to be discussed in Parliament. Whether it is a short-duration discussion or a long-duration discussion, the Opposition can decide the format. If they want 12 hours, we are ready. If they want 18 hours, we are ready," he said. Calling Parliament the most appropriate forum to deliberate on the issue, Nadda said both the government and the Opposition should work together to formulate a long-term policy to prevent examination malpractices. "Children belong to all of us. They are the future of the country. It is the responsibility of both the government and the Opposition to work together and find a lasting solution," he added.

ON MEETING CJP REPRESENTATIVES

Responding to questions about his meetings with representatives of the Cockerham Janta Party (CJP), Nadda said discussions had taken place in a cordial atmosphere and that the delegation had submitted its demands in writing.

"We listened to their views very calmly. I suggested that they submit their points in writing, and they have done so. I also told them that we are ready for discussions whenever they want," he said.

SC Declines to Intervene in CJP Protest Police Action

A lawyer placed the matter before the bench headed by the CJI

NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A lawyer placed the matter before the bench headed by the CJI and sought suo motu cognizance. The lawyer said he also has video of the police's brutal action, which he can present before the court if required. "Do not waste our time," SC refused immediate hearing on the petition about police action on protesters. The Supreme Court declined an immediate hearing on a petition alleging brutal police action during a Cockerham Janta Party protest. When the lawyer offered to produce the

video as evidence, the Chief Justice refused. The Chief Justice said, "Do not waste our time. he court does not have time to watch the video."

The lawyer raised the matter before the CJI
Advocate Narendra Mishra raised the matter before the bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and sought an immediate hearing. The lawyer said students were protesting the NEET paper leak and demanding reforms in the National Testing Agency, which conducts the exam. Police allegedly used brutal force against them. The lawyer said

he had video footage and could produce it in court.

The Chief Justice refused, telling the lawyer, "Do not waste our time. We have no interest in those videos."

The court does not have time to watch the video."

Hearing in High Court possible today
Earlier on Tuesday, the Delhi High Court also refused to hear immediately a petition about police action on protesters, commenting, "Do not drag the court into these disputes."

However, it is hoped that the High Court may hear petitions related to this today.

Andhra Pradesh reports seven new Covid-19 cases, total rises to 26

Andhra Pradesh reported seven new Covid-19 cases on Tuesday, taking the total number of infections in the state to 26, the Health Department said. It added that the new cases were detected in different districts and were not linked to any cluster outbreak. Of the 26 infected people, 10 are being treated in hospitals and nine are in home isolation. Three patients have recovered and been discharged, while four have died. The department said 145 samples have been tested in the state so far. According to the department, four of the seven fresh cases were reported from Guntur district, two from East Godavari and one from Bapatla. In a press release, the Health



Department said, "Seven new Covid-19 cases were reported in the state on Tuesday, taking the total number of infections to 26. The cases were detected in different districts and are not part of any cluster outbreak." Kadapa has reported the highest number of cases at eight, followed by Guntur with six, East Godavari with three, and Kakinada and Bapatla with two each. One case each has also been reported from Visakhapatnam, Eluru,

Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore, NTR and Parvathipuram Manam districts. The Health Department said all four deceased patients had pre-existing health conditions before they were diagnosed with the infection. It reiterated that the cases reported so far are sporadic and spread across different districts, with no evidence of a cluster outbreak in any part of the state. According to the World Health Organisation, Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Most people infected with the virus develop mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without special treatment, though some may develop severe illness and need medical attention.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST STATE REPRESSION (CASR) STRONGLY CONDEMNS

NEW DELHI, JULY 22

The Campaign Against State Repression (CASR) strongly condemns the brutal and indiscriminate repression unleashed by the Indian state against thousands of young people and democratic protesters marching towards Parliament in Delhi. The response of the state was not one of maintaining public order but of violently crushing democratic dissent. The Delhi Police, along with paramilitary forces, launched a coordinated assault on protesters through repeated lathi-charges, the use of tear gas, and the firing of pellet guns. Numerous protesters sustained serious injuries during the crackdown. Disturbing visuals have also emerged showing persons in plain clothes assaulting protesters, including women, alongside uniformed police personnel, raising serious concerns about the use of unidentified individuals in state violence against citizens.

Use of Pellet Guns in Delhi Marks a Dangerous Escalation

One of the most alarming aspects of the crackdown was the reported use of pellet guns against protesters. For more than a decade, pellet guns have

**THE BRUTAL STATE REPRESSION UNLEASHED AGAINST PROTESTING YOUTH IN DELHI
STOP THE BRUTAL CRACKDOWN ON DEMOCRATIC PROTESTS!
END THE MILITARISATION OF CIVIL POLICING AND THE CRIMINALISATION OF DISSENT!**

become synonymous with the brutal repression witnessed in Kashmir, where thousands of civilians—including children and youth—have suffered permanent blindness and life-altering injuries. Their deployment against civilians has been criticised by numerous human rights organisations for causing indiscriminate and irreversible harm. The reported use of pellet guns against protesters in the national capital represents a deeply disturbing expansion of this repressive model from Kashmir to Delhi. The normalisation of such weapons against citizens exercising their democratic rights signals a dangerous erosion of constitutional freedoms and raises serious concerns regarding the state's increasing militarised approach to public protests.

The Role of Delhi Police Special Cell Raises Grave Concerns

CASR is deeply disturbed by reports and visual evidence showing Delhi Police Special Cell Inspector Nishant Dahiya participating in the assault on protesters. This development

cannot be viewed in isolation. In March this year, ten activists—including student activists and labour rights activists—were illegally abducted, detained, and brutally tortured by officials of the Delhi Police Special Cell at its New Friends Colony office. Those illegal detentions and allegations of custodial torture took place under the supervision of Inspector Nishant Dahiya. Proceedings relating to these incidents are presently pending before the Delhi High Court. The participation of the same officer in suppressing a mass democratic protest demonstrates a disturbing pattern in which specialised counter-terror policing units are increasingly being deployed against democratic movements rather than genuine security threats. It is equally disturbing that such an officer has been honoured with a Gallantry Award. Rewarding officials against whom serious allegations of custodial torture and human rights violations remain under judicial scrutiny sends a dangerous message of impunity.

Our Demands

- Conduct an independent judicial inquiry into the police violence and the reported use of pellet guns against protesters.
- Identify and prosecute all police personnel and individuals in plain clothes involved in assaults on peaceful demonstrators.
- Investigate the role of Delhi Police Special Cell officers, including Inspector Nishant Dahiya, in the violent suppression of protests.
- End the deployment of specialised counter-terror policing units against democratic movements.
- Uphold the constitu-

A Pattern of State Violence Against Democratic Movements

The brutal repression witnessed in Delhi is not an isolated event but part of a long and disturbing pattern of state violence against democratic struggles. From the anti-CAA/NRC protests in Delhi, where protesters lost their lives and hundreds were subjected to arrests and

tional rights to freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and association. The Campaign Against State Repression stands in solidarity with all those injured, assaulted, and subjected to state violence while exercising their democratic right to protest. We reaffirm our commitment to resisting every attempt to criminalise democratic movements and call upon all people committed to justice, liberty, and constitutional values to stand united against this growing authoritarianism.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST STATE REPRESSION (CASR)

repression, to repeated crackdowns on Adivasi communities resisting displacement and defending their Jal, Jungle and Jameen, the Indian state has repeatedly responded to peaceful democratic assertion with excessive force. Across Adivasi regions, communities protecting their ancestral lands have faced police firing, arbitrary arrests, destruction of protest

sites, and criminalisation under draconian laws. Instead of addressing legitimate democratic demands, governments have increasingly relied upon coercive policing, militarisation, and extraordinary laws to silence dissent. The events in Delhi once again demonstrate this continuing pattern of intolerance towards democratic protest.

Defending Democratic Rights Is a Collective Responsibility

CASR believes that the defence of democratic rights cannot depend upon political affiliation or ideological agreement. Every attack on peaceful protesters weakens constitutional democracy itself. We call upon trade unions, student organisations, farmers' movements, women's organisations, civil liberties groups, lawyers, journalists, writers, artists, and all democratic citizens to unite against the growing authoritarian assault on the people's right to organise, protest, and dissent. Silence in the face of such repression will only embolden further attacks on democratic rights.

TVK calls for scrapping NEET, seeks full state control over medical education

TVK has demanded that NEET be scrapped and states get full control over medical education. The stand sharpens Tamil Nadu's political battle over education and federal powers.



Tamil Nadu's ruling TVK on Tuesday said it was not just against irregularities in NEET, but wanted the medical entrance examination scrapped altogether. The party also demanded that states be given full powers over matters related to medical education. Amid student protests over NEET in Delhi, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam said its stand on the issue was "uncompromising and firm" and that the national-level entrance test for medical aspirants should be abolished. It also said education should be moved from the Concurrent List to the State List of the Constitution as part of the solution. In a statement, the TVK targeted the main opposition DMK without naming it and said it would never indulge in the "fraudulent politics" of deceiving people for votes by making false promises to "scrap NEET ourselves". The DMK had, ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections, promised to scrap NEET after coming to power. The

party said that if there were legal or procedural hurdles in moving education to the State List, a Special Concurrent List should be created as an interim measure until the issues were resolved to grant powers to state governments. It said this would ensure that states had full authority over education, including medical education. "This is our vision for both a permanent and an interim solution. Our victorious leader (Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay) has already emphasised this," the party said. The TVK also said that those indulging in the unethical politics of "putting their own label" on others' hard work, ideas and struggles should immediately stop targeting the party. Its statement came against the backdrop of criticism by Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin over the government's handling of rap singer 'The-rukkural' Arivu, who has taken a strong stand against NEET.

EDITORIAL.

A Truncated Stage:
India's Gritty Quest for
Glory at Glasgow 2026

As the 2026 Commonwealth Games commence in Glasgow, the narrative surrounding the Indian contingent is defined by radical adaptation. Forced into a cost-effective, stripped-back format, these Games feature just ten sports. For India, this structural overhaul hits exceptionally hard. Dominant, medal-heavy strongholds including wrestling, badminton, table tennis, hockey, squash, and cricket have been ruthlessly excised from the roster. Having captured 61 medals at Birmingham 2022, nearly half of India's historical podium guarantees have vanished overnight. However, an editorial lens should not view this as a funeral for Indian sports, but rather as an ultimate test of athletic versatility and depth. India has arrived in Scotland with a compact yet highly specialized 126-member contingent. While the overall medal haul is realistically projected to drop to a modest 35-45 tier, the quality of India's remaining spearheads suggests that the gold efficiency ratio could remain remarkably high. No longer able to coast on the collective haul of its racquet and mat masters, India's fate now hinges entirely on three core pillars: athletics, boxing, and weightlifting. Track and field events present the most thrilling frontier. Leading the charge is the incomparable javelin king, Neeraj Chopra, who looks to reclaim the Commonwealth crown he won in 2018 but was unable to defend in 2022 due to injury. Yet, the real editorial victory for Indian athletics is that Chopra is no longer a solitary warrior. The nation boasts genuine world-class depth across multiple disciplines. Long jumper Murali Shreshankar, triple jumpers Praveen Chithravel and Selva Prabhu, and decathlete Tejaswin Shankar all stand as potent podium threats. Unlike restricted weight-category events, the expansive athletics program gives India the perfect canvas to establish a new identity as a track-and-field powerhouse. Inside the squared circle, Indian boxing remains a formidable force. Analysts project close to eight medals from the ring, with the women's contingent commanding massive respect. Headlined by Olympic medalist Lovlina Borgohain and reigning World Champion Jaismine Lamboria, India enters as the highest-ranked Commonwealth nation in five out of seven women's weight categories. For these elite punchers, Glasgow is less about testing the waters and more about asserting sheer dominance. Similarly, weightlifting offers a reliable pipeline to the podium. Opening ceremony flagbearer Mirabai Chanu carries the weight of massive expectations in the women's 48kg event, aiming to secure her third Commonwealth Games gold. If the lifters can overcome recent post-Olympic slumps, they will anchor the lower half of India's gold tally. Concurrently, edge sports like judo—led by heavy-weight silver-medalist Tulika Maan—and the historically surprising lawn bowls teams are primed to pull off critical secondary upsets. Adversity frequently breeds reinvention. The Glasgow omission of core sports serves as a blunt wake-up call regarding India's over-reliance on a few selective disciplines. Yet, it provides a pristine stage for unheralded sports to step into the limelight. If India can successfully navigate this truncated program and maintain a spot in the top four of the final medal standings, it will prove that its sporting culture has truly matured. The quantity of medals will undeniably shrink, but a diverse haul forged through track, ring, and iron will signal a far more robust, well-rounded sporting superpower.



HOW MANY?"

How many hearts, when beauty's near,
See not desire, but something clear?
A sister's grace, a soul so bright
Not fleeting form, but inner light.

How many, in the morning crowd,
Will rise for elders, strong and proud?
A simple seat, a noble deed
Yet kindness now feels rare, indeed.

