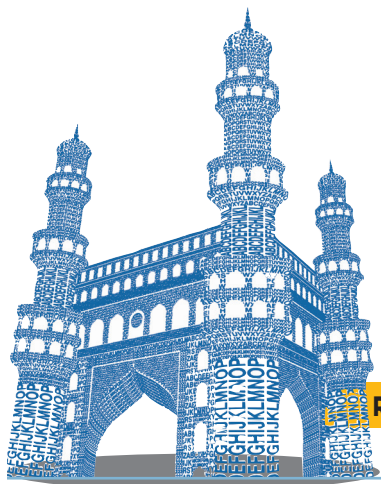




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CJP Calls Nationwide Protest TODAY

NEW DELHI, JUL 23

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Thursday gave a nationwide call for peaceful protests on July 24 and urged people to hold demonstrations in every district as it rejected the government's offer for talks, insisting any dialogue should be held only at a neutral venue. It also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on action against paper leaks did not address the issue of accountability or its main demand of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation

over NEET paper leak. The government made another appeal for talks with Union minister Jitendra Singh saying a meeting to resolve the issues can be held either at Union Health Minister JP Nadda's official residence or at his office. Nadda also invited the CJP for talks, but its leaders turned down the proposal, sticking to their demand that they would meet only at a neutral venue. On Friday's protest call, the CJP said gatherings would be held across the country under the slogan "Every district. One day."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

PM MODI ANNOUNCES BILL TO CRACK DOWN ON PAPER LEAKS

NEW DELHI, JUL 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Thursday that a bill containing provisions for strong action against paper leaks will be introduced in Parliament next week. In a video message, Modi also said the contours of the bill will be discussed at a meeting of the Union Cabinet to be held on Friday, where the proposed legislation will be finalised. "The cabinet will discuss the issue of paper leaks on Friday and taking suggestions of the cabinet colleagues, further action would be finalised. "On Monday, when the second week of the Monsoon session of Parliament will begin, a bill will be brought with provisions for strong action against paper leaks and we will try to pass



it as early as possible," he said. The prime minister said he knows that paper leaks are not a small issue and for lakhs of students and their guardians, such incidents are extremely painful. Therefore, since allegations of NEET paper leak surfaced about two-and-a-half months ago, several strong steps have been taken, he added. "The

guilty have been caught. They are now in jail. Our most significant responsibility was to ensure that the students do not lose a year. It was necessary to hold the examination immediately. By using all resources, the government has ensured that 22 lakhs students could attend the retest," he said. Modi said the results of the medical-entrance retest were declared on July 19 and from across India, there have been reports of happiness from those who were successful. The prime minister said he is not among those who would be satisfied with this. "That is why I have given directions to the authorities concerned to set up fast-track courts. The fast-track courts have already been established," he said.

Wangchuk Ends Fast After Talks



New Delhi, Jul 23: Activist Sonam Wangchuk has ended his indefinite hunger strike after the government assured him that his demands would be met. his development came after Union Ministers JP Nadda and Jitendra Singh met Wangchuk at Medanta Hospital around Thursday midnight and conveyed the government's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



New Delhi, Jul 23: Several leaders of the Congress and INDIA bloc parties on Thursday paid homage to all those students who took their lives due to paper leaks, and said they stood strongly behind the agitating students and their demands. The opposition leaders first assembled at the residence of Rahul Gandhi on 5, Sunehri Bagh Road, and reiterated their full support for the demands of the protesting students. From there, Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, led them to the Gandhi Smriti on a bus. On reaching there, Gandhi and the opposition MPs paid homage to the departed students with folded hands, and later sang the national anthem.

Gandhi carried a small copy of the Constitution with him while opposition MPs Mahua Majhi and Mahua Moitra were seen holding the national

flag. Some of the MPs also switched on torches on their mobile phones at the Gandhi Smriti. Police had put up barricades on the Sunehri Bagh Road to stop the large number of Congress and Youth Congress workers from moving towards Tees January Marg, where the Congress and other leaders were headed from Rahul's residence. However, police later removed the barricades and allowed Gandhi and other MPs to move forward. As they reached the end of the Sunehri Bagh Road and near Amit Shah's residence, police stopped them and said they were not allowed to assemble there as BNS Section 163 was in force that prohibited the assembly of five or more persons in the area. They, however, later allowed Gandhi and the others to move towards Tees January Marg.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

4th Day of Parliamentary Deadlock

NEW DELHI, JUL 23

Parliament proceedings were stalled for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday as loud protests by an unrelenting opposition over the NEET paper leak and demand for Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation reverberated in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, leading to adjournment of the two Houses for the

day without transacting any business. Outside the House, opposition and ruling party MPs staged protests and counter-protests and raised slogans against each other, signalling that the turmoil may not easily ease. Amid the ruckus, Leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav met Lok Sabha

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CM inspects Assembly RENOVATION WORKS

HYDERABAD, JULY 23

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing repair and restoration works at the historic Telangana Legislative Assembly complex on Thursday. Accompanied by key legislative leaders and senior officials, the Chief Minister toured the premises to evaluate the progress of the infrastructure upgrades. During the walkthrough, Revanth Reddy gathered detailed updates from department engineers and issued key directions to ensure the heritage character of the



structure is preserved while upgrading operational facilities. Prominent leaders present during the inspection included Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Minister Adhuri Laxman, Government Whips Aadi Srinivas, Addanki Dayakar, and Balmuri Venkat,

along with MLAs Kavvampalli Satyanarayana and Jaiveer Reddy. The state government is prioritising the structural restoration and modern infrastructure upgrades across the historic legislature premises to enhance operational efficiency for upcoming legislative sessions.

KTR serves legal notice on CM allegations

HYDERABAD, JULY 23:

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president K.T. Rama Rao has strongly condemned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for making what he described as false, malicious and defamatory allegations linking him to Globe Arena Technologies.

In a statement here on Thursday, KT Rama Rao revealed that he had already served a legal notice on the Chief Minister, demanding that he tender an unconditional public apology within 48 hours for falsely branding Globe Arena as his benami company and making several other baseless allegations.

The BRS leader said the legal notice was issued after the Chief Minister made a series of irresponsible statements before the media without producing a shred of evidence.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BJP LAUNCHES STATEWIDE STIR OVER FEE REIMBURSEMENT DUES

HYDERABAD, JULY 23

BJP Telangana president N Ramchander Rao on Thursday launched a statewide agitation demanding immediate release of pending fee reimbursement dues, alleging that nearly 25 lakh students were

facing uncertainty due to the Congress government's inaction.

Unveiling the campaign poster "Feesula Bakayi - BJP Ladai" (Fee arrears - BJP Fight) here at Nizam College, Basheerbagh, Rao said the BJP, led by the Bharatiya

Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) and Mahila Morcha, the party's MLAs, MPs, leaders and cadre will take this movement to the public statewide. The BJP would continue the agitation until all arrears were cleared, he asserted and accused the Revanth Red-

dy government of ignoring students despite High Court observations and demanded fulfilment of election promises on jobs, unemployment allowance and recruitment. BJP Legislature Party Floor Leader Aleti

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

SILENCING THE YOUTH WILL LEAD TO THE BJP'S POLITICAL DOWNFALL: UTTAM

Hyderabad, July 23: Telangana Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy strongly criticized the BJP-led Central Government, alleging that it is trying to suppress the voices of students after failing to answer their questions.

He said that when young people ask for jobs, they are met with police batons; when they demand transparency in examinations, they face restrictions; and when they seek

accountability, they are threatened. According to him, this reflects the true nature of the BJP's governance.

Reacting to recent developments in Delhi, Uttam Kumar Reddy issued a statement on Thursday, accusing the Centre of undermining democratic values.

"In a democracy, asking questions is not a crime. The real threat to democracy is suppressing people instead of answering their questions," he

said.