We turn the pages, day by day,
But how much thought do minds convey?
We speak of green, of skies once blue,
Yet wound the earth with all we do.

How many wed with love and grace,
With blessings warm, in sacred space?
Not bound by fear, but family cheer—
A bond of trust, both proud and clear.

A boy next door, with dreams so wide—
But who will walk with him, beside?
Not every eye will choose to see,
Or lend a hand to help him be.

How many serve with hearts so pure,
No praise, no pay, yet still endure?
They fight the dark, they soothe the pain,
And ask for nothing, not even gain.

When sirens scream and lights flash red,
How many step aside, instead?
They clear the way, no questions why—
So life may live, not fade or die.

How many live by truth alone,
And see the world as flesh and bone?
Who feel each soul, both near and far,
And shine within like morning star?

Oh world, don't count just gold or name,
But those who play a kinder game.
For in each act, both small and deep,
A nation's truest soul shall sleep.



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



OPINION

DEMOCRACY IS STRENGTHENED BY
DIALOGUE, NOT BY VIOLENCE

The recent tensions, confrontations, and violent incidents witnessed during the protest from Delhi's Jantar Mantar to Parliament House are not merely a matter of law and order; they also raise serious questions about the maturity of Indian democracy. Clashes between the police and protesters, attempts to breach barricades, efforts to forcibly enter metro stations, and the subsequent use of baton charges and tear gas by the police are scenes that cannot be considered consistent with the democratic ethos founded upon non-violence, dialogue, and constitutional propriety. India is steadily moving towards the centenary of its Independence in 2047. The aspiration is not merely to emerge as an economic superpower but also to establish itself as a mature and exemplary democracy. If dissent continues to be expressed through violence, confrontation, and disorder, the very spirit of democracy will be weakened. Democracy derives its true strength not from displays of power on the streets but from the power of ideas, a culture of dialogue, and adherence to constitutional processes.

Rahul Gandhi's decision, during the ongoing protests over the NEET paper leak issue, to suddenly stage a sit-in near the Prime Minister's residence along with fellow Members of Parliament, choosing the streets over Parliament as the arena of political struggle, raises several important questions. Earlier too, during the so-called "March to Parliament" organized by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), incidents of tension, disorder, and violence were reported. These developments have reinforced concerns that certain political forces may be attempting to create conditions of instability in India similar to those witnessed in Nepal. Despite certain shortcomings, the vigilance of the government and timely intervention by the security agencies prevented a potentially major crisis. Otherwise, Delhi could have descended into prolonged violence and unrest.

The nation has already experienced the consequences of prolonged street protests during the agitation against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), when a major public road remained blocked at Shaheen Bagh for nearly one hundred days, causing immense hardship to ordinary citizens. In a democracy, the right to dissent and protest is unquestionable. However, its rightful place is within Parliament, through dialogue and constitutional institutions—not through confrontation and disorder on public streets. If the opposition repeatedly encourages such confrontational protests, it is natural to ask whether its objective is to strengthen democratic discourse or merely to deepen political polarization and instability. The people expect all political parties to regard



Parliament as the supreme forum for accountability and debate.

Article 19 of the Constitution of India guarantees every citizen the right to freedom of expression and the right to assemble peacefully and without arms. These rights constitute one of the strongest pillars of democracy. Yet every right is accompanied by corresponding responsibilities and constitutional restraints. While peaceful protest is a democratic right, damaging public property, clashing with the police, inciting violence, or disrupting the lives of ordinary citizens can never be regarded as democratic conduct. Once a movement loses its moral authority, it inevitably loses the sympathy and support of society as well.

Democracy imposes responsibilities not only upon citizens but equally upon governments. Governments should not view every protest merely as a law-and-order issue. Whenever dissatisfaction arises among any section of society—particularly among students and young people—serious efforts should be made to address their concerns at the earliest opportunity. The sooner the doors of dialogue are opened, the lesser the possibility of confrontation. In a democracy, the government's greatest strength lies in patience, sensitivity, and a genuine willingness to engage in dialogue.

History bears witness that India's most successful mass movements achieved their objectives through non-violence and dialogue. Mahatma Gandhi demonstrated to the world that truth and non-violence are the most powerful instruments of change. The anti-corruption movement led by Anna Hazare in 2011 also stands as an example. Millions participated in the movement, yet its greatest strength lay in its peaceful and disciplined character. Consequently, the government was compelled to initiate dialogue, leading to a constructive national debate. In contrast, wherever movements have adopted violence, their original objectives have been overshadowed, and public attention has remained confined to the violence itself.

The larger question confronting the na-

tion today is: what are the forces that push ordinary citizens and impressionable young people toward violence? Which elements divert peaceful movements from their legitimate objectives and transform them into instruments of disorder? This concern should not be limited to the government alone; it should engage the entire society. Dissent is an essential feature of democracy, but when anti-national, anarchic, or violent elements infiltrate public movements, it becomes the legitimate responsibility of the democratic state to contain them. Freedom of expression cannot be interpreted as freedom to create anarchy.

Parliament is the supreme temple of Indian democracy, while Jantar Mantar symbolizes the nation's democratic tradition of peaceful protest. If the space between these two institutions becomes a theatre of violence, vandalism, and chaos, it ceases to be merely a local incident in the national capital; it adversely affects the image of Indian democracy before the entire world. The dignity of democracy is not measured by who is more aggressive but by who acts with greater restraint, responsibility, and maturity. Political parties must also engage in serious introspection. The ruling party and the opposition are the two wheels of democratic governance. If dialogue between them collapses, democracy risks degenerating into an arena of perpetual confrontation. The responsibility of the opposition extends beyond criticism; it must also offer constructive alternatives. Likewise, the government's duty extends beyond demonstrating authority; it must also respect and patiently listen to dissenting voices. In democracy, there is rarely an absolute victor or an absolute loser. Ultimately, dialogue, consensus, and resolution represent the greatest triumph.

Addressing the concerns of students and young people is equally essential. The youth constitute the nation's greatest strength and future. If their aspirations and expectations are neglected, dissatisfaction is bound to grow. The government must therefore maintain continuous engagement with young citizens, address their grievances in a timely

manner, and implement meaningful solutions. At the same time, young people must recognize that violence is the greatest enemy of their own movements. Stones and sticks resolve no problems; they merely destroy the bridges of dialogue. India today needs to cultivate a more mature democratic culture—one in which there is opposition without hostility, disagreement without hatred, struggle without violence, and debate without destruction. The stronger and more substantive the democratic debate, the stronger the nation becomes. However, if violence replaces reasoned discussion, the soul of democracy itself suffers.

The events witnessed from Jantar Mantar to Parliament cannot be regarded as an ideal expression of democratic values. Nor do they reflect the maturity expected of responsible political leadership. Nation-building is achieved not through confrontation but through cooperation; not through violence but through consensus; not through aggression but through generosity of spirit. It is therefore imperative that all stakeholders rise above narrow political interests and place the nation's welfare above partisan considerations. India today requires leadership and public consciousness that value dialogue above conflict. The government must demonstrate sensitivity and openness; protesters must exercise discipline and restraint; and political parties must prioritize the long-term strengthening of democracy over short-term political gains. This alone reflects the true spirit of India's democratic tradition and the requirements of its future.

Finally, one can only hope that those forces responsible for injecting violence and confrontation into democratic movements acquire wisdom and restraint. All stakeholders should return to the table of dialogue, present their views through reason, facts, and constitutional principles, and jointly seek solutions. The greatest victory in a democracy is never the triumph of one side over another; it is the moment when opposing sides become willing to listen, understand, and resolve differences through dialogue. That is the true hallmark of democracy and the strongest foundation for a developed India.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

HYDERABAD'S SKYROOT AEROSPACE OPENS
NEW HORIZONS OF SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

Hyderabad has ushered in a new era in the history of India's space sector. At a time when space technology and rocket manufacturing, which were previously in ISRO's grip, are now expanding to the private sector, the achievements of 'Skyroot Aerospace', operating from Hyderabad, are catching the attention of the entire world. To put it precisely, a flood of new opportunities has begun in the domestic space industry with the successful launch of India's first private orbital rocket, 'Vikram-1'. The space flight sector, which was limited to public sector undertakings for decades, is now turning a new leaf with the initiative of private startups. In the context of these historical developments,



let us look here at a comprehensive analysis of the unprecedented opportunities, technological revolution, and future destinations unfolding at Skyroot's doorstep.

In India's space journey, bold reforms undertaken by the central government in the year 2020 gave top priority to the private sector. In this background, 'Skyroot Aerospace', born out of the determination of former ISRO scientists Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka, has grown to a level that makes the nation proud in a very short time. Having previously created history with the sub-orbital launch 'Vikram-S', this company recently created a sensation in the international space market by successfully

executing the 'Vikram-1' orbital rocket launch in the form of 'Mission Aagaman'. Blasting off into the skies from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, the Vikram-1 rocket successfully placed satellites into its designated 450-kilometer Earth orbit. Skyroot played a crucial role in India emerging as the third country, after America and China, to achieve the capability of sending satellites into orbit in the private sector. This historic victory did not just limit itself to a single rocket launch, but widely opened the doors of unimaginable opportunities for domestic youth, technical experts, and entrepreneurs.

State-of-the-art infrastructure in Hyderabad, centered around the two-hundred-thousand-square-foot 'Infinity Campus' inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, served as the beating heart for Skyroot's achievements. This center has the facility to design, manufacture, integrate, and test rockets all in one place. With the goal of producing one orbital rocket every month in the coming period, Skyroot is racing ahead. This industrial pace has brought massive employment opportunities not only to the Skyroot organization itself, but also to hundreds of small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), material science, avionics, and propulsion technology sectors around it. Cutting-edge technologies used in the Vikram-1 rocket, such as all-carbon composite construction, 3D printed engines, and pneumatic separation systems, stood as testaments to Indian engineering talent. Job opportunities for local young engineers and scientists have increased tremendously for the development of these technologies.

Looking at the global space market, the demand for small satellites is increasing immensely worldwide. For the purpose of climate change studies, remote sensing, communication, and scientific research, private companies and foreign universities are looking for low-cost, reliable launch services to send satellites into the sky. At this juncture, the low-cost, on-demand launch services provided by Skyroot are making countries around the world look towards India. Agreements secured by Skyroot with international giant companies like Axiom Space stand as proof that Hyderabad will become a major center for international commercial space travel in the future. Furthermore, as international investors and venture capitalists are

pouring massive investments into Skyroot, the company's valuation has increased phenomenally, emerging as India's leading space unicorn.

All these developments are creating wonderful opportunities not just for aerospace engineers, but also for experts in information technology, artificial intelligence, data analytics, material sciences, and logistics sectors. For a rocket launch to succeed, thousands of technicians, safety auditors, and legal experts are needed behind the scenes. Skyroot's growth is acting as a catalyst for all these sectors. The encouragement given by the Telangana government to the aerospace and defense sector, along with industrial corridors, continues to serve as further backbone for companies like Skyroot. At a time when steps are being taken towards developing rockets like 'Vikram-2', which will initiate commercial launches next year and carry heavier satellites, the range of employment and job opportunities is set to double.

For Indian youth who once dreamed of touching the sky, Skyroot Aerospace has stood as a milestone in creating opportunities with the sky as the limit. This private space journey, sprouting on Hyderabad's soil and soaring towards the universe, is not just a business success; it is a magnificent spectacle reflecting India's Atmanirbhar Bharat dream. As India rises to rule the global space market in the coming decade, Hyderabad standing at the forefront among those victorious pathfinders is a matter of pride for all Telugu people. With technological innovations, international partnerships, and the successful series of determined Vikram-series rockets, the flood of opportunities at Skyroot's doorstep will intensify further in the coming times, playing a crucial role in shaping India as a global space hub.



DR. CHITYALA RAVINDER
7798891795



Former Andhra minister held for tampering evidence in hit-and-run case involving son
VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 22

Police in Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam district arrested former minister and YSR Congress Party leader Seediri Appalaraju on Wednesday for allegedly tampering with evidence in a hit-and-run case involving his son.

Police arrested the YSRCP leader from his residence in Kasibugga and shifted him to the local police station. Police were recording his statement.

He is likely to be taken to a government hospital for medical examination before producing him to a magistrate. Tension prevailed at Appalaraju's house at the time of his arrest as a large number of his supporters had gathered there, alleging political vendetta and harassment by the NDA government. The YSRCP leader is facing allegations of misleading investigating officers and tampering with evidence in a hit-and-run case involving his son, Arav Varma. On July 10, a 45-year-old man, Danayya, died on the spot after a two-wheeler allegedly ridden by Arav hit him on the Old National Highway at Kasibugga. Local police initially registered a case against another youngster, Siddardh, a friend of Arav. However, CCTV footage recovered from a nearby petrol station established that Arav was riding the vehicle before the crash.

Congress Calls Nadda Attack 'Desperation'

NEW DELHI: (Jul 22) The Congress on Wednesday hit back at Union minister J P Nadda for his attack on Rahul Gandhi, saying the former BJP chief's press conference was an unending series of "what-aboutery" and a sure sign of the ruling regime's increasing desperation. Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said Nadda should have gone beyond "juvenile finger-pointing" at the press conference by first acknowledging the "failures" of the "Pradhan Mantri and the Mantri Pradhan". "The Union Health Minister and former BJP President J P Nadda's late evening press conference to counter Rahul Gandhi's sharp and pointed exposure of the Modi government is a sure sign of the regime's increasing desperation," Ramesh said in a post on X.

CM Dr. Yadav to Attend Balram Krishi Mahotsav at Chandrashekhar Azad Nagar

Development Projects worth over ₹340 Cr to be Dedicated and Launched

BHOPAL, JULY 22:

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav will attend the Balram Krishi Mahotsav under Krishak Kalyan Varsh-2026 at Chandrashekhar Azad Nagar in Alirajpur district on 23 July 2026. He will pay floral tribute to Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad at his birthplace, Azad Kutiya, interact with progressive farmers, and engage with social media influencers. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will dedicate and perform Bhoomi Poojan for development projects worth over ₹340 crore. The programme, being organised at the Krishi Upaj Mandi Campus on the occasion of the 120th birth anniversary of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad, is part of the State Government's statewide Balram Krishi Mahotsav under Krishak Kalyan Varsh-2026. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will proceed to the main venue following the tribute ceremony at Azad Kutiya,

where he will interact with progressive farmers and discuss agricultural innovations, modern farming technologies and various aspects of agricultural development. He will also hold an interaction with social media influencers from different districts of the division representing diverse fields.

Progressive Farmers and Meritorious Students to be Honoured

During the Balram Krishi Mahotsav, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will honour progressive farmers and meritorious students of the district for their outstanding achievements. The objective of the Mahotsav is to familiarise farmers with the latest agricultural technologies, improved farming practices, developments in allied sectors and various welfare schemes of the Government. Benefits under different government schemes will also be distributed to eligible beneficiaries during the programme.



Exhibition on Agriculture and Allied Sectors

An exhibition showcasing the initiatives and technologies of the Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Cooperation, Agricultural Engineering and other allied departments will also be organised during the Mahotsav. Development Projects worth over ₹340 Crore for Alirajpur District Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will dedicate and launch development projects worth over ₹340 crore. He will perform

Bhoomi Poojan for development works worth approximately ₹287.32 crore across various departments during his proposed visit to Alirajpur. These include road construction projects by the Public Works Department, rural connectivity roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, new high school buildings under the Tribal Affairs Department, barrage construction by the Water Resources Department, power substations by the Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company, renovation and construction works under the Prime Minister College of Excellence, and various infrastructure projects of the Panchayat and Rural Development Department and other departments. These projects are expected to strengthen road connectivity, education, irrigation, power infrastructure and rural development in the district. The Chief Minister will also

inaugurate completed development and infrastructure projects worth approximately ₹53.55 crore. These include new 33/11 kV power substations, school buildings, Anganwadi centres, Atal Seva Kendras, culverts, stop dams, community ponds, rural infrastructure works under the Rural Mechanical Services (RMS), drainage systems, paver block roads and several other rural infrastructure projects.

Chief Minister to Interact with Social Media Influencers

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav will hold a direct interaction with social media influencers working in different sectors across the district as part of the Influencers' Talk programme. The discussion will focus on agriculture, tribal culture, tourism, local products, natural farming and rural innovations, providing a platform to exchange ideas and experiences.

99 Years of Indian Broadcasting Industry

(On the occasion of "National Broadcasting Day" on 23 July)

“National Broadcasting Day” is celebrated annually on 23 July to commemorate the first-ever “All India Radio (AIR)” broadcast that took place in India on 23 July 1927. This day is also aimed to recognise the important contributions of the broadcasting industry in India and to honour the pioneers who made it possible for vast India to become a leader in the field of media and communication. It reminds us the power of broadcasting and the significance of freedom of speech and expression. We can celebrate the victory of India's broadcasting industry, both public and private, and recognise the individuals who have contributed to its growth and success over the years.

History of Indian Broadcasting Services:

The Indian Broadcasting Company was established in 1927 and shut down in 1930 due to financial constraints. The Government of India took over the broadcasting service and created the Indian State Broadcasting Services in 1930. The broadcasting industry in

India has grown significantly over the years, with numerous private and public broadcasters offering radio, television, and online streaming services.

Radio - An Affordable Communication System of Masses:

Among the broadcasting systems, radio has earned name and fame in both rural and urban areas as a source of news, education, agriculture, weather updating, entertainment, and providing essential information. There are around 531 community radio stations 420 AIR services reaching nearly 99.19 percent of total population in 23 languages. Now the FM radio broadcasting is the most popular medium to provide entertainment, and education to the masses. Radio City is India's first private private FM radio station started on 03 June 2001 by Star TV network. On this auspicious day different broadcasting channels and radio stations air special programs that showcase the history and evolution of the broadcasting industry in India.

Uddhav, Raj Thackeray announce joint protest march in Mumbai on July 26

MUMBAI, JULY 22

Shiv Sena-UBT Chief Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) Chief Raj Thackeray on Wednesday decided to take to the streets in support of students Ahead of the rally, Raj Thackeray will hold a press conference on Thursday morning to share further details regarding the event.

The Thackeray brothers had

previously joined hands to protect the pride of the Marathi language. Now, they are coming together once again for the future of students, making this upcoming joint protest a focus of wide-spread attention. The Thackeray brothers have extended their support to Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijit Dipke, who is currently protesting at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. Moving beyond symbolic backing, both leaders

have now decided to directly take to the streets. The decision comes amid growing frustration over several key issues, including the Union Education Minister not resigning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah remaining silent on the matter, and the use of baton charges (lathi charges) against protesting students. With these developments unfolding, all eyes are now on what the two leaders



will address during the upcoming protest march. Earlier on Wednesday, MNS leader Amit Thackeray and Shiv Sena-UBT leader Aditya Thackeray visited the protesting students at Shivtirth in Mumbai. Addressing the people, Aditya Thackeray said, "First of all, the fact that you all have gathered here demonstrates the power of the youth. It is extremely important that we all come together like this. Is

there anyone here representing a political party? Are there any 'Urban Naxals' or terrorists here? Everyone here who is an Indian citizen, chant Vande Mataram and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. This is our true strength. Today, Amit Thackeray and I visited different locations where young men and women had gathered in similar numbers. We must acknowledge one thing—what happened in Delhi was not done by the

Mumbai Police. They did not lay a finger on anyone, and for that, we should express our gratitude to them." Taking a firm stance, Aadiya Thackeray addressed the youth, saying, "Do not let your passion cool down; Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation must happen." He announced that a collective singing of the National Anthem will take place on July 24 at 4 p.m. at Shivaji Park in Mumbai.

Additional Special Trains being provided for stranded passengers

MALIGAON, 22 JULY, 2026

Due to severe flooding in and around Simaluguri town in Sivasagar district under the Tinsukia Division of Northeast Frontier Railway, train services between the Simaluguri-Namtiali and Simaluguri – Selenghat sections have been suspended in the interest of passenger safety and operational requirements. As a result, several long-distance trains to and from Dibrugarh and Tinsukia have been diverted via the Rangiya – Rangapara – Dibrugarh route. While certain services have been short terminated or short originated few trains have also been cancelled. To assist passengers affected by these disruptions, it has been decided to operate additional two pairs of special trains, the details of which are given below. Accordingly, One Special train will operate between Tinsukia and Bhojo



from 22.07.26 to 26.07.26. Train no. 05911(Tinsukia – Bhojo) Special will depart from Tinsukia at 12:00hrs to reach Bhojo at 14:00 hrs on the same day. In return direction, Train no. 05912 (Bhojo – New Tinsukia) Special will depart from Bhojo at 15:00 hours to reach New Tinsukia at 16:35 hours on the same day. Another Special train will operate between New Tinsukia and Moranhat from 22.07.26 to 26.07.26. Train no. 05913(New Tinsukia – Moranhat) Special will de-

part from New Tinsukia at 16:45 hrs to reach Moranhat at 19:30 hrs on the same day. In return direction, Train no. 05914 (Moranhat – Tinsukia) Special will depart from Moranhat at 20:00 hours to reach Tinsukia at 23:00 hours on the same day. In addition to the above special trains, N. F. Railway has already introduced three pairs of special trains between Lumding – Mariani Jn., and Rangiya – Mariani Jn. to facilitate the stranded passengers of the route.

Restoration Work of the Flood Effectuated Sections Going on in Full Swing

MALIGAON, 22 JULY, 2026

Owing to heavy rainfall in the upstream catchment areas, overflowing water of the Dikhow River flooded in the Simaluguri town station and surrounding areas in Sivasagar district under the Tinsukia Division of Northeast Frontier Railway. The overflow of water has affected parts of the Simaluguri station yard, railway colony and has also overtopped the railway track in the affected sections.

Despite the challenging conditions, the Tinsukia Division has launched extensive restoration with 24x7 monitoring to ensure the earliest possible restoration of normal train services. Engineering teams led by senior-railway officials of division have been working continuously on a war footing to address the impact of the flood-



waters and early restoration of train services.

Restoration work is currently in full swing in the Selenghat – Amguri section, where more than 200 workshave been deployed along with railway engineers and supervisors to expedite repair and restoration activities. The workforce is carrying out track restoration, strengthening of infrastructure and continuous inspection of the affected locations

to ensure safe resumption of train operations.

Significant restoration work was also undertaken in the Sivasagar Town – Simaluguri section on the previous day, with railway personnel making steady progress despite adverse weather conditions. Senior officials of Northeast Frontier Railway are closely supervising the restoration efforts, while all concerned departments are working in close coordina-



tion to minimise disruption of train services and restore normalcy at the earliest. Passenger safety remains the highest priority, and every effort is being made to ensure that restoration work is completed efficiently and safely. Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to providing safe and reliable rail services and appreciates the cooperation of passengers during this period of unprecedented flooding.

Every News Report Becomes a Document of Its Time- CM

CHANDIGARH, JULY 22-

Describing journalists as the vigilant conscience of democracy, Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday said journalism derives its true strength not merely from the written word but from truth, credibility, public trust and an unwavering sense of responsibility towards society and the nation. He said journalists do far more than report events, they give words to the present and shape the history of the future.

Interacting with the senior journalists of the Senior Journalists Forum, Chandigarh, at Sant Kabir Kutir, the Chief Minister said every news report becomes a document of its time and



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini interacting with the members of Senior Journalists Forum Chandigarh at his residence Sant Kabir Kutir in Chandigarh on July 22, 2026

every photograph reflects the collective conscience of society. Journalism, he said, is not confined to reporting facts; it plays a defining role in shaping public opinion, preserving history and strengthening democratic institutions.

Welcoming the senior

journalists, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said democracy flourishes only when dialogue within society remains continuous, meaningful and vibrant. Such dialogue, he said, is sustained by a free, responsible and credible media that serves as a bridge between the government

and the people. Journalists, therefore, have an indispensable role in deepening democratic values and strengthening public confidence in institutions.

Journalism is not driven merely by pen and ink. It is guided by public trust, informed opinion and a deep

sense of responsibility towards democracy, the Chief Minister said, adding that journalists shoulder the responsibility of presenting facts with fairness, balance and integrity.

Highlighting India's rich journalistic tradition, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the roots of Indian journalism are deeply embedded in the country's timeless civilisational heritage. Referring to Maharishi Narad as the world's first messenger, he said Narad's mission was not merely to disseminate information but to uphold truth, maintain balance and work for the larger welfare of society. He said the essence of responsible communication has always been an integral part of India's cultural ethos.

Manipur CM Launches IMPPS, Distributes ₹91.67 Crore in Welfare Benefits

IMPHAL, 22 JULY 2026

Today, I had the privilege of gracing the Distribution of Welfare Schemes implemented by the Social Welfare Department, Government of Manipur, at the City Convention Centre, Imphal. The programme was attended by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Ministers Shri Losii Dikho and Smt. Nemcha Kipgen who joined virtually, along with Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble MLAs, Chief Secretary Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel, Commissioner (Social Welfare) Smt. Haobam Rosita, senior officials and other dignitaries. On this occasion, welfare benefits worth Rs.91.67 crore were distributed to 2,40,758 beneficiaries across the State under 17 different schemes of the Social Welfare Department. We also formally launched the Integrated Monthly Pension Processing System (IMPPS) to ensure faster, transparent, and more efficient pension service-



es. MOAP Beneficiary Cards and other welfare benefits were also distributed during the programme. Addressing the gathering, I stated that the State has gone through difficult times over the past three years which disrupted the lives of our people. To address the financial hardships faced by citizens, the Government has taken up various initiatives under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and under the guidance of Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. I expressed hope that the distribution of these benefits would

provide much-needed relief to the people. I further urged all communities living in the State to consider themselves as Manipuris and to work together for a peaceful and better Manipur. Delivering the presidential address, Chief Secretary Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel said that women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, widows and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have faced the greatest burden in recent years. He added that it is the shared responsibility of all to ensure they receive the care, protection and opportunities they deserve.