The Minister alleged that while millions of students across the country are fighting for their future, the Central Government has responded with arrogance instead of listening to their concerns. He added that history has shown that governments attempting to rule through fear ultimately have to bow before the people's verdict. Praising senior Congress leader

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CENTRE READY FOR DISCUSSION ON ALL ISSUES: MP LAXMAN

New Delhi, July 23: BJP Rajya Sabha MP K Laxman on Thursday said the Central Government is prepared to discuss all issues in Parliament, including the NEET paper leak case, while accusing the Opposition of disrupting House proceedings. Addressing the media in New Delhi, Laxman said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

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

3 TIMES BETTER



INDIA BLOC HONOURS PAPER LEAK VICTIMS

➤FROM PAGE 1

In a post on X, Gandhi said that "no one can stop them from standing with the students of India". "In solidarity with the students, we wanted to take the opposition MPs to India Gate. But they refused. Then, we wanted to take them to Tees January Marg, Gandhi ji's assassination spot. "Now, they have put this bus in front of us so that we can't get there. They put up this bus and barricades to stop us, preventing our movement. They are doing this drama. "Obviously, they are scared. All of us MPs felt that if the students are on the streets, we should also be on the streets," Gandhi said in a video from the bus headed towards Gandhi Smriti. In an X post earlier, Gandhi said, "Right now, MPs and leaders of the INDIA bloc are peacefully heading to Gandhi Smriti on Tees January Marg. We go to remember the students we lost



â€œthe children driven to take their own lives after the NEET paper leak." "And we go to stand with the students who lie injured today - beaten for peacefully demanding justice and accountability. India's students are not alone. The entire Opposition stands with them and their demands," Gandhi said. The opposition MPs earlier deliberated on their strategy to strongly raise the issue of alleged police brutality from the

streets to Parliament. A source said that Gandhi is learnt to have addressed the opposition MPs on how to up the ante on the government on the students' issues. The leaders present at Gandhi's residence included Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, general secretaries Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal, senior leaders P Chidambaram, Pramod Tiwari, K Suresh, Kumari Selja and Priniti Shinde. RJD's Sanjay Yadav,

Sudhakar Singh and Misa Bharti, CPI-M's John Brittas, RSP's N K Premachandran, TMC's Mahua Moitra and Saugata Roy, among others, were also present. 'Don't insult intelligence of students': Rahul to PM Modi after his video message

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday night attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sidestepping the issue of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation in his video message released just before midnight. In a post on X, Gandhi said the prime minister should not insult the intelligence of students. "Mr Modi, our students are demanding Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. Don't insult their intelligence with this pathetic midnight video. 1. Sack Pradhan. 2. Punish those who beat students. 3. Apologise," the leader of opposition said in his post. Prime Minister

Modi announced that his government would take strict action against paper leaks and would discuss and finalise a law in this regard in Friday's meeting of the Union Cabinet. Modi announced on Thursday that a bill containing provisions for strong action against paper leaks will be introduced in Parliament next week. In a video message, Modi also said the contours of the bill will be discussed at the cabinet meeting where the proposed legislation will be finalised. The cabinet will discuss the issue of paper leaks on Friday, and taking suggestions of the cabinet colleagues, further action will be finalised. "On Monday, when the second week of the Monsoon session of Parliament will begin, a bill will be brought with provisions for strong action against paper leaks, and we will try to pass it as early as possible," he said.



MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, JULY 23

KPHB Colony's 2nd Phase at Bhuvana Vijayam Grounds has become a center of focused civic action as the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) drive gains momentum. Supported by structured field supervision and hands-on assistance from Booth Level Officers (BLOs), the initiative is working to strengthen the accuracy of electoral rolls—ensuring that eligible citizens are correctly included while entries that should not be part of the voter list are removed.

SIR stands for Special Intensive Revision, a process far more detailed than routine annual summary revisions. While summary revisions are routine paperwork, an SIR involves a thorough demographic verification of households to create a clearer and more dependable electoral record. The Election Commission of India exercises its constitutional authority under Article 324 of the Constitution, and Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 supports the direction of SIR of electoral rolls in a state.

The primary goal of the SIR drive is accuracy and fairness—eliminating names of deceased, permanently shifted, duplicate, and non-citizen voters, while ensuring that eligible citizens are not left out. The process also emphasizes verification for electors who have registered mobile numbers and whose details match in both Electoral Roll and Aadhaar records, reinforcing data reliability.

In Kukatpally Constituency, BLO teams are actively working across Polling Stations No. 310 to 318. Together, these polling stations cover a total of 9,732 voters, and as of 22nd July 2026,

4,500 entries have been verified and digitalised. This progress reflects sustained field effort and effective coordination on the ground.

The revision activity is being carried out by 6 BLOs at 2nd Phase KPHB Colony, Bhuvana Vijayam Grounds, functioning under the supervision of Supervisor Rajeev. With the team actively engaging with residents, the SIR process is being executed not only as a verification drive, but also as a structured service to guide voters through the documentation required.

During the distribution of Enumeration Forms, the BLO guides electors on how to fill the form correctly. If an elector is unable to complete the form even after initial guidance, the BLO assists directly and also ensures follow-up through subsequent visits to the elector's house, so that the form-filling and data capture are completed accurately.

Alongside verification, BLOs are also helping residents by explaining the process and supporting them in understanding how to fill the Enumeration Form. This community-focused approach strengthens participation, reduces confusion, and supports the larger objective of building an electoral roll that is accurate, inclusive, and dependable.

With 4,500 verified and digitalised records achieved as of 22nd July 2026, the SIR Special Intensive Revision drive at KPHB Colony's 2nd Phase is demonstrating clear progress and strong fieldwork momentum. As the drive continues across Polling Stations 310–318, the work at Bhuvana Vijayam Grounds highlights a commitment to systematic verification and better voter data for the future.

Bandi inaugurates the 11th All India Police Judo Cluster–2026

HYDERABAD, JULY 23

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar today inaugurated the 11th All India Police Judo Cluster–2026, being organized by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the GMC Balayogi Indoor Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that the Government of India is promoting sports as a means of nation-building and youth empowerment. He noted that through initiatives such as Khelo India, the Asian Games, and the World Police and Fire Games, the Centre is expanding sports infrastructure across the country.

He said that the Union Government has increased the sports budget to ₹4,480 crore, which is more than ₹1,100 crore higher than last year's allocation. Reaffirming India's ambition to become a global sporting powerhouse, he spoke about the country's long-term Olympic vision of becoming one of the top five sporting nations by 2047.

The Minister said that events like these bring together police personnel from across



the country, fostering friendship, mutual understanding, and camaraderie, thereby strengthening national unity and integrity.

He also highlighted the growing participation of women in police sports, describing it as a significant step toward inclusivity and empowerment. He emphasized that these competitions are not merely about winning gold, silver, or bronze medals.

"Sports are an integral part of the lives of security forces and police personnel who work tirelessly to safeguard national security, protect critical installations, and ensure

public welfare," he said.

Speaking about the CISF, the Minister said that since 1969, the force has been providing security to the country's most vital assets and critical infrastructure, including airports, the Delhi Metro, heritage monuments, nuclear and space establishments, public sector enterprises, prisons, and the Parliament complex.

He praised CISF Head Constable Abhimanyu, who recently won a gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championship and achieved the third position in the interna-

tional wrestling rankings, calling it a matter of pride and a testament to the CISF's commitment to sports.

The Minister also appreciated recent initiatives taken by senior CISF officials for athlete welfare. He said the force has expanded welfare schemes, enabling athletes to receive additional financial assistance directly. They now have improved access to quality nutrition, modern sports equipment, and better medical facilities for faster recovery from injuries. These measures, he said, will help athletes perform at their best and bring greater glory to the nation.

The event was attended by CISF ADG (South) Padmakar S. Ranpise, CISF APS-II IG S.R. Saravanan, CISF IG and NISA Director Harpreet Kaur Sohi, PIB ADG Shruti Patil, and other senior officials.

The 11th All India Police Judo Cluster–2026 will be held from July 23 to July 30, 2026. More than 1,600 athletes representing 36 State Police organizations and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are participating in the event. Competitions will be held in Judo, Wushu, Taekwondo, Karate, and Pencak Silat.

CENTRE READY FOR DISCUSSION ON ALL ISSUES: MP LAXMAN

➤FROM PAGE 1

17 people have been arrested in connection with the NEET paper leak and assured that those responsible would face strict punishment through fast-track courts.

He criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the Congress party and the Aam Aadmi Party for allegedly politicising the issue and disrupting Parliament proceedings. Laxman urged Opposition parties to cooperate in ensuring smooth proceedings and facilitate constructive discussions on public issues.

BJP LAUNCHES STATEWIDE...

➤FROM PAGE 1

Maheshwar Reddy, State General Secretary N. Gautam Rao, BJP State Vice President Smt. Jayashree, BJP Yuva Morcha State President Ganesh Kunde, and others participated in this event.

Besides, the BJP leader alleged that the Congress, Left parties and certain foreign-backed groups were conspiring to create unrest and destabilise the Narendra Modi-led NDA government. Further, he accused certain 'ultra-left and soft-left forces' along with leaders of older unions like SFI, AISF, and ASA of coming together under new names such as the "Cockroach Janata Party" to incite

violence and instability in India, similar to the events seen in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh. Addressing newsmen at the state party office, Rao claimed that anti-national elements were attempting to incite youth and organise protests with foreign support. Defending the Centre's handling of the NEET paper leak, he said the NDA government acted swiftly, enacted the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, and strengthened the National Testing Agency (NTA). He also highlighted the Centre's employment record and cautioned against supporting organisations allegedly working against the national interests.

KTR serves legal notice on CM allegations



➤FROM PAGE 1

He asserted that he has no ownership, financial, proprietary or any other relationship whatsoever with Globe Arena Technologies and challenged the Chief Minister to substantiate his allegations with credible evidence.

"The Chief Minister has been asked to prove his allegations within 48 hours. If he fails to do so, he must tender an unconditional public apology. Otherwise, he will face appropriate civil and criminal legal proceedings, including a defamation suit for the irreparable damage caused to my reputation," KTR said.

Refuting the allegations, the BRS working president said the claims that Globe Arena is his benami company, that he facilitated CBSE examination contracts for the firm, or that he had any financial interest in the company are completely false, fabricated and politically motivated. He said it was highly irresponsible for a Chief Minister holding the highest constitutional office in the State to level such serious allegations without any factual basis.

Questioning the Chief Minister's credibility, KTR asked, "If Globe Arena is really my benami company, why did the Congress government itself enter into agreements with that company? Your own government signed contracts with the firm, and today you are claiming that it is my benami company. Does the Chief Minister have any sense of responsibility before making such allegations?"

KTR also accused Revanth Reddy of deliberately trying to divert public attention from the real issue concerning alleged irregularities in national examinations.

4th Day of Parliamentary...

➤FROM PAGE 1

Speaker Om Birla. TMC leaders Saugata Roy and Mahua Moitra were also present in the meeting. During Question Hour, Birla had asked opposition leaders to meet him to decide on the duration and date of the discussion on the NEET paper leak issue. When the House was adjourned for the day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah also had a one-on-one meeting with Birla. There was no official word on what transpired in the

two separate meetings held at Birla's office. When the Lok Sabha met at 11 am, opposition members rushed to the Well protesting over the NEET paper leak issue and the police action on student protesters. The speaker urged members to let the Question Hour function, describing it as an important part of the day's business. He said the government was ready to hold discussions on every issue raised by the opposition after the Question Hour and assured members that he

would facilitate the discussions. "The Question Hour is the most important. After the Question Hour, the House is ready to discuss every issue. I will speak to the government, and the government is also ready for discussions. I appeal to all members to participate in the discussion after the Question Hour," Birla said. However, the Opposition members ignored the appeal and trooped into the Well of the House, raising slogans.

Wangchuk Ends Fast After Talks

➤FROM PAGE 1

assurances to him. "The government is positive on not registering cases against those protesting peacefully at Jantar Mantar in Delhi and those who participated in the march to Parliament on July 20, 2026," Nadda said, reading out the govern-

ment's assurances to Wangchuk in the presence of his wife Gitanjali Angmo and others. The Union Health Minister further said that the government has already assured discussions in Parliament on paper leaks and education reforms for exams. "Besides, the government is also positively consid-

ering suitable compensation for the suicide victims of recent NEET paper leaks," Nadda said. Later Sonam Wangchuk responded on X stating that he had broken his fast after 26 days in presence of Union Ministers JP Nadda, Jitendra Singh, and also leaders of Apex Body of Leh Ladakh.

SILENCING THE YOUTH WILL LEAD TO THE BJP'S POLITICAL DOWNFALL: UTTAM

➤FROM PAGE 1

Rahul Gandhi, Uttam Kumar Reddy said Gandhi had emerged as a true public leader by standing with students and sharing their concerns.

"There is one kind of leadership that stands among the people, and another that remains distant while trying to protect its power. The youth of this country clearly understand the difference," he said.

He further alleged that misinformation, divisive politics, and the use of investigative agencies to instill fear cannot permanently silence the voice of the people. "You cannot chain the dreams of students, imprison the aspirations of youth, or defeat the Constitution," he asserted.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress Party considers it its historic responsibility to

safeguard every citizen's constitutional right to question the government. He added that Rahul Gandhi's campaign to protect the Constitution, preserve the independence of democratic institutions, and defend the rights of ordinary citizens has inspired millions of young people across the country.

According to the Minister, the youth now seek trust rather than hatred, accountability rather than arrogance, and transparent governance rather than publicity.

He said the 2029 Lok Sabha elections would not merely be about a change in government but about protecting the Constitution, democracy, and the future of India's youth.

Expressing confidence in Rahul Gandhi's leadership, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress would present a

comprehensive, inclusive, and constitutional alternative for the country and voiced his belief that Rahul Gandhi would become Prime Minister with the people's mandate in 2029.

The Minister also said that the Congress government in Telangana is governing in accordance with the aspirations of the people. He remarked that governments which listen to the public are remembered in history, while those that attempt to suppress democracy through arrogance are ultimately judged by the people.

He concluded by saying that this is a time not for repression but for introspection, not for arrogance but for listening to the people. India, he said, should move forward not through fear, but through constitutional values, democracy, and the confidence of its youth.

CJP DELEGATION WILL MEET WITH MINISTERS ON FRIDAY: SOURCES

A delegation of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) will meet with government ministers on Friday, sources said. The meeting will take place at 12.30 pm, but its venue has not been disclosed. This comes after intense backroom negotiations to end the deadlock over the NEET paper leak, the sources said. The CJP has been staging a sit-in at Jantar Mantar here over the NEET paper leak, demanding Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation and an overhaul of education system.

while mobile internet services were also suspended in parts of central Delhi till midnight in the 1.5 km radius of Jantar Mantar. Traffic restrictions and barricading led to congestion on several major roads around Connaught Place, ITO, Parliament Street

The CJP also alleged that attempts were being made to disrupt its agitation. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke claimed "outsiders" and "BJP goons" were being sent to the protest site to create disturbances and later blame the protesters, allegations rejected by the BJP. CJP spokesperson Saurav Das shared a video on social media purportedly showing plain-clothed youths carrying batons, threatening the protesters. He alleged that one such person had attacked the father of a minor protester inside Jantar Mantar and demanded that Delhi Police invoke stricter penal provisions, including the SC/ST Act where applicable, and take the accused into preventive custody.

Government Programmes Are to be Implemented through Elected Public Representatives

*** Speakers at the Municipal Ward Members' Training Programme**

HYDERABAD

Government development and welfare programmes can be effectively implemented only through elected public representatives, particularly Municipal Ward Members, who work closely with the people, said Mr. Bhaskar Reddy, Engineer-in-Chief, Public Health & Municipal Engineering Department.

Addressing the Municipal Ward Members' Training Programme held on Thursday at the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), Gachibowli, he stated that Ward Members should take pride in serving the people at the grassroots level.

He noted that development works worth several thousand crores of rupees are being undertaken across 123 Municipalities and 12 Municipal Corporations in Telangana, making Urban Local Bodies one of the strongest systems directly connected with citizens.

He explained that municipalities are responsible for 18 key civic functions, including construction and maintenance of roads and culverts, street lighting, public parks, drinking water supply, sewerage system,



sanitation, lake restoration, urban greenery through nurseries, urban planning, and several other essential public services. Nearly 25 million people reside in urban local bodies across the State, where numerous development projects are being implemented under various government schemes.

The training programme was jointly organized by the Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department, National Institute of Urban Management and the Engineering Staff College of India. The programme was inaugurated with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by senior officials.

Ward Members representing from 33 Municipalities participated in the programme included Asifabad,

Bellampalli, Kagaznagar, Mancherial, Choppadandi, Huzurabad, Manthani, Peddapalli, Alampur, Gadwal, Amarachintha, Atmakur, Chevella, Ibrahimpatnam, Moinabad Bhongir and other municipalities. During the technical sessions, officials from the MAUD delivered presentations on various subjects. K. Phalgun Kumar, Joint Director, explained the provisions of the Telangana Municipalities Act, 2019, T.S.V.N. Thrilleshwar spoke on the Urban Challenge Fund, Ms. Sandhya delivered a session on Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari, while V. Mamatha explained the various initiatives under the AMRUT Mission.