US to take up India’s soda ash issue with New Delhi

WASHINGTON

The Trump administration will raise with New Delhi concerns over India's proposed restrictions on imports of American soda ash, US Trade Representative Jameson Greer told lawmakers on Wednesday, indicating the issue will form part of broader trade engagement between the two countries.

"I have a good relationship with my counterpart in India, and we work closely with their trade ministry," Greer told the Senate Finance Committee during a hearing on President Donald Trump's 2026 Trade Policy Agenda.

The assurance came after Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming urged the administration to ensure fair market access for American soda ash producers, saying Indian manufacturers had petitioned their government to restrict imports from the United States.

Barrasso said Wyoming, which produces the world's largest natural deposits of trona used to manufacture soda ash, was concerned that India could impose limits on American exports despite US produc-



ers being able to "compete with anyone in the world on a level playing field."

Greer said Washington would raise the matter directly with Indian officials.

"I will raise this with them next time," he said. "They have internal processes on trade remedies as we do, but we want to make sure that any process they have is fair, that our producers are being treated fairly and they get to the right answer."

The exchange was one of several references to India during a hearing largely dominated by

debate over President Trump's tariff policy, trade negotiations and efforts to reduce America's dependence on China. Greer said he remained in regular contact with India's trade leadership as the two countries continued discussions on expanding bilateral trade.

"I have a good relationship with my counterpart in India, and we work closely with their trade ministry," he said, underscoring ongoing engagement between the two governments.

The hearing otherwise focused on the administration's broader trade agenda, includ-

ing negotiations with Canada, Mexico, the European Union and several Asian countries.

Defending the administration's trade policy, Greer said the United States had concluded: "19 framework or reciprocal trade deals, covering 32% of global gross domestic product."

He also argued that the administration's strategy was reshaping global trade flows and reducing reliance on China.

"Our trade deficit in goods with China fell to \$200 billion in 2025, the lowest it's been since 2005, and China's

share of total U.S. imports fell to about 9%, the lowest it has been since China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001," he said.

Democratic lawmakers challenged the administration's reliance on tariffs, arguing they had increased costs for American consumers and businesses. Greer rejected those claims, saying the administration's policies had helped boost manufacturing, wages and exports.

India and the United States are negotiating a broader bilateral trade arrangement aimed at expanding market access, lowering trade barriers and strengthening economic ties. Officials from both countries have held multiple rounds of discussions covering agriculture, industrial goods, digital trade and manufacturing.

The United States is India's largest trading partner, with bilateral goods and services trade exceeding \$190 billion annually. Trade has become a central pillar of the broader India-US strategic partnership, alongside cooperation in defence, critical and emerging technologies, supply chains and the Indo-Pacific.

Several civilians forcibly disappeared, extrajudicially killed by Pak forces

QUETTA



At least four civilians were forcibly disappeared by Pakistani forces in Balochistan, a leading human rights organisation alleged on Wednesday Paank, the Baloch National Movement's Human Rights Department, expressed grave concern over the enforced disappearance of four Baloch youths by Pakistani security forces in the Jiwan area of Gwadar district on Tuesday night. Citing reports, the rights body said that Pakistani forces conducted a late-night raid, searched homes, and subjected women and children to physical abuse during the operation.

It added that the four young men — Mohsin, Yaqoob, Haseeb, and Sameer — were taken into custody and subsequently subjected to enforced disappearance. "These actions constitute serious violations of international human rights law, including the rights to liberty, security of person, due process, and protection from enforced disappearance. Acts of violence against women and children during security operations are equally alarming and require urgent and independent investigation," Paank stated.

The rights body called on the government of Pakistan to immediately disclose the

whereabouts and legal status of the four disappeared youths, ensure they have access to their families and legal counsel, and conduct a prompt, independent, impartial, and transparent investigation into the incident.

Highlighting the atrocities against civilians in Balochistan, human rights body Baloch Yakehti Committee (BYC) revealed that 27-year-old labourer Bada Bugti was extrajudicially killed by the Pakistani Army on July 16 in the Kad-Koocha area of Mastung district.

"His killing is a stark reminder that in Balochistan, no one is safe, not students, not political workers, and not even labourers travelling far from home in search of a living. That a resident of Dera Bugti was killed hundreds of kilometres away in Mastung speaks to the vast and unchecked reach of military

operations across Balochistan, where Baloch lives are taken with complete impunity, and their deaths pass without investigation," the BYC stated.

"Extrajudicial killings constitute a grave violation of the right to life guaranteed under the Constitution of Pakistan and international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Yet in Balochistan, such killings have become routine, with perpetrators shielded from accountability while grieving families are denied even the basic dignity of answers," it added.

In yet another disturbing development, the bodies of seven people were recovered from various districts of Balochistan, with several found bearing multiple gunshot injuries, The Balochistan Post reported, citing local authorities.

Balochistan's Quetta facing severe water crisis

QUETTA

Quetta, the capital and largest city of the Pakistani province of Balochistan, has been facing a severe water crisis with groundwater levels dropping to dangerously low levels and official supplies from the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) either completely stopped or severely restricted in many residential areas, local media reported on Wednesday. Residents of areas, including Sariab, Sirki Road, Samungli Road, Jinnah Town, Qambarani Road, Satellite Town, Sabzal Road, and Khayaban-e-Agha, are facing problems due to water shortage. Elderly people, women and young children in Quetta are forced to travel long distances on foot to fetch water, Pakistan's leading daily The Express Tribune reported. Many houses in Quetta have received no tap water for the past six months.

Trump warns of strikes if Iran targets ships in Hormuz

WASHINGTON



Tehran," Trump wrote.

He concluded the message by saying, "Thank you for your attention to this matter! President Donald J. Trump." The statement marks one of Trump's

most explicit public warnings to Iran linking attacks on maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz to immediate and direct US military action against civilian infrastructure. Trump's warn-

ing specifically covered a broad range of potential attacks, including those carried out with missiles, rockets, drones or "any other device or weapon". The post did not distinguish between

attacks on US-flagged ships and those belonging to other countries, referring instead to "a ship in the Strait of Hormuz".

The President also identified the nature of the proposed retaliation, saying the United States would target "One bridge or Power Plant" for each such attack. He added that those targets could include facilities "located next to, or in, the Capital City of Tehran". The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important maritime chokepoints, carrying a significant share of globally traded crude oil and liquefied natural gas.

For India, which imports a substantial portion of its crude oil from the Gulf region, security in the Strait of Hormuz remains a matter of strategic and economic importance. Any escalation affecting shipping through the corridor could influence freight costs, energy prices and supply chains.



Bangladesh: BNP distances itself from July National Charter-backed reform agenda

DHAKA

Bangladesh has undergone immense turmoil marked by institutional transitions and mob violence in 24 months since July 2024 protests. While the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government was overthrown following the unrest, the task of transforming the system itself remains unfinished over the last two years, a report has stated.

According to a report in online magazine "The Diplomat", after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) assumed power earlier this year, it declined to take the oath of office as members of the Constitution Reform Council, effectively refusing to implement the outcomes of the February 2026 referendum.

It noted that the referendum on the July National Charter secured early 68 per cent voted "Yes" providing a political mandate to restructure governance and authorising parliament to function as a constituent assembly to enact reforms.

In doing so, the report said, the BNP dismissed the referendum's "yes" vote as well as the July protestors' call for

"radical political changes".

"The aspirations of the July Revolution were documented in the July National Charter of 2025, where all political parties, including the BNP, agreed on several principles of state reformation such as limiting the Prime Minister's tenure to 10 years, maintaining the independence of the Judiciary and Election Commission, protection of human rights, and establishing a 100-member Upper House," it detailed.

Following the election, the BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami-led alliance adopted divergent positions on reforms. While the Jamaat and the student-led National Citizen Party (NCP) pushed for the immediate implementation of the referendum, the BNP sought to delay the process, the report mentioned.

A BNP member told The Diplomat that his party "wants to bring changes to the constitution as per the BNP's 31-point outline, which has many similarities with the July National Charter", adding that the party "does not want to make changes to the constitution the way NCP and Jamaat suggest."

Bangladesh ICT verdict against former minister ‘miscarriage of justice’: Report

DHAKA

The sentencing of Hasanul Huq Inu, former Bangladesh Minister and President of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), to 10-year imprisonment by the country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on three charges of crimes against humanity linked to July 2024 protests was not supported by sufficient evidence, a report has stated.

Describing the verdict as a "miscarriage of justice", journalist David Bergman said that the acquittals, convictions, and the reasoning outlined in the summary judgment pointed to the same underlying failure: that the

"decisions have been made without the evidence base needed to justify prosecutions for offences as serious as these".

"The claim that can arguably be made is that at each stage — charge framing, prosecution, and now judgement—decision-makers reasoned backwards from a presumption of Inu's guilt rather than forward from the evidence actually before them," Bergman wrote in Bangladesh's newspaper Daily Waadaa. He noted that the June 30 verdict acquitted Inu on five charges but sentenced the former minister to 10 years' imprisonment on each of the three convictions, with



the sentences to run concurrently. "The five acquittals should prompt serious scrutiny of the original decisions by both ICT prosecutors and ICT judges to have allowed these

charges to proceed to trial at all: specifically, the decision by prosecutors to include these allegations in their formal charge application, and the subsequent decision by

the Tribunal to agree to frame the charges," Bergman stated.

"This is because it was clear at a very early stage that the evidential foundation of these charges against Inu was either extremely weak or entirely non-existent, and they did not, arguably, meet the evidentiary thresholds required before the Tribunal may lawfully prosecute," he added.

According to the report, Inu openly criticised the aspects of the July 2024 protests, while consistently alleging that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami—whom he occasionally characterised as "terrorists or militants"—had orchestrated the demon-

strations. The report noted that Inu had also been a long-standing political ally of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, adding that the lack of evidence supporting most of the charges suggested his political associations, rather than a sound evidentiary foundation, were the driving factor behind his prosecution.

"As for the judges, there must be questions about whether, at the stages of both cognisance and charge-framing, they conducted proper scrutiny of the charges, considered the necessary legal tests constituting the offence, and the evidence provided by the prosecution," it stressed.

Is the Urbanization a Boon or Bane ?

We are fully aware of the "Conference of Parties - COP29" summit held as part of the summit meeting, various urbanization issues were discussed in detail. In the discussion on the "UN Climate Change Conference COP29 Urbanization Day", it was stated that positive climate changes will be seen as a result of sustainable development of cities, and only when this happens will the paths for economic growth be paved. It is noteworthy that tourism and transportation systems are closely linked to climate change at the international level.

Impact of urbanization

Today, urbanization is increasing rapidly in all countries of the world, and today 56 percent of the world's population lives

in cities, and we are experiencing serious environmental conditions due to the transportation systems of cities. It should be known that climate change and economic factors are linked to tourism. We are observing that climate change is being affected by urbanization, pollution is increasing, and air quality indices of cities are reaching up to 400. Today, cities account for 78 percent of global energy consumption, and cities emit 60 percent of global greenhouse gases. It is noteworthy that cities occupy only 2 percent of the land area.

Cities Turning into Gas Chambers !

We are observing that the world's urban population may increase by 68 percent by 2050, and accordingly, countries are being advised to open



the way for urbanization with long-term plans. It has been analyzed that people in cities facing serious environmental problems along with carbon emissions are going through economic hardship due to illnesses. Today, as the air quality in many megacities in India like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Hyderabad has deteriorated to the point of abysmal, we know that urban people are holding their lives in their hands, covering their noses,

and continuing their city life with great difficulty. Urban pollution is reducing the life expectancy of city dwellers and causing a decline in GDP.

Climate Changes with Urbanization

It was stated that urbanization should be regulated in developing countries, and that developed countries should allocate a large amount of "climate finance" funds, which would pave the way for reducing adverse climate changes and global warming. It was stated that the urban transport sector is releasing 24 percent of carbon dioxide through excessive use of fossil fuels, and today urban transport systems should also be transformed into green hubs. Among the key decisions taken on the COP29 Urbanization Day, it was decided to

link climate change with human health. Similarly, as part of sustainable urban development, it was suggested that urbanization be carried out in coordination with countries, governments, people and the private sector.

He said that the tourism sector is responsible for 8.8 percent of global carbon emissions and tourism contributes to 3 percent of GDP. Housing problems, energy shortages, nature destruction, and biodiversity loss are linked to issues in cities. To overcome these major problems, the world must know that planned urbanization should be given high priority and the beginning of positive climate change should be initiated.

- Prof: Madhusudan Reddy Burra
994970037.

US watchdog faults Biden-era labour practices

WASHINGTON

The Inspector General of the US Department of Labour on Wednesday told lawmakers that the Biden-Harris administration failed to establish basic safeguards governing the sharing of confidential investigative information with outside lawyers, saying weak oversight created the potential for sensitive government information to be used in private litigation.

Appearing before the House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, Inspector General Anthony D'Esposito said his office found that the department lacked department-wide controls over so-called common interest agreements, which

allow parties with shared legal interests to exchange confidential information under limited circumstances.

"I repeat with a shared interest," D'Esposito said. "They were never intended to become a tool for the federal government to align itself with private plaintiff attorneys."

He told lawmakers that the audit, initiated after concerns raised by Congress and Acting Labour Secretary Keith Sonderling, found widespread deficiencies in how such agreements were managed.

"The Biden-Harris Department of Labour had no department-wide controls governing any of these common interest agreements," he said. "There were no written policies, no consistent approval processes,

no centralised tracking."

According to D'Esposito, some agreements were documented while others "amounted to a little more than a verbal handshake." "In one case, an individual executed a common interest agreement without the authority to even do so," he testified. The inspector general said investigators were unable to obtain a complete inventory of the agreements because none existed. "When our auditors requested a complete inventory of these agreements, none existed. Agreements were scattered across emails, shared drives, and case files. Officials initially identified 45 agreements; manual searches uncovered even more. That is not oversight. That is a system without accountability."



Sensex ends 715 points lower, Nifty below 24,000; IndiGo down 4%

Benchmark stock market indices ended sharply lower on Wednesday, marking their biggest single-day decline in two weeks, as surging crude oil prices and escalating tensions in the Middle East dampened investor sentiment. Selling in banking, IT and pharma stocks further weighed on the market, while FMCG and auto shares bucked the trend.

The BSE Sensex fell 715.06 points, or 0.92%, to close at 76,755.05, while the NSE Nifty50 declined 191.45 points, or 0.79%, to settle at 23,996.25, slipping below the key 24,000 mark. The benchmarks have now declined for the third consecutive trading session. Brent crude futures surged 4.23% to \$94.86 per barrel, while WTI crude jumped 4.39% to \$88.04, extending gains for a fourth straight session to their highest levels since June. The spike in oil prices followed continued tensions in the Middle East after two Saudi crude tankers bound for Asia reversed course in the Red Sea, while another tanker was hit in the Strait of Hormuz. US Secretary of State Marco



Rubio also said Washington remains open to negotiations with Iran, although progress has remained elusive.

OIL SURGE HITS MARKET SENTIMENT
Higher crude prices weighed heavily on Dalal Street as investors worried about the impact on inflation, India's import bill and corporate profitability. India, the world's third-largest crude importer, is particularly vulnerable to rising oil prices, which can increase inflationary pressures, widen the current account deficit and weaken the rupee. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said geopolitical risks remained the key market concern. "Indian equities ended lower as the

ongoing US-Iran standoff and Houthi-led disruptions to key global shipping routes heightened concerns over potential oil supply disruptions, driving crude prices higher and weakening the rupee. The risk-off sentiment due to renewed concerns over domestic inflation overshadowed better-than-expected business updates and encouraging Q1 earnings results," he said.

BANKS, IT AND PHARMA LEAD LOSSES
The selloff was broad-based, with most sectoral indices ending in the red. The Nifty PSU Bank index emerged as the biggest loser, falling 1.84%, followed by Nifty Media (-2.68%), Nifty Realty (-2.63%), Nifty MidSmall IT & Telecom (-2.18%),

Nifty MidSmall Healthcare (-1.69%), Nifty Healthcare (-1.19%), Nifty Financial Services (-1.32%) and Nifty IT (-1.50%).

Pharma stocks remained under pressure after renewed uncertainty surrounding proposed US tariff measures on pharmaceutical exports. The Nifty Pharma index declined 1.31%, while the Nifty 500 Healthcare index fell 1.24%.

Among Sensex stocks, IndiGo plunged 3.68%, Infosys declined 1.97%, SBI fell 1.81%, UltraTech Cement lost 1.80%, ICICI Bank dropped 1.50%, Axis Bank slipped 1.44%, Adani Ports declined 1.37%, Reliance Industries fell 1.14% and HDFC Bank lost 1.09%.

The weakness also spread to the broader market. The Nifty Smallcap 100 declined 1.54%, Nifty Midcap 50 fell 1.14%, Nifty Midcap 100 lost 1.09% and the Nifty 500 dropped 0.89%.

India VIX rose 5.49% to 13.29, reflecting heightened investor nervousness.

FMCG, AUTO PROVIDE SOME RELIEF
Despite the broader weakness, a few defensive sectors outperformed.

The Nifty FMCG index rose 0.65%, while the Nifty Auto index gained 0.18%.

Among Sensex stocks, Hindustan Unilever emerged as the top gainer, rising 0.75%, followed by NTPC (+0.59%), Power Grid (+0.58%), Titan (+0.38%), Asian Paints (+0.17%) and Bharti Airtel (+0.08%).

According to Nair, investors preferred companies with resilient earnings visibility despite the uncertain macro environment.

"Rate-sensitive sectors such as realty, banking, and consumer durables led the decline, while pharmaceutical stocks came under pressure amid renewed uncertainty over proposed US tariff measures on pharmaceutical exports. Despite the cautious backdrop, FMCG and auto stocks emerged as relative outperformers, supported by strong quarterly earnings from sector leaders, highlighting investors' preference for companies delivering resilient earnings growth amid broader market volatility," he said.

With crude oil nearing the \$95-a-barrel mark and geopolitical tensions showing little sign of easing, investors are likely to remain cautious in the near term, even as the June-quarter earnings season continues to drive stock-specific action.

Medicover Hospitals Gives New Lease of Life to Baby Born at Just 25 Weeks

SECUNDERABAD, JULY 22, 2026 :

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) team at Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad, successfully treated an extremely premature baby boy born under highly critical circumstances, demonstrating excellence in advanced neonatal care.



(KMC), and the unwavering support of the multidisciplinary medical team, nursing staff, and the baby's parents played a crucial role in his recovery.

The baby recovered successfully without major complications such as intracranial hemorrhage (brain bleeding) or Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). He is now healthy, steadily gaining weight, and achieving normal developmental milestones.

Doctors stated that the baby will continue to undergo regular follow-up evaluations to closely monitor his growth and overall development.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Deepa Dhanappa Shetty, Senior Neonatologist & Pediatrician, said, "Successfully discharging a baby born at just 25 weeks of gestation and weighing only 816 grams is a proud milestone for our NICU

team. This achievement reflects the combined efforts of our experienced multidisciplinary team, state-of-the-art neonatal infrastructure, the importance of breast milk, Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), and the unwavering commitment of the baby's parents. With timely intervention and quality neonatal care, even extremely premature babies have a significantly better chance of surviving and leading healthy lives."

Present on the occasion were Dr. Srujana S., Senior Consultant – Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Laparoscopic Surgeon & Infertility Specialist; Dr. Madhavi Dokku, Senior Consultant – Gynaecological Oncologist, Obstetrician & Gynaecologist; Dr. Sajitha Reddy, Consultant – Neonatologist & Pediatrician; Ms. Krishnaveni, Centre Head; and Dr. Prashanth, Medical Superintendent.

AJIO Beauty Strengthens Reliance Portfolio

MUMBAI, JULY 22, 2026

Reliance Retail today announced the launch of AJIO Beauty, expanding its presence in the fast-growing beauty and personal care segment and further strengthening its fashion and lifestyle ecosystem. The launch marks another milestone in Reliance Retail's vision of creating an integrated fashion, beauty and lifestyle ecosystem, bringing together the strengths of AJIO and Tira to serve the evolving needs of Indian consumers. AJIO Beauty offers an extensive portfolio spanning value, bridge-to-luxury, premium and luxury beauty, bringing together skincare, make-up, haircare, fragrances, bath & body, personal care and beauty accessories in one destination. Customers can discover products from over 1500 brands, including homegrown and global names, with nationwide delivery to over 19000 pin codes. A wide range of products will also be available through AJIO Rush, its quick service delivery options in eligible cities, enabling consumers to access their favorite beauty prod-

One-stop destination for beauty, skincare, haircare, fragrances and personal care, delivering a wider selection, faster delivery and a seamless shopping experience



ucts faster and more conveniently. The launch leverages the strengths of Reliance Retail's growing lifestyle portfolio by combining the expertise of Tira, its omnichannel beauty platform, with AJIO's fashion-first customer base and digital reach. AJIO Beauty differentiates itself by combining beauty with discovery, leveraging AJIO's fashion-first approach to spotlight emerging trends, curated routines, ingredient-led recommendations and personalized edits alongside an extensive portfolio of Indian and global brands. The platform transforms beauty shopping from a transactional experience into one driven by exploration, inspiration and self-expression. Speaking

on the launch, AJIO Spokesperson said, "Fashion and beauty are increasingly converging as consumers look to express their personal style more holistically. With AJIO Beauty, we are extending AJIO's fashion-first philosophy into the beauty space, creating a destination where customers can discover products that complement their individuality and lifestyle. Backed by Reliance Retail's beauty expertise and AJIO's digital reach, we are excited to offer a curated beauty experience featuring the best of Indian and international brands, delivered seamlessly to customers across the country." Designed for the modern, digitally savvy consumer, AJIO Beauty combines au-

thentic beauty products, trusted brands, curated recommendations and a seamless shopping experience. By bringing together AJIO's fashion-first offering with Tira's beauty expertise within Reliance Retail's ecosystem, the platform enables consumers to discover fashion and beauty in one place, making it easier to create and express their personal style. About Reliance Retail Limited (RRL): Reliance Retail Limited is a subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), the holding company of all the retail companies under the RIL (Reliance Industries Limited) group. RRVL, through its subsidiaries and affiliates, operates an omnichannel network of 20,169 stores and digital commerce platforms across Grocery, Consumer Electronics, Fashion & Lifestyle consumption baskets with a registered customer base of over 396 million customers as of 30th June 2026. RRVL recorded a gross revenue of ₹3,70,026 crore with an EBITDA of ₹27,033 crore for the year ended March 31, 2026.

Shiprocket and Deloitte Launch "AI for Bharat Commerce"

NEW DELHI, 22 JULY 2026

Shiprocket, India's leading AI-driven commerce enabler, in partnership with Deloitte, today released "AI for Bharat Commerce: Unlocking the \$250 Billion Business Opportunity," a report mapping the next phase of growth for India's e-commerce industry. The study projects that India's e-commerce market will grow from roughly \$90 billion in 2025 to approximately \$250 billion by 2030, as AI-powered discovery, checkout intelligence and fulfillment innovation reshape how the country's next wave of consumers shop online. The report also highlights the growing importance of Bharat in India's digital commerce journey. With 488 million rural internet users accounting for 55% of India's active internet population, 98% of internet users consuming content in Indic languages, and vernacular voice queries growing by 156% compared to English, businesses will need to build more inclusive, vernacular-first commerce experiences. The report also notes that Tier II and Tier III cities already account for over 60% of India's online shoppers, reflecting the growing contribution of Bharat to India's digital economy

Projecting India's E-commerce Market to Reach \$250 Billion by 2030
98% of Indian internet users consume content in Indic languages, highlighting the need for vernacular-first commerce experiences
AI-driven personalisation can deliver up to 2.1x higher conversion and 3.4x higher average order value
Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities account for over 60% of India's online shoppers, highlighting Bharat's growing role in the country's digital commerce ecosystem

The report identifies three defining trends shaping the future of Indian commerce:

- Conversion personalisation, where advanced AI models and generative AI will enable highly intuitive shopping experiences through intelligent recommendations, conversational commerce and visual discovery.
- Conversion Intelligence, where AI-powered recommendations, predictive decision-making and intelligent customer engagement are helping brands improve conversions, customer retention and average order values.
- Bharat-led digital adoption, where growing internet penetration, rising rural connectivity and increasing consumption of Indic-language content are expanding the addressable market for digital commerce across India.

The report also notes that 90% of Indian consumers believe Generative AI has improved their

online shopping experience, highlighting the growing acceptance of AI-led commerce experiences. The report also presents examples of how AI is improving business outcomes across the commerce value chain. Recognised returning customers convert at 2.1x the rate of new-to-ecosystem users, and brands with repeat purchase rates above 25% post profit margins 3.4x higher than those below 15%, highlighting AI's growing role in improving customer engagement, conversion and long-term business outcomes. Commenting on the findings, Saahil Goel, MD & CEO, Shiprocket, said: "India's e-commerce landscape is entering its next phase of growth, and technology will play a central role in shaping that journey. Consumers today expect faster, more personalised and more convenient shopping experiences. For businesses, this means investing in AI, strengthening fulfilment capabilities, and building experiences that cater

to customers across both metro and emerging markets. The report outlines the trends that we believe will define the sector over the coming years." Dr. Anand Ramanathan, Partner & Consumer Industry Leader, Deloitte India, noted, "As India charts its path toward becoming one of the world's largest and most dynamic commerce markets, the winners will not simply be those who adopt AI, but those who learn how to apply it with precision, speed, and discipline. The opportunity is large. The next phase will belong to those who act decisively." The report combines industry research, market trends and Shiprocket's commerce insights to examine how AI is reshaping product discovery, customer engagement, fulfillment and commerce experiences across India. It also explores the growing importance of Bharat, vernacular commerce and AI-enabled personalisation in shaping the future of the country's e-commerce ecosystem.