Col. Harpal Singh Grewal, Director, Engineering Staff College of India expressed his gratitude to the Government of

Telangana and the Secretary, Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department, for choosing ESCI as the venue for conducting this important capacity-building programme.

J. Srinivasa Rao, Executive Director, National Institute of Urban Management informed that similar training programmes will be conducted for Ward Members from rest of the Municipalities in the next two weeks scheduled on 28 July, 31 July and 4 August 2026.

The programme was coordinated by J. Srinivasa Rao, along with Dr. Venkatesh, and Ms. Anita Agarwal, Head, Environment Management Division, ESCI, along with Nagamalleswara Rao, Prakash, Dr. P. Rajarao, and S. Lakshmi Kantha Rao.

MLA Rajasekhara Reddy Submits Strong Objections to Draft CURE Bill, 2026

HYDERABAD

Malkajgiri MLA Sri M. Rajasekhara Reddy today submitted a detailed representation to Sri Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Telangana, raising serious objections to several provisions of the proposed Core Urban Regional Economy Area (CURE) Bill, 2026 and urging the Government to comprehensively review the draft before its enactment.

In his representation, the MLA stated that while urban development and better governance are welcome objectives, the Bill in its present form weakens democratic local self-government and is inconsistent with the spirit of the 74th Constitutional Amendment, which guarantees greater autonomy and decentralisation to Urban Local Bodies.

Sri Rajasekhara Reddy highlighted the following major concerns: Excessive Centralisation of Powers: The proposed Apex Council and Government are vested with overriding powers, reducing the role of elected Municipal Corporations. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Standing



Committee are left with very limited authority, undermining democratic governance.

No Mandatory Ward Committees: Although Ward Committees are mentioned in the Bill, there is no statutory requirement to establish functional Ward Committees with clearly defined powers and financial authority in every ward. This weakens citizen participation and grassroots governance.

Financial Burden on Citizens: The Bill enables periodic revision of water supply and sewerage user charges, which could result in automatic annual increases, placing an additional financial burden on urban households.

Capital Value-Based Property Tax: The proposal to levy property tax based on Capital Value may substantially increase the tax burden on homeowners, particularly

middle-class families, senior citizens and fixed-income households. No Financial Powers to Zonal Administration: The Bill does not provide independent financial powers to Zonal Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners. Withdraw or suitably amend provisions that permit suspension of Corporation resolutions and dissolution of elected Municipal Corporations.

Speaking on the occasion, Sri Rajasekhara Reddy said: "Urban development must go hand in hand with democratic decentralisation. The CURE Bill should empower local governments, not weaken them. Citizens deserve greater participation in governance, affordable municipal services and accountable local institutions. I sincerely hope the Government will consider these genuine concerns and revise the Bill in the larger public interest."

The MLA expressed confidence that the Government would positively consider the representation and incorporate necessary amendments to ensure that the CURE Bill promotes efficient urban administration while safeguarding the constitutional autonomy of Urban Local Bodies.

He further demanded that the Government:

Strengthen the powers of elected Municipal Corporations. Make Ward Committees mandatory with defined powers and financial allocations.

Protect citizens from arbitrary increases in user charges and property taxes. Delegate adequate financial powers to Zonal Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners.

Withdraw or suitably amend provisions that permit suspension of Corporation resolutions and dissolution of elected Municipal Corporations.

Speaking on the occasion, Sri Rajasekhara Reddy said: "Urban development must go hand in hand with democratic decentralisation. The CURE Bill should empower local governments, not weaken them. Citizens deserve greater participation in governance, affordable municipal services and accountable local institutions. I sincerely hope the Government will consider these genuine concerns and revise the Bill in the larger public interest."

The MLA expressed confidence that the Government would positively consider the representation and incorporate necessary amendments to ensure that the CURE Bill promotes efficient urban administration while safeguarding the constitutional autonomy of Urban Local Bodies.

K.T. Rama Rao decides to forgo birthday celebrations in light of attacks on students and youth in Delhi

HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has decided not to celebrate his birthday and instead observe it quietly in view of the alleged crackdown and attacks on students and youth in the national capital, Delhi.

Expressing solidarity with the students and young people who have been protesting in Delhi, KTR said he would participate in the protest pro-

gramme being organised tomorrow by the BRS Students' Wing (BRSV) to condemn the actions taken against them.

He also stated that he had decided not to celebrate his 50th birthday because of the prevailing serious situation both in the state and across the country, including the difficulties being faced by farmers due to inadequate rainfall in Telangana.

KTR appealed to party workers, supporters, and well-wishers not to spend

money on birthday-related activities such as cake-cutting ceremonies, flex banners, hoardings, flower bouquets, or newspaper advertisements to convey greetings.

Instead, he urged them to use those funds, to the extent possi-

ble, for charitable and community service activities, helping people in distress and those in need.

He said his birthday would be more meaningful if it were marked through initiatives that benefit society.

**SOUTH COAST RAILWAY**
VISAKHAPATNAM
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Tender No. GTL-EM-29-2026-27
Dt: 22.07.2026

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Maintenance/Guntakal, Acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the Following works.

Tender No. : GTL-EM-29-2026-27
Name of work : Guntakal Division Augmentation of Sub station by Replacing the Old and Over Aged inefficient Transformers on Age Cum condition basis with Star-rated transformers with necessary cabling arrangements and Provision / Replacement of DG Sets duly accounting the Future Loads.
Approx. Value : Rs. 2,91,92,321.08/-
Closing Date and Times : 13.08.2026 at 15:00 hrs.

For bidding the tender and other details, login to [http://www.ireps.gov.in](#).
Corrigendum of tender, if any, will be issued online only.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/M, Guntakal

E-Tender Notice No.01/DRM/W/GNT
Dt: 22.07.2026

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below upto 15:30hrs of 18.08.2026.

Sl. No.(1) : Tender Id.: 01. Sr.DEN Section : North. Description of work: SW-I: Guntur - Nadikudi section: Complete Track Renewal (P) - 2.00 Tkm, Through Rail Renewal (P) - 21.947 Tkm, Through Sleeper Renewal (P) - 2.90 Tkm, SW-II: Nadikudi - Machera section: Through Rail Renewal (P) - 17.623 Tkm SW-III: Through Fittings Renewal - 17.95 Tkm (All fittings) & 38.93 Tkm (Rubber pad only) in Sr.DEN/North/GNT section. SW-V: Through Ballast Renewal (Main line) by BCM for a total length of 1.405 Tkm Turnouts by BCM (31nos), Loop lines by Manually for a total length of 1.916 Tkm in Sr.DEN/North/GNT section. SW-VI: Renewal of Switch Expansion joints with Thick Web SEJS (TWSEJ) - 10 nos in Sr.DEN/North/GNT section. SW-VI: Renewal of Glued Joints - 45 nos in Sr.DEN/North/GNT section. **Approx. Value : Rs. 5,28,02,201/-, **EMD :** Rs. 10,56,100/-.**

Sl. No.(2) : Tender Id.: 02. Sr.DEN Section : North. Description of work: (i) Augmentation of Running Room GNT & NLPD. (ii) Improvements to freight examination at NLPD. **Approx. Value : Rs. 2,64,68,620/-, **EMD :** Rs. 5,29,400/-.**

Sl. No.(3) : Tender Id.: 03. Sr.DEN Section : West. Description of work: SW-I: Development of New Guntur Railway station. SW-II: Improvements to flooring, copings on platform 1&4 at Guntur station. **Approx. Value : Rs. 6,28,37,540/-, **EMD :** Rs. 12,56,800/-.**

Sl. No.(4):TenderId.:04. Sr.DEN Section : West. Description of work : Balance works to be attended at Bridges in GKM: Darsi section(New Line). **Approx. Value : Rs. 1,19,84,534/-, **EMD :** Rs. 2,39,700/-.**

Sl. No.(5):TenderId.:05. Sr.DEN Section : West. Description of work : SW-I: Augmentation of watering facilities and Drainage arrangements for staff quarters in various stations in SSE/Works/NLPD (WJ, NRK & NDL sections under DEN) SW-V: GNT in GNT division. SW-III: Guntur division- Provision of Rooms for C&W and EnHM activities at NDL. **Approx. Value : Rs. 4,53,83,735/-, **EMD :** Rs. 9,07,700/-.**