EbixCash Gets Perpetual RBI Licence

Hyderabad: EbixCash World Money Limited has become the first Authorised Dealer Category-II (AD-II) entity in India to receive a perpetual Reserve Bank of India (RBI) licence with an expanded scope of permitted activities. The milestone follows the RBI's May 2026 revision to the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) framework, allowing AD-II entities for the first time to process trade remittances of up to ₹25 lakh per transaction and family maintenance remittances. The regulatory upgrade marks a significant shift in India's cross-border payments ecosystem. Trade remittances have traditionally been handled only by banks and AD-I institutions. With this approval, EbixCash World Money becomes the first non-bank AD-II player authorised to offer these services, providing MSMEs and SMEs with a more accessible channel for international trade payments.

Within Reach of Millions - Unlocking Opportunities for Trade and Permissible Current Account Remittances
RBI's revised FEMA framework enables EbixCash World Money to facilitate trade remittances of up to Rs25 lakh and family maintenance remittances, creating a faster and more accessible international payments channel for India's MSMEs and households.

With over 27 years of experience in cross-border payments, 100+ branches across 70+ cities, a presence at 20+ international airports, 25,000+ customer touchpoints, and partnerships with 40+ banks, EbixCash World Money is well positioned to support businesses and individuals across India. The company also facilitates more than 75% of India's cash-to-cash inward remittances through the AD-II channel.

Management Commentary
"This is the moment nearly three decades of building trust with the regulator pays off. We are the first AD-II in India to be handed this licence, and we don't take that lightly — it's RBI's endorsement of everything we've built

in governance, compliance, and customer protection since 1999. Our vision extends well beyond this licence. EbixCash World Money is recognised as one of India's most trusted and comprehensive payments and foreign exchange platforms — one that brings payments, remittances, travel cards, and treasury together on a single technology-driven ecosystem. That vision is aligned with where the regulator itself is heading, from RBI's Payment Vision 2028 to the G20 Roadmap for Enhancing Cross-Border Payments. We don't just want to participate in India's digital payments story. We intend to help shape it.

MSMEs have never had an accessible, non-bank channel for trade remittance. With 100+ branches in 70+ cities

and a presence at 20+ international airports, we're not waiting for demand to find us — we're taking this capability directly to where India's exporters and importers already are." — TC Guruprasad, Managing Director & CEO, EbixCash World Money Limited

"A perpetual licence isn't handed out lightly, and an expanded activity scope on top of it is rarer still. RBI is trusting us with a wider mandate because our compliance architecture has been tested and proven, transaction after transaction, and audit after audit. Being first carries weight — every trade remittance we process under this licence will set the benchmark for how the rest of the industry is expected to operate. We intend to meet that standard, not

just today but for every transaction that follows." — Himanshu Pramanick, Chief Compliance Officer, EbixCash World Money Limited

EbixCash World Money's expanded licence builds on an established cross-border payments infrastructure that includes RBI approval to maintain Nostro accounts, Principal Membership of Visa and Mastercard, multicurrency prepaid travel cards across 12+ currencies, and real-time payment capabilities to the United Kingdom and Europe. Combined with its Payment Service Provider approval in GIFT City and investments in AI-driven compliance and fraud detection, the company offers one of India's most comprehensive non-bank cross-border payment platforms.

BUSY Magic Debuts for MSMEs

NEW DELHI, 22 JULY 2026

Busy Infotech Private Limited, the developer of BUSY accounting software and a subsidiary of IndiaMART, today announced the launch of BUSY Magic, a next-generation business management and accounting solution designed to make accounting, billing, inventory, GST and business reporting simpler for India's MSMEs. Built on BUSY's experience of serving more than 6 lakh businesses across India, BUSY Magic brings together a new-generation interface, faster onboarding, AI-led automation and simplified workflows for first-time software users as well as growing businesses. BUSY Magic is designed to reduce day-to-day operational complexity by giving business owners a single dashboard to track key metrics such as sales, purchases, cash and bank position, receivables, payables, stock ageing, low-stock items, pending orders, challans, e-way bills and e-invoices. The platform has

been developed for small and medium businesses across industries, including retailers, distributors, wholesalers, manufacturers, traders and service-led enterprises. It is especially relevant for businesses looking to move away from manual records, spreadsheets and disconnected systems toward a more structured and connected digital environment. Commenting on the launch, Brijesh Agarwal, CEO, Busy Infotech, said, "For many small businesses, adopting accounting software is one of the first major steps in their digital transformation journey. BUSY Magic has been created to lower that barrier with guided workflows, actionable dashboards, and a simpler experience that supports both business owners and their accounting ecosystem. Our aim is to make everyday financial operations feel less intimidating and more efficient.

By combining ease of use with practical automation, we want to help MSMEs build stronger control over their operations and make better decisions with confidence." A key capability in BUSY Magic is AI Voucher Scan & Automatic Bank Reconciliation, which helps users capture voucher details from scanned documents, reduce manual data entry and reconcile bank statements with accounting entries. The product aims to help users achieve faster billing and voucher entry, improved visibility into sales, purchases, cash flow, receivables and payables, stronger stock tracking, reduced manual work, better readiness for GST and e-invoicing workflows, and smoother collaboration between business owners, internal teams, accountants and tax professionals. It also includes Smooth Sync, which enables fast bi-directional data transfer between businesses and Chartered Accountants to reduce routine back-and-forth and accelerate compliance and audit workflows.

The New Dawn

How Skyroot Aerospace Ignited India's Private Space Revolution

On a clear morning at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, a sleek, six-metre-tall rocket stood on a sub-orbital launchpad. Emblazoned with the tricolour and the logo of a young Hyderabad-based startup, the vehicle looked modest compared to the tow-

ering Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLVs) that usually dominate India's spaceport. Yet, when the countdown reached zero and the solid-fuel engine ignited with a thunderous roar, the vehicle did not just clear the tower—it carried the aspirations of an entire

nation's private tech ecosystem into the upper atmosphere. The successful launch of Vikram-S under the Prarambh (The Beginning) mission marked a historic turning point. For over half a century, India's space endeavors were the exclusive domain of the state-

run Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). With Vikram-S breaching an altitude of 89.5 kilometers before safely splashing down in the Bay of Bengal, Skyroot Aerospace became the first Indian private company to design, build, and launch a rocket into

space. This single flight shattered a long-standing monopoly. It proved that deep-tech startups could manufacture aerospace-grade hardware on Indian soil, navigate complex regulatory frameworks, and execute precise launches at a fraction of global costs.



1. The Anatomy of an Innovation: Inside the Vikram Rocket Series

Skyroot Aerospace did not achieve this milestone by copying legacy blueprints. Founded in 2018 by former ISRO scientists Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka, the company built its foundations on structural innovation, advanced material science, and agile manufacturing. The Vikram-S rocket was a technology demonstrator for their flagship commercial vehicle, Vikram-I. To compete in a crowded global launch market, Skyroot focused on three core engineering pillars:

Carbon Composite Structures

Traditional rockets rely heavily on aluminum-lithium alloys. While durable, these materials add significant weight. Skyroot turned to high-strength carbon composites for the rocket's core structure and solid motor cases. By using advanced filament winding machines, they fabricated ultra-lightweight booster casings capable of withstanding immense internal pressures. This drastic reduction in dry mass directly translates into a higher payload capacity for every kilogram of fuel burned.

3D-Printed Cryogenic and Liquid Engines

The manufacturing of rocket engines historically required thousands of individually machined parts, extensive welding, and months of manual assembly. Skyroot bypassed this legacy supply chain by embracing additive manufacturing (3D printing). Their Raman-1 and Raman-2 engines, which power the upper stages of the Vikram series, feature completely 3D-printed injectors and cooling channels. By printing these components as single, monolithic pieces using specialized high-strength alloys, they eliminated weak weld points, reduced the component count by 80%, and cut production timelines from months to days.

Multi-Payload Adaptability

The modern satellite market is

dominated by constellations of small cubesats rather than massive, school-bus-sized communication platforms. The Vikram-I vehicle is explicitly tailored for this micro and nano-satellite market. Featuring a multi-payload adapter and a highly precise orbital adjustment module, the rocket can carry multiple satellites from different customers and drop them off into distinct, customized low-Earth orbits (LEO) during a single mission.

2. The Policy Pivot: Opening the Gates of Sriharikota

Skyroot's technology could not have left the drawing board without a radical shift in India's space policy. For decades, private Indian engineering firms acted merely as tier-2 or tier-3 vendors to ISRO, manufacturing bolts, fabricating fuel tanks, or supplying specialized chemicals based strictly on government designs. Intellectual property remained tightly centralized, and private companies were legally barred from owning or operating independent launch systems. The turning point arrived with the sweeping space sector reforms initiated by the Union Government, culminating in the formal release of the Indian Space Policy. This policy radically redefined ISRO's mandate, shifting it away from routine commercial launches to focus on high-value scientific exploration, deep-space missions, and human spaceflight through the Gaganyaan program.

To bridge the gap between the government and private enterprise, the government created IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center). Functioning as an autonomous, single-window regulatory body, IN-SPACE transformed the ease of doing business in the Indian aerospace sector. For Skyroot, IN-SPACE was the ultimate enabler. It provided the legal clearances required to handle hazardous propellants, authorized the use of Sriharikota's highly secure launchpads, and granted access

to ISRO's world-class testing facilities. Before the Prarambh mission, Skyroot was able to test its solid fuel motors at ISRO's propulsion complexes, utilizing multi-million-dollar test beds that no startup could afford to build independently. This unique public-private synergy allowed a young company to validate its engineering metrics with extreme precision before ever setting foot on the launchpad.

3. The Indian Cost Advantage

Frugal Engineering Goes Galactic. The global space race is undergoing a brutal price war. Companies like SpaceX have driven down the cost per kilogram to orbit for massive payloads, but small satellite operators still face long wait times and rigid schedules when hitching rides as secondary payloads on large rockets. This is where India's private space sector sees its biggest competitive edge: dedicated, on-demand launches at an unmatched price point. Skyroot has successfully adapted India's legendary ethos of "frugal engineering" to complex rocket science. This cost-efficiency is not built on cutting corners, but on systematic structural advantages: By combining these factors, Indian space startups can operate on capital budgets that would barely cover the preliminary design reviews of their Western counterparts. A dedicated launch on a Vikram-I rocket aims to offer global satellite constellations customized orbital insertion timelines at a fraction of the cost of traditional small-satellite launch vehicles. This financial viability has turned India from a cost-effective option for government-to-government launches into a global hotspot for commercial private aerospace ventures.

4. The Rising Tide: India's Expanding Space-Tech Ecosystem

Skyroot's breakthrough is not an isolated success story; it is the tip of an iceberg representing a booming, highly interconnected domestic ecosystem. The success of the Prarambh

mission sent a powerful green signal to global venture capital firms, proving that Indian deep-tech companies could deliver tangible hardware milestones under tight timelines. Today, Skyroot operates alongside an energetic cohort of private space enterprises, each targeting a different segment of the global space value chain: Agnikul Cosmos: Operating out of IIT Madras, this startup has made waves with its Agnibaan rocket, powered by a semi-cryogenic engine that is entirely 3D-printed in a single piece. Their focus on liquid-propellant systems offers highly customizable launch options. Pixxel: Building a constellation of ultra-high-resolution hyperspectral earth imaging satellites. Pixxel's satellites capture data across dozens of wavelengths, allowing global industries to monitor crop health, track methane leaks, and spot illegal mining activities with unprecedented accuracy. Dhruva Space: Focused on full-stack satellite platforms, deployers, and ground station services, providing international clients with an end-to-end ecosystem to operate their assets seamlessly once in orbit.

This cluster of startups forms a self-sustaining loop. Indian launch providers like Skyroot and Agnikul can deploy satellites built by companies like Pixxel and Dhruva Space, utilizing a domestic supply chain of precision machinists, electronics fabricators, and software developers scattered across manufacturing hubs like Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai.

5. Navigating the Gravity Well: Challenges on the Horizon

While the initial milestones are historic, the path to a sustainable, multi-billion-dollar commercial space industry is fraught with immense technical and financial risks. Rocket science remains an unforgiving domain where a single dry joint, a microsecond software lag, or a tiny valve malfunction can result in spectacular, multi-million-dollar failures.

Scaling to Consistent Orbital Insertion

Transitioning from a sub-orbital demonstration (breaching the edge of space momentarily) to consistent orbital insertion (putting a payload into a sustained orbit at speeds exceeding 27,000 kilometers per hour) requires a massive leap in energy, structural endurance, and multi-stage separation technology. The engineering complexities of managing cryogenic upper stages, precise fairing separations, and long-duration thermal environments present severe tests for any young technical team.

Geopolitical Rigidity and Compliance

The global space market is governed by intense geopolitical sensitivities. Rocket components and satellite technologies fall under strict international frameworks, such as the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and various dual-use technology export controls. For Indian private operators to capture a dominant share of the lucrative Western commercial market, they must navigate complex cross-border compliance laws to seamlessly import components and launch foreign-built payloads.