Sl. No.(6):TenderId.:06. Sr.DEN Section : West. Description of work : SW-I: Through Rail Renewal (P) for a total length of 11.71 Tkm in Sr.DEN/West/GNT section. SW-II: Complete Track Renewal (P) on main line -0.78 km and TSR(P) on main line -0.2 km in Sr.DEN/West/GNT section. SW-III: Through Fittings Renewal for a total length of 25.296 Tkm. Rubber pad only and 7.2 Tkm. (All fittings) in Sr.DEN/West/GNT section. SW-IV: Through Ballast Renewal (Main line) by BCM for a total length of 6.651 Tkm, TBR(LL)- 8.587 km, TBR (P&C) with BCM 41 nos in Sr.DEN/West/GNT section. SW-V: Renewal of SEJs with TWSEJ-29 nos. SW-VI: Renewal of GJs-149 nos. SW-VII: TRR(P) at isolated locations for elimination of kinky rails for a length of 7.567 km in Sr.DEN/West/GNT section. **Approx. Value : Rs. 2,97,82,816/-, **EMD :** Rs. 5,95,700/-.**

1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is upto 15.30 hrs of 18.08.2026. For detailed information login to website [www.ireps.gov.in](#).

2. Any further Communication/ Corrigendum shall be initiated through E-portal [www.ireps.gov.in](#).

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Guntur

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE NO. B/E/EGS/08/2026 Dt. 17.07.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites e-Tender for the following works up to 15:00 hours on the date mentioned below:

1. B/ E.29/ I EGS/ 15/ 26-27. Dt. 14.07.2026 Name of work: BZA Division: Provision of Emission Control Devices for DG sets of 125 KVA & above capacity over BZA Division. Period of completion: 6 months **Tender value (₹): 1,03,92,123.00 **E.M.D/ Bid Security(₹):** 2,07,900.00 **Cost of Tender document: Nil** **Date of closing: 05.08.2026****

2. B/ E.29/ I EGS/ 16/ 26-27. Dt.17.07.2026 Name of work: BZA Division: Strengthening & up-gradation of standby power supply arrangements to BZA Railway station, RH/BZA & Divisional offices at Vijayawada- duly providing 1010 KVA DG Set. **Period of completion: 6 months **Tender value (₹):** 1,43,43,746.00 **E.M.D/ Bid Security(₹):** 2,86,90.00 **Cost of Tender document: Nil** **Date of closing: 10.08.2026****

3. B/ E.29/ I EGS/ 18/ 26-27. Dt. 17.07.2026 Name of work: BZA Division: Modification as per RDSO Modification Sheet No.RDSO/ PE / MS/AC /0097- 2025(rev.0) or latest for provision of Single connection arrangement at the input of MFCB/ MCB instead of existing looping arrangement in LHB type EOG/HOG Coaches & Power Cars over the BZA division, Qty- 150 Nos. **Period of completion: 6 months **Tender value (₹):** 1,38,94,500.00 **E.M.D/ Bid Security(₹):** 2,77,900 **Cost of Tender document: Nil** **Date of closing: 10.08.2026****

1) Tender conditions/other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above works, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at ["www.ireps.gov.in"](#). 2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website ["www.ireps.gov.in"](#) before the date of tender closing to note any changes/corrigenda for any tender. Visit our site at ["www.ireps.gov.in"](#)

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical) Vijayawada

Tender Notice No. VSKP-ELECTG-26-27-WC-08

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tender for the following works:

Tender No. : VSKP-ELECTG-26-27-WC-08
Name of work : Augmentation works for illumination improvement in ELSVSKP under the Jurisdiction of JEE/ELG/ELS/ VSKP. **Quantity:** As mentioned in Tender Document. **Period of Completion:** 180 days. **Tender Value:** Rs.23,74,242.81/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty Two and Eighty One paisa only). **Bid Security/ Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 47,500/- (Rupees Forty Seven Thousand Five Hundred only). **Cost of tender document:** Rs.0/- (Nil). **Offer validity:** 45 Days from the date of opening. **Type of tender:** Works Tender governed by GCC-2022 for works. **System of Tendering:** Open Tender-Single Packet. **Time & Date of tender closing:** 13:30 hrs of 17.08.2026. **Tender document V and corrigendum:** are available in [www.ireps.gov.in](#). **Postal address for correspondence:** O/o of Sr. DEE/GVSKP, DRM Office Building, Dondaparthi, Visakhapatnam-530004, Andhra Pradesh.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(G) SCoR.A106 Visakhapatnam

For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents.

Please visit website at [http://www.ireps.gov.in](#)

BRSV to hold massive protest at Indira Park today

HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtira Samithi Vidyarthi (BRSV), the student wing of the BRS, has announced a major demonstration at Dharana Chowk, Indira Park, Hyderabad, on Friday at 10 AM. The protest comes in response to the police action and alleged sup-

pression of students and youth protesting in New Delhi. BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) will attend the protest to reaffirm his solidarity with the youth movement. In a personal gesture of support, KTR has decided to forego all customary celebrations for his 50th birthday, choosing instead

to stand alongside student activists. "The voice of India's youth cannot be crushed through force," KTR stated, emphasizing the constitutional right to dissent and peaceful assembly.

A large gathering of students, youth organizations, and BRSV activists is expected to participate to demand ac-

countability and protest police excesses against peaceful demonstrators.

Meanwhile, BRS leaders, including Gellu Srinivas Yadav, Mutha Jayasimha, and others called on the Gandhi Nagar Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and sought permission for the protest.

Strengthen the Sthapati Wing in the Endowments Department



■ Urge Telangana Sthapatis and Sculptors

HYDERABAD

Sthapatis (traditional temple architects) and sculptors from Telangana, who received training at the Tirupathi School of Sculpture in temple architecture, temple construction, and sculpture, met the Commissioner of the Telangana Endowments Department and presented their concerns.

The delegation said that the Endowments Department previously had a fully functional Sthapati Wing, but the absence of permanent recruitment over the past 18 years has left the wing on the verge of becoming defunct.

They pointed out that although Telangana is home to numerous temples of historical and spiritual significance, only a few receive proper maintenance and conservation. Many other historic temples, they said, have been neglected and are at risk of gradual deterioration and disappearance.

Referring to the Ramappa Temple, a UNESCO World Her-

itage Site, as a source of pride for Telangana, they stressed the need to secure similar international recognition for other historically significant temples in the state.

They said that if the government promotes the conservation of historic temples along with traditional temple architecture, Telangana's rich history, culture, and sculptural heritage could be showcased to visitors from around the world.

The representatives urged the government to strengthen the Sthapati Wing of the Endowments Department and fill the existing vacant Sthapati posts on a permanent basis.

They also noted that local sthapatis and sculptors had received some opportunities during the reconstruction of the Yadadri (Yadagirigutta) Temple. They appealed to the government to further develop the Yadadri School of Sculpture by providing it with adequate infrastructure, faculty, and staff so that it can function effectively.

According to the delegation, such measures would not only create greater employment opportunities for traditional

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : ELD-125-WC-OT-44B-25, dated 15.07.2026. e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Eastern Railway, 4th floor, Rail Yatri Niwas, near Howrah Station, Howrah-711101 for the following work : **Name of the work with its location :** 25KV OHE work in connection with Shifting of Insulated Overlap after stop signal for protection of train entering into isolated section under Howrah Division of Eastern Railway.

Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 1,89,07,411.70. **Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited :** ₹ 3,78,100/- **Cost of tender form :** NIL. **Completion period of the work :** 06 (Six) months from the date of issue of LOA. **Tender Closing Date & Time :** 15.00 hrs. on 07.08.2026. **Opening of tender:** Tender will be opened any time after closing of tender. Tenderers may visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](#) for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bid online. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. (HWH-229/2026-27)

Tender Notice is also available at websites : [www.eir.indianrailways.gov.in](#) / [www.ireps.gov.in](#)

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY	
Electrical Branch (General Services) Chennai Division	
Tender Notice ME29IISC-Hirect-2026R2	
The Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, General Services, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, IVth Floor, NGO Annex, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE Open Tenders for the E-Tender no. ME29IISC-Hirect-2026R2 for the following work as per the Tender Notice issued in our E-Tender portal www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders intending to apply for E-Tender for Works in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the aforesaid E-Tender portal and only online tenders will be accepted.	
E-TENDER NO	ME29IISC-Hirect-2026R2 dt. 22.07.2026
NAME OF THE WORK	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for rectification of out of warranty Hirect (M/s.Hind Rectifiers Ltd.) make 25KVA inverters fitted in Roof Mounted AC coaches of Southern Railway for a period of three years
APPROXIMATE COST OF WORK	Rs. 8,25,38,973/- (Rupees Eight Crore Twenty Five Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Three Only).
EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT	Rs. 5,62,700/- (Rupees Five Lakh Sixty Two Thousand and Seven Hundred only).
CONTRACT PERIOD	Three Years
TENDER CLOSING DATE AND TIME	12.08.2026 and 15.00 Hrs
1. The details of the approximate cost of Tender value, EMD, and the details of bid submission are furnished in the aforesaid E-Portal.	
2. The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.	
3. GST rules applicable from time to time will apply for this E-Tender.	
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Chennai Division, Southern Railway. For and On Behalf of the President of India.	

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/66/009/26-27 Dated: 20-07-2026 for Supply of Materials. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

Tender No. NJ265096
Closing/Opening date: 10-08-2026

Brief Description: Supply, testing and commissioning of waterless urinals in Three Phases Electric Passenger Locomotive as per RDSO Functional requirement specification no. RDSO/2023/EL/FRS/0034 (Rev-02) of September 2025 or latest. consignee: SSE/D/Siliguri Jn. NFR. Qty: 20 Nos.

Note: For full details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website ([www.ireps.gov.in](#)). Prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tender are required to log on themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with **IREPS**. In Case they are not registered with **IREPS**, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, New Jalpaiguri
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Electrical (General), Construction, Egmore, Chennai
Tender Notice No: E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-13-2026-27, Dt: 18/07/2026.

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/General/ Construction / Southern Railway / Egmore, Chennai - 600008 invites E-Tender for the following Work.

Name of the work: MAS-AJJ section: (i) Proposed yard improvement at MAS yard to rectify forced defective layout and (ii) Elimination of Diamond crossing at MAS yard-Electrical Arrangements - Works Contract.

Tender Notice No. and Date	E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-13-2026-27, Dt:18/07/2026.
1 Period of Completion	6 Months
2 Approximate Cost of Work	Rs. 20,80,695/-
3 Cost of Tender Form	Nil
4 Earnest Money Deposit(EMD)	Rs.41,600/-
5 Tender Closing Date & Time	18/08/2026 & 11:00 am
6 Tender Opening Date & Time	18/08/2026 & 11:30 am

Complete details can be seen on [www.ireps.gov.in](#).
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600008 (For and on behalf of President of India)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

LOCO WORKS, AYANAVARAM, CHENNAI- 600 023
E-TENDER NOTICE
Open Tender Notice No. LW_Cont_Corrosion_OT_26

The Chief Workshop Manager/Loco Works/Ayanavaram, Southern Railway, Chennai-600 023 for and on behalf of the President of India invites following online Open Tender as per Tender Notice issued as in our e-tender portal [www.ireps.gov.in](#). The Tenderer(s) intending to apply e-tender for works/service contract, need to get enrolled in the aforesaid e-tender portal and only online tenders will be accepted. The payment towards Bid Security Deposit is to be made through online payment method only. It is the responsibility of the tenderer(s) to obtain necessary Digital Signature Certificates for participating in the e-tenders.

Tender No.	LW_Cont_Corrosion_OT_26
Tender for (Name of work)	Corrosion Repair Activities in ICF, LHB, DEMU/ MEMU/EMU TC Coaches at the premises of Loco Workshop, Perambur
Quantity	1,13,628 Man Hours
Period Of Contract	24 months from the date of issue of LOA
Estimated Tender Value	₹1,67,96,490.96/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Seven lakhs Ninety Six thousand Four hundred Ninety and Ninety Six paise Only)
Amount of Bid Security Deposit	₹3,35,900/-
Cost of Tender Booklet	Nil
Tender Due on	08-08-2026 & 11:00 hrs
Website Particulars	www.ireps.gov.in

Dy.CME/LW/PER
For Chief Workshop Manager, Loco Works, Ayanavaram, Chennai-600023

NOTE:

- The details of the Estimated Tender value, Bid Security Amount and the details of the bid submission are furnished in the aforesaid e-portal
- The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.
- Tenderer should follow the necessary corrigendum, if any, issued by the Railway Administration in IREPS portal before bidding.
- Validity of the offer and the bid security should be minimum 60 days from the date of opening of Tender or up to the period being extended further if required by mutual agreement.
- The Railway reserves the right to cancel the Tender without assigning any reasons thereto. The other terms and conditions pertaining to Tender are detailed in the Tender Document.

Change the System, Not Just the Individuals

India Needs Comprehensive Education Reforms, Not Temporary Political Solutions

Education is the foundation of every developed nation. The future of a country is shaped not only in legislatures but also in classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and educational institutions. Whenever concerns arise about examinations or the education system, students have every democratic right to seek transparency, fairness, accountability, and equal opportunity.

However, the larger question before the nation is this: Are we solving the problem, or merely reacting to it? Calls for the resignation of an individual may satisfy immediate public sentiment, but they do not address the structural weaknesses of India's education system. Sustainable progress comes not from changing individuals alone, but from reforming institutions, policies, and governance.

The Real Crisis Is Systemic
The recurring controversies surrounding NEET and JEE are not merely about examinations; they expose deeper structural challenges within India's education ecosystem. Every year, millions of talented students aspire to become doctors and engineers, yet the availability of quality educational institutions and professional seats remains far below the growing demand. Consequently, students face intense competition in which a few marks

can determine their future.

This raises several important national questions:

Why are there still too few government and quality private medical colleges?
Why must millions of capable students compete for such limited opportunities?
Why has school education not become strong enough to reduce dependence on coaching centres?
Why are career guidance, vocational education, and skill development still not central components of mainstream education?
These are the issues that deserve sustained national attention.

Can One Examination Decide a Student's Future?

Every student possesses unique abilities. Some excel in competitive examinations, while others demonstrate exceptional talent in research, innovation, creativity, leadership, communication, or practical problem-solving. Reducing years of learning to the outcome of a single high-pressure examination is educationally limiting. India should move towards a balanced admission framework that considers:
Class XII Board performance
National entrance examination scores

Continuous academic assessment
Such an approach would reward consistent learning rather than placing excessive weight on a single examination day.

Strengthen Schools, Reduce Coaching Dependency

The commercialization of competitive education has become a matter of serious concern. Many students spend long hours in school followed by coaching classes, leaving little time for sports, creativity, emotional development, or family life. This relentless academic pressure contributes to stress, anxiety, and burnout. The vision of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) extends beyond preparing students for examinations; it aims to prepare them for life.

Schools must become centres of holistic learning that nurture:

Critical thinking
Scientific temperament
Creativity
Communication skills
Leadership
Ethical values
Environmental awareness
Digital literacy
Emotional intelligence
Problem-solving abilities



If schools consistently deliver high-quality education, dependence on expensive coaching institutions will naturally decline.

Expand Educational Opportunities

Demand for medical education continues to rise, but the supply of quality institutions has not kept pace.
India should prioritise:
Establishing more government medical colleges across districts.
Expanding MBBS seats based on population needs.
Investing in Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Allied Health Sciences, and Public Health education.
Creating more research universities and centres of excellence.
Strengthening educational infrastructure in rural and semi-urban regions.

Expanding opportunities is far more effective than merely increasing competition.

Make Skill Education a National Priority

The global economy is rapidly evolving. Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Biotechnology, Green Technology, Data Science, Cyber Security, Renewable Energy, and Entrepreneurship are creating new career pathways. Yet much of India's education system continues to revolve around marks, ranks, and entrance examinations. Not every student needs to become a doctor or an engineer. Every student deserves the opportunity to discover and develop their own potential.

Schools should therefore integrate

Skill education
Vocational education
Entrepreneurship
Financial literacy
Career guidance
Digital skills
Innovation and research
These reforms will prepare young people not only to seek employment but also to create it.
Reform the Examination System
India should consider several long-term reforms:
Give appropriate weightage to Class XII Board examinations

alongside national entrance tests.