Financing Long-Term Capital Wells

Deep-tech hardware ventures require deep pockets and patient capital. Unlike software-as-a-service (SaaS) startups that can iterate products overnight with minimal overhead, aerospace companies face long development cycles where revenue generation is tied to physical, high-risk launch events. Maintaining investor confidence and ensuring a steady flow of late-stage capital through peri-

ods of technical delays is a critical challenge for corporate leadership.

6. The Cosmos Awaits: A Vision for India's Space 2.0

The successful flight of Skyroot Aerospace has permanently altered the narrative surrounding India's technology sector. For decades, the global perception of Indian tech was anchored in software services, back-office operations, and IT consulting. Skyroot, along with its peers, has shattered this ceiling, proving that Indian engineers can design, build, and deploy highly complex, hard-tech physical infrastructure capable of operating in the harshest environments known to humanity. The commercial stakes are massive. The global space economy is projected to cross \$1 trillion over the next decade, driven by an insatiable demand for satellite internet, real-time climate monitoring, precision maritime tracking, and space-based data analytics. With its proven cost advantages, deep engineering talent pool, and a highly supportive regulatory framework under IN-SPACE, India is uniquely positioned to scale its market share from a modest 2% to a dominant global player. Skyroot's journey from a small office in Hyderabad to the historic launchpads of Sriharikota is a blueprint for the nation's future. It demonstrates that when state infrastructure opens its doors to private imagination, the results are explosive. The Vikram rockets are no longer just symbols of corporate ambition; they are the engines carrying India's broader scientific, industrial, and economic potential into the cosmos. The era of private space exploration has arrived, and it is firmly rooted in Indian soil.



He'll find his own way: Maninder backs Sooryavanshi

Golf

Diksha targets break-through at Women's Scottish Open



NEW DELHI: India's Diksha Dagar will look to build on her consistent run of form when she tees off at the Women's Scottish Open, which gets underway at Dundonald Links on Thursday. Diksha will be joined by compatriots Avani Prashanth and Pranavi Urs in the prestigious tournament, co-sanctioned by the Ladies European Tour (LET) and the LPGA Tour. The event, featuring a 144-player field from 33 countries, also offers a potential pathway to the LPGA Tour with victory. The tournament marks the return of the LET following a two-week break and will be played at Dundonald Links for the fifth successive year. Diksha heads into the event in impressive form despite not adding to her two LET titles this season. The Hero-backed golfer has recorded three top-10 finishes in her last four starts, finishing tied ninth at the Jabra Ladies Open, tied third at the Dutch Ladies Open and tied seventh at the Hulencourt Women's Open. She also registered a tied-12th finish at the Czech Ladies Open, a tournament she has previously won.

NEW DELHI

At just 15, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has already found himself under a harsh international microscope. Having stepped up from the U-19 circuit into the deep end of senior international cricket earlier this month, the teenage Sooryavanshi faces a stern test in Harare when India open their T20I series against Zimbabwe on Thursday.

The Harare Sports Club, a place where he hit an unbeaten 175 to make India win the U19 World Cup final, has offered seam movement and bounce to Zimbabwe's tall quicks like Blessing Muzarabani and Richard Ngarava, who are primed to test his resolve with short-pitched bowling – something which Jofra Archer used to great effect.

However, former India spinner Maninder Singh believes that while opposition teams will actively dissect and target the teenager's weaknesses, Sooryavanshi possesses the innate talent, work ethic, and support system to adapt on the fly and overcome the meagre returns of 42 runs in his first three international games in England.

“Yes, but then again, it comes to the conditions. When you start playing with men after being with the U-19 players, and according to that level, he is a very, very good cricketer. But when you start playing with men, and the conditions were like that in England, where there was a little bounce, there must be some weaknesses that the international teams will catch.

“It's because in today's time, so many videos are watched and attempts are made to find weaknesses. So, that will continue, and now that you have started playing international cricket, people will also wonder how this 15-year-old will make runs. So, you will get to see a little extra effort by the bowlers (to outsmart him),” Maninder told IANS in an exclusive conversation facilitated by FanCode, the broadcasters of the India-Zimbabwe T20I series.

India's recent vulnerability against back-of-a-length bowling was laid bare across their games in Ireland and En-



gland, where larger playing dimensions gave pacers ample boundary riders to work with and outsmart them. If ever there was a time for Zimbabwe to capitalise, it is now.

Zimbabwe find themselves better equipped than ever to exploit this exact weak link in India's armour. Both Muzarabani and Ngarava are natural exponents of hard-length bowling via their formidable height and sky-high release points to extract awkward bounce, which means Zimbabwe have a genuine opportunity to make a massive statement against the three-time T20 World Cup champions.

Despite that, Maninder rates Sooryavanshi as an exceptional talent who will find his own method of adjusting, and expects him to start actively working on the issue rather than let it linger.

“But I feel he is a very talented kid and he will find his own way to adapt himself in such conditions. I think he will start working towards that also. The advantage with him is that his coach follows him regularly. His father moves with him. So, his weaknesses will also be found, and they will start working on them.

“It's because if a parent starts giving his child cricket training from the age of 8-9-10, and he plays for India at the age of 15, then one thing is for sure: the child is talented. The second thing is that a lot of hard work has been done with him. The

third thing, which I see in the coming time, is that he will start working on his weaknesses while playing international cricket,” he added.

Sooryavanshi isn't the only Indian batter seeking clarity and rhythm on this tour. For Rinku Singh, the series represents an opportunity to convert the frustration of being a frequent casualty during squad reshuffles into match-defining performances as a finisher, especially with India's middle order failing to fire in recent games. “See, they (the Indian batters) were struggling because of the conditions. Probably, if Rinku Singh had been there, he would have struggled too. The conditions are similar here as well. Now, I would like to see how much hard work Rinku Singh put in to make a comeback and how much he was hurt by it. Whenever there is a player to be dropped, Rinku Singh gets dropped from the middle order.

“So, I would like to see how much he has been hurt, and how much hard work he has put in to make a comeback. Then it will give us an idea of how much strength he has in himself – like if he is hurt in this way, then he will perform in such a way that in the coming times, the selectors will not get a chance to drop him. So, we will have to wait and see with what attitude Rinku Singh is coming in this series,” he added.



'They shouldn't fear failure': Shreyas urges his young team to embrace challenge

HARARE

India captain Shreyas Iyer on Wednesday called on his young side to play without the fear of failure as they prepare to take on Zimbabwe in the opening match of the three-match T20I series at the Harare Sports Club on Thursday, stressing that adaptability, awareness and collective effort will be key to turning around the team's recent fortunes overseas.

Having endured a difficult run in England, where India struggled to produce consistent performances, Iyer acknowledged that the tour had exposed areas that require improvement but insisted the experience would prove valuable in the long run.

“Definitely, we had a rough patch in England. But a lot of positives out of that. We got to know what we have to build as a team going forward, what kind of presence of mind, awareness, and adaptability we need once we step onto the field. This is going to be a great challenge for us. Some of us are playing for the first time, so the quicker we adapt, the better result we would be getting,” Iyer told the media at the pre-match press conference.

The skipper described India's recent overseas assignments as an important learning curve, saying repeated exposure to unfamiliar conditions would eventually help the side grow into a stronger unit.

“We've had three series outside of India, and it's a great exposure for us as well,

as a team, because you don't get this often. And this is a challenging phase, and the quicker you overcome this phase, the better you get as a team, and you get the results as well eventually,” he added.

With India arriving in Zimbabwe only a day before training began, Iyer admitted the schedule has left little time for preparation but maintained that adapting quickly is now part of international cricket. “Not going to lie, it is definitely very challenging. Like we came yesterday, and today is practice, and tomorrow is a match again. So it is challenging, but it is fun. And if you give a good performance in this, then definitely you will be happy with yourself, and you will definitely get praise.

“We have to adapt as soon as possible. Because that's what happened with us in Ireland. We got a sort of a reality check. So here, as soon as we create awareness and execute things properly, definitely the results will go our way,” Iyer stated.

Iyer also backed the younger members of the squad to respond positively after their recent setbacks, expressing confidence that they would have worked on the shortcomings exposed during the previous series. “All the youngsters have definitely practised. They have found a decent gap after the T20 series. So they must have rectified where they went wrong. They must have learnt from the last tournament what they can do better. And if they feel something, I can go to the ground and tell them,” he said.

China Open 2026: Lakshya, Sindhu and Ayush march into second round



CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

Top stars Lakshya Sen, PV Sindhu and Ayush Shetty booked their places in the second round of the China Open with hard-fought victories in Changzhou on Wednesday. Lakshya defeated Japan's Yushi Tanaka 22-20, 15-21, 21-14 in a gruelling match, while Sindhu got the better of her Indian counterpart Unnati Hooda 21-14, 9-21, 21-10.

Ayush, meanwhile, registered an impressive win over World No. 11 Alwi Farhan of Indonesia, prevailing 21-17, 5-21, 21-17 to move into the last 16. All three players won their respective matches in the deciding game to progress to the second round.

Sindhu carried her winning momentum into the China Open with a hard-fought opening-round victory over fellow Indian Unnati Hooda, while Ayush Shetty produced one of the biggest upsets of the day by knocking out Indonesia's World No. 11 Alwi Farhan to storm into the men's singles pre-quarter-

finals on Wednesday. Just days after ending her title drought with a triumph at the Japan Open, Sindhu overcame a spirited challenge from 18-year-old Hooda, prevailing 21-14, 9-21, 21-10 in a contest that lasted 56 minutes.

The victory also settled unfinished business for the two-time Olympic medallist, who had been eliminated by Hooda at the same tournament last year. This time, the experienced Indian ensured history did not repeat itself, recovering impressively after surrendering the second game. Sindhu's reward is a high-profile second-round clash against fourth seed and former Olympic champion Chen Yufei of China. The Indian will head into that encounter with confidence after defeating the Chinese star during her title-winning campaign at last week's Japan Open.

Ayush Shetty also enjoyed a memorable outing, overcoming former World Junior champion Alwi Farhan 21-17, 5-21, 21-17 to book his place in the last 16.

Olympic champs Sheng, Zhang finish 1-2 in men's 10m air rifle final

HANGZHOU (CHINA)

China's Olympic champions Sheng Lihao and Zhang Changhong secured a one-two finish in the men's 10-meter air rifle final as the ISSF World Cup opened in Hangzhou on Wednesday.

Sheng, a two-time gold medalist at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, topped qualification with 637.5 points before carrying that form into the final. The 21-year-old led from the opening series and was never seriously challenged, finishing with 253.9 points to claim his

12th ISSF World Cup title. The victory was Sheng's first World Cup gold medal on home soil. “This is a historic title for me. Competing at home made me feel very comfortable and at ease,” he said.

Zhang, the Tokyo Olympic champion in the men's 50-metre rifle three positions, arrived in Hangzhou after winning gold at the previous World Cup stop. After narrowly advancing to the eight-man final, he delivered a composed performance to take silver with 252.4 points, reports Xinhua. “Overall, I think I performed quite well. My qualifica-



tion performance was a little below par today, and I didn't compete at the level I'm capable of,” Zhang said. Sweden's Victor Lindgren denied

China a podium sweep by edging Ma Sihan for bronze by 0.2 points. Earlier on Wednesday, China's reigning world champions Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai set world records in both qualification and the final to win the 10-meter air pistol mixed team event.

After setting a new qualification record of 591 points earlier in the day, the duo scored 488.4 points in the final, surpassing the previous world record of 487.7 set by India's Palak Palak and Mukesh Nelaavali in April. The Hangzhou World Cup runs through July 28. The women's 50-meter rifle three positions and

the men's and women's skeet titles will be contested on Thursday.

Yao/Hu break world record to win 10m air pistol mixed team gold Earlier, China's reigning world champions Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai broke world records in both qualification and final to win 10m air pistol mixed team as the ISSF World Cup started here on Wednesday. Having set a new qualification mark of 591 points earlier on Wednesday, the duo scored 488.4 points in the final, surpassing the previous world record of 487.7 set by India's Palak Palak and Mukesh Nelaavali in April.

UTT Season 7: History-makers Goa Challengers beat UP 10-5, finish league phase unbeaten

PANAJI (GOA)

Dempo Goa Challengers became the first team in the competition's history to remain unbeaten through the league phase after defeating UP Prometheans 10-5 in Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7 on Wednesday. The victory capped a remarkable league campaign for the two-time champions, who defeated all six of their opponents to finish atop the standings heading into the semifinals.

Alvaro Robles and Bernadette Szocs starred once again as Goa built an early advantage before Abhinandh PB and Szocs combined to clinch the mixed doubles and seal the tie. While UP



fought back through Manav Thakkar and Yangzi Liu in the closing matches, Goa's commanding start ensured they created history as the competition's first unbeaten league-stage side.

Staged under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), Butterfly UTT Season 7 features 42

players from around the world, including 14 Olympians, while continuing to strengthen the Indian table tennis ecosystem through elite competition and year-round development initiatives.