Introduce multiple examination opportunities each year wherever feasible. Strengthen examination security using AI-enabled monitoring, biometric verification, and advanced digital safeguards. Improve transparency and accountability throughout the examination process. Ensure equal access to quality educational resources for rural and economically disadvantaged students.

Provide counselling and mental health support before and after competitive examinations.

Student Movements Should Champion Lasting Reforms
Student movements have historically contributed to social transformation. Their energy should be directed toward long-term nation-building rather than short-term political demands.

Students can become powerful advocates for:

More medical colleges
More universities
Stronger government schools
Better public higher education
Transparent and secure examinations
Skill-based education
Affordable quality education
Research and innovation
Equal educational opportunities for all
Such reforms will benefit not

only today's students but also future generations.

Change the System, Build the Nation

Individuals will come and go. Governments will change. Ministers will change.
But a strong education system can serve generations.
India's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047 depends not only on economic growth but also on educational transformation. The country needs policies that expand opportunities, improve quality, encourage innovation, strengthen public education, and prepare young people for a rapidly changing world.
The goal should not simply be to respond to one examination controversy, but to build an education system that is fair, inclusive, transparent, future-ready, and globally competitive. Changing individuals may bring temporary satisfaction. Changing the education system can transform generations. Let us move beyond politics and work together to build an education system that empowers every child and strengthens the future of India.

— Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy

Educationist | Environmentalist
| Advocate for National Education Reforms

Singareni is the Heartbeat of Telangana

- **People of Telangana Share an Emotional Bond with Singareni**
- **Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Conducts Field Inspection at Sathupalli Open Cast Mine**

SATTUPALLY

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu stated that the State Government's foremost objective is to ensure that Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) remains a strong, efficiently managed, and future-ready public sector enterprise by expanding its business and securing its long-term sustainability for future generations.

Describing Singareni as the "soul of Telangana," the Deputy Chief Minister said the people of the state and its workforce share an emotional bond with the 130-year-old institution. He emphasized that it is everyone's collective responsibility not only to protect this iconic public sector enterprise but also to strengthen it and hand it over as a profitable organization to future generations.

The Deputy Chief Minister inspected the Sathupalli Open Cast Coal Mine, where he reviewed coal reserves, production processes, and coal quality before addressing the media.

Senior officials accompanying him included Energy Special Chief Secretary Navin Mittal, SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddha Prakash Jyoti, TGGENCO CMD Dr. Harish, SCCL Director Gautham Potru, Khammam District Collector Divakar T.S., MLAs Matta Ragamayee and Maloth Ramdas Naik, among others.

Speaking to the media, the Deputy



Chief Minister said the field visit was undertaken to directly assess mining operations, understand the challenges faced by the company, and review its future plans. Explaining mining operations, he said Overburden (OB) refers to the soil and rock removed during mining, while coal is the company's most valuable resource and primary source of revenue. Contractors may view the removal of overburden and coal similarly since payments are made based on excavation volume, but the management must clearly distinguish between the two. He instructed officials to ensure that overburden, soil, and rocks do not get mixed with coal during blasting and loading operations. Continuous monitoring by company officials at every shovel and loading point is essential to maintain coal quality, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister noted that transporting inferior-quality coal not only increases trans-

portation costs unnecessarily but also reduces efficiency at thermal power plants and may even lead to plant tripping. He directed officials to supply only high-quality, uncontaminated coal to TGGENCO and other customers.

He observed that while the coal sector once operated under a monopoly, the market has now become highly competitive with the entry of private players and increasing imports of coal from abroad. To remain competitive, Singareni must produce superior-quality coal while simultaneously reducing production costs, he said.

He pointed out that Singareni had missed several opportunities over the past decade by not participating in auctions for new coal blocks.

The Deputy Chief Minister explained that it takes at least seven to eight years from acquiring a coal block through auction to completing land acquisition, obtaining forest clearances, and commencing min-



ing operations. Therefore, Singareni must prepare and execute plans with a minimum 10-year strategic vision.

He instructed the managements of Singareni and TGGENCO to jointly prepare a long-term action plan by assessing future electricity demand in the state and estimating corresponding coal requirements over the next decade.

He said that after the present people's government assumed office, pending issues relating to land acquisition and forest clearances for Tadicherla-II and Naini coal blocks were resolved expeditiously. The government, he added, would extend full support to enable Singareni to participate in future coal block auctions across the country.

Highlighting the global shift towards clean energy, the Deputy Chief Minister said Singareni should not remain confined to coal production alone but must rapidly expand into the solar energy sec-

tor. He observed that solar power, pumped storage, hydrogen, and nuclear energy would increasingly complement and, in some cases, replace thermal power in the future. Accordingly, Singareni should significantly enhance its focus on solar power generation.

He further stated that Singareni's vast expertise in mining and its highly skilled technical workforce should also be leveraged to explore and mine critical minerals and rare earth minerals, which are essential for semiconductor and chip manufacturing.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that the Telangana Government is committed to extending all possible support to protect, strengthen, and transform Singareni into a globally competitive and profitable enterprise. He called upon officials, engineers, and workers to work in close coordination to further enhance the legacy and reputation of Singareni.

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Provides Financial Support for Poor Student's Higher Education

- **Rs. 10 lakh financial assistance provided for pursuing studies at a university in Germany**

HYDERABAD

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has extended support to help a poor student achieve her dream of higher education. Parimala, a student from Devarakonda belonging to a family of impoverished daily wage workers, did not allow financial hardships to stand in the way of her aspirations.

After completing her higher education at IIT Madras, she secured admission to a prestigious university in Germany for a master's programme. However, due to her family's financial situation, there was uncertainty about whether she would be able to pursue her dream.

When the matter came to the attention of local MLA Balunayak, he called the student's family, inquired about their situation, and subsequently brought the issue to the notice of Telangana Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy. Arrangements were made for



the student and her family to meet the minister.

After learning about the student's achievement and her dedication towards higher studies, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy responded positively and extended his support. With the aim that talent should not remain unnoticed due to poverty, he provided immediate financial assistance of ₹10 lakh through the 'Komatireddy Prateek Foundation' to support her overseas higher education.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said:

"Poverty can never be a barrier to talent. If given an opportunity, students from poor backgrounds can prove their abilities on the global stage. I will always stand by poor students in helping them achieve their dreams and providing support for their higher education."

The minister wished that the student, who is set to pursue higher education in Germany, would achieve greater heights in the future and bring recognition to the country and the state of Telangana.

Revanth questions BRS silence on Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy questioned why the BRS had not demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over recent controversies. The Chief Minister also referred to the deaths of 27 Intermediate students during the previous BRS regime, alleging that they resulted from errors in the evaluation of examination papers. He demanded that BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao prove his integrity in connection with the Globarena issue and apologise for the student deaths.

Speaking during an informal interaction with the media at the Assembly on Thursday, Revanth Reddy said that 70% of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls had been completed across the State. He alleged that there was a possibility of voters being deleted from the rolls in the name of the revision and said Booth Level Officers (BLOs) had been deployed to prevent such irregularities. The Chief Minister questioned how people could avail themselves of government welfare schemes if they

did not have their names on the voters' list. He also responded to allegations made by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) that he had votes registered in two places. "The BRS leaders are alleging that I have two votes. Let them file a complaint. If the complaint is found to be false, I will ensure action is taken against them. I had officially applied to the Collector for the transfer of my voter registration," Revanth Reddy said.

Referring to the previous revision of electoral rolls, he alleged that all Andhra-origin voters within the GHMC limits had been removed. He said the Congress had approached the court over the issue, following which the court expressed displeasure with the then GHMC Commissioner. The Chief Minister said the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) was functioning effectively and had recovered several encroached properties. Launching a fresh attack on the previous BRS government, Revanth Reddy alleged that quality standards were completely compromised in the construction of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project.

Indefinite hunger strike by Telangana Rakshana Sena student wing leaders protesting the crackdown on students in Delhi

- **Osmania University students' hunger strike disrupted**
- **Student leaders continuing protest at Satavahana University**
- **Demand for Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, taking responsibility for the NEET exam paper leak**

HYDERABAD / KARIMNAGAR

Protesting against the police crackdown on students who were agitating in Delhi over the NEET exam paper leak issue, leaders of the Telangana Rakshana Sena student wing launched an indefinite hunger strike. On Thursday, the hunger strike began simultaneously at Osmania University and Satavahana University in Karimnagar.