Goa made the perfect start as Robles swept aside Sudhanshu Grover in straight games before Szocs overcame a spirited fightback from Sayali Wani to double the advantage. The reigning champions then took complete control in the mixed doubles, with Szocs and Abhinandh edging Ricardo Walther and Swastika Ghosh in three tight games to secure the tie and maintain Goa's unbeaten record.

Durand Cup trophies showcased in Kolkata; tournament to begin on July 25

KOLKATA

The Durand Cup remains one of the most cherished sporting commitments and a shining example of military-civil partnership at its very best, Lieutenant General Gambhir Singh, Chief of Staff, Eastern Command and chairman of the Durand Cup Organising Committee, said on Wednesday after the three trophies reached Kolkata following their journey across all five host states.

“Since 2019, Kolkata has proudly served as the tournament's principal host city, where football is not merely a sport but a way of life. This partnership continues to strengthen the legacy of India's oldest football tournament,” he said.

Major General Dinesh Kumar Singh, General Officer Commanding, Bengal Sub Area and vice chairman of the Durand Cup Organising Committee, said extension of the tournament under the aegis of the Eastern Command until 2032 was a matter of pride. He added that it reflected the tremendous support the tournament had received and the remarkable growth it had witnessed over the years.

The 135th IndianOil Durand Cup – the oldest football tournament in Asia – will get underway on July 25 with the iconic Kolkata Derby between Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal FC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan. Group A comprises record 17-time champions



Mohun Bagan Super Giant, 16-time winners East Bengal FC, South United FC and CISF Protectors. Group B brings together Mohammedan SC, Indian Army Football Team, Durand Cup debutants Baghat FC and Samaleswari Sporting.

Alongside the group stage, Kolkata will also host a quarter-final, a semi-final and the final on August 23. The three trophies arrived from Ranchi in Jharkhand and were showcased in the city during the day. Indranil Khan, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Department of Youth Services and Sports and Department of Cooperation, Government of West Bengal, said the legacy of the Durand Cup was remarkable and few sporting events in India could claim such a distinguished heritage. He added that the government was proud to support the Indian Army in ensuring another successful edition of the historic tournament.

Organised by the Eastern Command of the Indian Army on behalf of the three services and with the support of the respective host state governments, the Durand Cup is the world's third-oldest surviving football competition.

Don't suspend Paredes for World Cup final fracas: Gavi

MADRID

Spain midfielder Gavi said on Wednesday that he did not believe Argentina's Leandro Paredes should be banned for his role in the incidents that followed Spain's 1-0 victory over Argentina in Sunday's World Cup final.

As Spain's players began celebrating after the final whistle, Argentina defender Nahuel Molina swung a punch at Spain captain Rodrigo Hernandez, while Paredes, Thiago Almada and Argentina assistant coach Roberto Ayala also became involved. Pare-

des appeared to grab Spain defender Eric Garcia by the throat before putting his hand in Gavi's face and pushing him over as the FC Barcelona player attempted to intervene. FIFA has begun investigating the incidents, but speaking to Spanish radio station Cadena Copa, Gavi said he did not want Paredes to be suspended.

“I don't think [Paredes] should be suspended,” said the midfielder, adding that “I understand it's not a good image for children, but I think there's also that side to football, which is a bit more physical, more aggressive.”



“The most logical thing would have been to send him off during the match, and that's it. In the end, I think it's all football.” Former Valencia

defender Ayala has since apologised for his actions during an interview with a Valencia-based radio station. “Obviously I am sorry; I can't allow a feeling to change the way that I behave, but I think these are things that should remain out on the pitch,” he commented.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup final ended in ugly scenes as the summit clash descended into chaos immediately after the final whistle, with players exchanging punches and Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes grabbing Spain's Eric Garcia by the throat.

Spain secured their second

World Cup title with a tense 1-0 victory in extra time, but the historic win was quickly overshadowed by physical altercations on the pitch, leading to post-match turmoil.

Argentina defender Nahuel Molina appeared to punch one of the Spanish players in the stomach. In another altercation, midfielder Paredes was seen shoving Spain's Eric Garcia by the throat as Scaloni intervened. Beyond the clash with Garcia, Paredes tackled Gavi to the ground, shoved him in the face, and seemed to kick a boot toward the 21-year-old Barcelona midfielder.



Maremma Hits Screens on Sept. 10

The makers of Maremma, the debut film of Maadhav-son of actor Raghu and nephew of Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja, have officially locked the film's theatrical release. The intense rural action drama will arrive in cinemas worldwide on September 10, 2026, as revealed through a striking new release date poster. The newly unveiled poster presents Maadhav in a fierce and battle-worn avatar, hinting at the raw intensity and emotional depth that define the film. Against a dramatic backdrop, the poster also features a symbolic face-off between the protagonist and a sacred cow, offering a glimpse into the folklore-inspired narrative that lies at the heart of the story. Maremma marks the directorial debut of Manchala Nagaraj and is also the maiden production venture of Moksha Arts, with Mayur Reddy Bandaru producing the film on an ambitious scale. From its first-look poster and teaser to the songs to the recently released promotional content, the film has steadily generated curiosity among audiences with its rooted storytelling and rustic appeal. Set in a rural backdrop, Maremma promises an emotionally charged action drama infused with local culture, traditions, and powerful human relationships. The film



is expected to showcase Maadhav in a performance-driven role that blends intense action with heartfelt emotions. The film stars Deepa Balu as the female lead. The technical team includes Prashanth R. Vihari, who composes the music, Prasanth Ankireddy handling cinematography,

Dev Rathod as editor, and Rajkumar Murugesan serving as the art director. With its theatrical release now officially confirmed, Maremma is gearing up to intensify its promotional campaign. Cast: Maadhav, Deepa Balu, Vinod Kumar, Vikas Vasishtha, Dayanand Reddy, V.S.Rupa Lakshmi.

One Last Chance For Thalapathy Vijay's Fans

Jana Nayagan is hitting the screens tomorrow. The movie was supposed to have a grand release before the elections in Tamil Nadu, but due to various reasons, the film's release has been postponed. The film is also releasing in Telugu under the title Jana Nayakudu. With Vijay officially quitting the movies and focusing solely on administrative work in TN, this is the last chance for Vijay's fans to celebrate the film in theatres. In general, the buzz that surrounds Vijay's new releases will always be euphoric. But for the first time, the buzz around Jana Nayagan is not satisfactory. Because the film is a remake, because the film got leaked online, and because Vijay shows no interest in the promotions, the buzz is dull. In spite of that, some fans are trying to make this a memorable celebration to witness Vijay on the big screen for one last time. At least for the next five years, Vijay will not have time to focus on films. He consciously decided to quit acting and focus on public welfare. Maybe he will attend film promotional events and take



part in other film-related activities, but won't be putting on makeup again to act. Later in time, he may slowly get back to acting, which is again uncertain. So, considering all the cases, now is the time for Vijay's fans to celebrate Vijay one last time in theatres. Irrespective of openings, collec-

tions, and footfalls, the fans will have one last chance to enjoy Vijay's aura on the big screen where he plays one of his best roles on the screen. As a matter of fact, the team also implemented a lot of changes to the remake to give a unique experience to the fans and audiences.

Will Chennai Love Story Shine?



The Telugu box office has been enjoying a healthy run over the last few weeks, and all eyes are now on Kiran Abbavaram's Chennai Love Story, which is set to hit the screens on July 24. The big question is whether the romantic drama can continue the positive momentum in theatres. Things started with the release of Ram Charan's Peddi, which brought audiences back to cinemas in good numbers, though it was released late summer. The success streak continued with films like Maa Inti Bangaaram and Lenin, both of which attracted crowds and generated good collections. With audiences once again showing interest in theatrical viewing, the industry is hoping that Chennai Love Story keeps things alive. The film comes with decent expectations, thanks to the involvement of producers Sai Rajesh and SKN, whose previous outing Baby turned out to be a sensational blockbuster. Adding to the buzz is Kiran Abbavaram, who is currently enjoying a good phase in his career.



Niharika NM Shines Amid Idhayam Murali Success

Social media sensation-turned-actress Niharika NM is currently riding high on the success of her latest Tamil outing, Idhayam Murali, which has struck a chord with audiences. Amid the promotional buzz, the star treated fans to a stunning picture that's now doing the rounds online. She was seen in a striking navy-blue halter-neck gown featuring a structured button-down bodice and a dramatic tie-dye pleated skirt, which she twirled to perfection for the camera. Soft curls, subtle glam, and a radiant smile completed the frame, exuding pure elegance. Niharika has much to look forward to, with Bhai Tera Star Hai and a project alongside Raghav Juyal marking her long-awaited Bollywood debut. While her first Hindi outing carries high expectations, especially after her Tollywood debut Mithra Mandali underwhelmed at the box office, fans are hopeful this cross-over moment turns things around for the young star.

The Odyssey Sparks Global IMAX 70mm Frenzy



Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey has unprecedented craze for Real IMAX 70mm screenings across the world. While IMAX theatres are available in many countries, the true 70mm IMAX experience is limited to just 41 screens globally. Out of these 41 screens, 26 are

located in the United States, while the remaining theatres are spread across countries including the UK, Australia, the Czech Republic and a few others. India has IMAX screens, but none of them support the 70mm IMAX format. Film lovers say Nolan's latest epic is best experienced in Real IMAX 70mm, as it was designed to take full advantage of the format's larger aspect ratio and immersive visuals. That has led to an overwhelming demand from moviegoers. The rush has become so intense that most Real IMAX 70mm theatres in the US are sold out for weeks, with several venues fully booked for nearly two months. Similar demand is being seen in other countries as well, with some theatres in London reportedly having no tickets available until September. To accommodate the huge demand, theatres are running back to back screenings from early morning until after midnight. Even with extended show schedules, tickets continue to disappear within minutes, highlighting the extraordinary global excitement surrounding The Odyssey and the rare Real IMAX 70mm experience.wv

Imtiaz Ali Visits Hyderabad to Celebrate the Success of Main Vaapas Aaunga

Main Vaapas Aaunga continues its remarkable run in theatres, winning hearts across the country and witnessing extraordinary word-of-mouth appreciation from audiences. Now in its sixth successful week, the film continues to run across 450+ shows in India while also sustaining its theatrical run in 10 international countries a rare achievement for a Hindi film amidst strong competition from both Bollywood and Hollywood releases. Released across 59 countries on 804 screens, Main Vaapas Aaunga has emerged as one of the widest overseas releases for a Hindi film this year. The film has enjoyed an exceptional run not only across traditional Hindi-speaking markets but also in cities like Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Kolkata, highlighting its strong

pan-India acceptance and growing audience reach. As the film continues to witness overwhelming love and growing momentum at the box office, filmmaker Imtiaz Ali visited Hyderabad to personally express his gratitude to moviegoers for their immense love and support. Known for crafting emotionally resonant stories, Imtiaz Ali has been deeply moved by the response Main Vaapas Aaunga has received since its release. What began as a film that steadily found its audience has now grown into one of the year's most remarkable theatrical success stories, powered purely by strong audience appreciation and word-of-mouth. The film has struck a deep chord with viewers across generations, with both Gen Z and family audiences embracing its heartfelt storytelling, memorable performances, and emotional depth.



Romantic Melody 'Naa Kanti Meedha Kunuke' From Ramba Oorvasi Menaka Released

The makers of Ramba Oorvasi Menaka, starring Allari Naresh in the lead role, have unveiled the film's first single, 'Naa Kanti Meedha Kunuke', offering audiences a refreshing glimpse into the fantasy comedy's romantic side ahead of its theatrical release. Directed by Chandra Mohan Chintada, Ramba Oorvasi Menaka marks Allari Naresh's return to the comedy genre after experimenting with a series of content-driven films. Produced by Razesh Danda and Nimmakayala Prasad under the Annappurna Studios and Hasya Movies banners, the film carries the tagline "Comedy Goes Cosmic" and

promises a fantasy entertainer packed with humour and imagination. Set against picturesque rural landscapes, Naa Kanti Meedha Kunuke features Allari Naresh and actress Surabhi in a light-hearted romantic track that captures the innocence of young love. The song portrays a village youth expressing his admiration for the woman he loves, with the lead pair sharing effortless on-screen chemistry. Composer Chaitan Bharadwaj has crafted a melodious number enriched with rustic musical elements, while lyricist Bhaskara Bhatla Ravi Kumar pens heartfelt verses that reflect the emotions of romance. Singer Dhanunjay

Seepana lends warmth to the composition with an expressive rendition. The visuals are further elevated by Jithu Master's graceful choreography, which blends seamlessly with the scenic outdoor locations. Apart from Allari Naresh and Surabhi, the film features Vennela Kishore, Naresh VK, Srinivas Reddy, and Muralidhar Goud in prominent roles, adding to the film's comic appeal. The technical crew includes cinematographer Raam Reddy, music director Chaitan Bharadwaj, art director Brahma Kadali, and editor Chota K. Prasad. Ramba Oorvasi Menaka is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on September 4.