The hunger strike launched by Telangana Rakshana Sena student leaders in front of Osmania University was disrupted by police, who shifted them to the university police station. The student leaders continued their protest at the police station. Meanwhile, the hunger strike at Satavahana University is continuing.

Students' hunger strike in front of Arts College

Telangana Rakshana Sena student wing leaders Ramu Yadav, Naveen Goud, Ravi Rathod, Ajay, Raj Kumar, Deepak, and Shekhar began an indefinite hunger strike on Thursday morning in front of the Arts College at Osmania University.

University police attempted to arrest the students, stating that permission had not been granted for a hunger strike on the campus. During the incident, a scuffle broke out between the police and students. The stu-



dents questioned why they were being stopped when they were conducting a peaceful hunger strike in a democratic manner. They demanded that Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resign, taking responsibility for the NEET question paper leak.

They also demanded justice for the 21 students who allegedly died by suicide due to the paper leak and called for action against the police personnel involved in the

crackdown on students in Delhi. After arresting the student leaders and shifting them to the university police station, they continued the hunger strike there and ended it in the evening.

Hunger strike continuing at Satavahana University

At the Satavahana University campus, Telangana Rakshana Sena student wing leaders Chenamalla Chaitanya, Banda Ashok,

Tutkuri Anoop Reddy, Sadige Rajasekhar, and Sheikh Taj Baba began an indefinite hunger strike on Thursday morning.

The student leaders demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi immediately intervene and remove Dharmendra Pradhan from the Union Cabinet.

They stated that the Central Government's failure to respond even after 21 students allegedly died by suicide was highly irresponsible. They criticized the situation, saying that those who could not properly conduct examinations in Telangana going to Delhi and expressing solidarity with student protests was ironic.

They demanded that the National Testing Agency (NTA) be given autonomy similar to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). They also urged the Centre to consider conducting medical entrance examinations at the state level, as demanded by southern states.

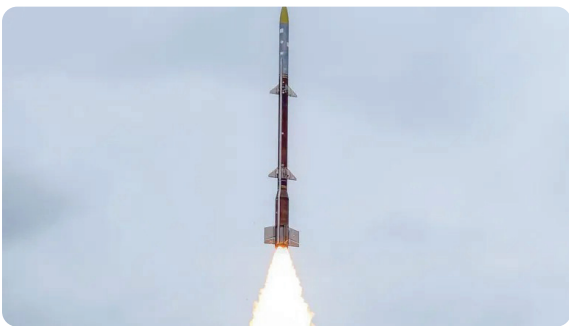


Jana Sena MPs meet BJP National Organising General Secretary B.L. Santhosh

NEW DELHI, JULY 23:

Jana Sena Party MPs Lingamaneni Ramesh, Vallabhaneni Balashowry, and Tangella Uday Srinivas paid a courtesy visit to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National Organising General Secretary B.L. Santhosh in New Delhi on Thursday. During the meeting, they held de-

tailed discussions on several key issues, including national and state political developments, public welfare, development initiatives, and matters relating to coordination between the Central and State governments. Following the discussions, the Jana Sena MPs felicitated B.L. Santhosh and conveyed their best wishes.



Odisha: DRDO conducts maiden test of Kusha missile

KOLKATA, JULY 23

The maiden flight-test of 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) was successfully conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on Thursday. According to the DRDO, the test was conducted against an electronic target simulating a high-speed and high-altitude aerial threat, which the missile system successfully intercepted. "The 'Kusha' missile system is capable of neutralising a wide variety of aerial threats including fighter jets, missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles and large enemy aircraft within a wide range and altitude envelope. All weapon system elements, including the missiles, radars, command and control centre, have been developed by various DRDO laboratories and industry partners," the DRDO said in a statement.

This test was part of "Project Kusha" that entails the develop-

ment of an Extended Range Air Defence System (ERADS) for the Indian Air Force and Navy. It was earlier known as the Extreme Range Surface-to-Air Missile or XRSAM.

Expected to be part of Mission Sudarshan Chakra, it will bridge the gap between the 80-km-range MR-SAM and the S-400, which can hit targets 400 km away. It will supplement the Barak-8, S-400 and Akash systems that are already part of India's air defence network. Three variants of the "Kusha" are expected to be inducted into the services between 2028 and 2030. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the successful test-flight of "Kusha" marks an important milestone in Indian defence R&D, highlighting the capability in developing long-range surface-to-air missile systems, possessed only by a handful of nations. He added that this will eliminate import dependency for such systems and signifies a giant leap in India's air defence capability.

Centre should treat NEET paper leak as national issue: Shivakumar backs CJP protest

Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar backed protests over the NEET paper leak and sought a discussion in Parliament. He said repeated exam irregularities threaten students' futures and demand accountability.

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday backed the nationwide protests over the NEET paper leak, saying the issue concerned the future of the country's youth and required accountability for repeated examination irregularities. He also called for a discussion in Parliament and questioned the use of force against protesting students in Delhi and elsewhere.

Addressing reporters in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said



every citizen was concerned about children's future and that students had every democratic right to protest against examination malpractices. He urged the Centre to accept responsibility and said the controversy was a national issue, not a political one. Shivakumar, who had participated in the NEET protest in Delhi along with Congress

MP Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, said, "Our children are our future. Question papers have reportedly been leaked on more than 100 occasions. If we fail to maintain quality, if question paper leaks continue to happen like this, and if nobody takes responsibility for them, then who should be held accountable?" He said India was recognised globally as a talent hub and warned that repeated examination leaks could damage the country's reputation. "The youth of the entire country, and indeed the whole world, are thinking about the future of India's young people because India is a talent hub. Everyone acknowledges that the kind of talent we possess cannot be found anywhere else in the world," he said. Questioning the police action

against protesters, Shivakumar said everyone had the right to protest in a democracy. Referring to the violence during the protest, he said he was not justifying any act of violence but insisted that legal action should be taken in accordance with the law.

Calling the controversy a national issue rather than a political one, Shivakumar said, "This concerns the future of the country's youth. This is the voice of the youth. Their future is at stake. Why are you trying to cover it up?"

On the proposed Cabinet expansion in Karnataka, he said the exercise would take place soon. Overall, he said the NEET paper leak had raised serious concerns over the future of students and needed accountability as well as a wider discussion.

NEET Row: Fast-Track Courts Welcome

NEW DELHI, JULY 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday outlined his government's "youth first" approach and announced the setting up of fast-track courts to ensure speedy justice and stringent punishment for those involved in the NEET paper leak. PM Modi said the students' future remains the government's top priority and anyone trying to harm them

will not be spared. The move, which will fast-track prosecution of paper leak accused, has been hailed by students and aspirants of competitive examinations across the country. From Uttar Pradesh to Jammu and Kashmir to Madhya Pradesh, students including NEET aspirants described the decision as a step in the right direction, though some felt it should have been taken earlier. A NEET aspirant from Bhopal

welcomed the decision, saying it was "a very good decision" as students spend years preparing and face depression if results are compromised. He said fast-track justice would ensure scammers are arrested and exams conducted fairly. A girl student from Bhopal aspiring to appear in NEET said the move could prevent future paper leaks and save lives, noting that many students had committed suicide or suffered

depression. Students from Delhi also welcomed the decision, agreeing that fast-track courts would ensure strict action and speedy justice. Laksh Singh, a NEET aspirant from Mumbai, said strict action against the paper leak mafia would set a new precedent. A girl student from Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir said she appreciated PM Modi's decision, noting that students who faced re-exams were under immense stress.

RWS Contract Workers' Union Representatives Meet Y.S. Jagan

TADEPALLI, JULY 23:

Representatives of the Rural Water Supply (RWS) Contract Workers' Union met former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli to present their grievances. The union representatives said that around 7,000 contract workers have been serving under integrated rural drinking water supply schemes across the state for the past 26 years. Despite playing a crucial role in providing safe drinking water to rural communities, they said they continue to face a lack of job security and delays in receiving their salaries.

They informed Jagan that the third-party contract sys-

Demand abolition of the third-party contract system and payment of pending wages
Jagan assures workers of YSRCP's support



tem has resulted in workers in several districts being paid less than the prescribed Standard Schedule of Rates (SSR) wages. In some areas, salaries have reportedly remained unpaid for 10 to 20 months, pushing workers' families into severe financial hardship. The repre-

sentatives said that prolonged delays in salary payments have made it difficult for workers to support their families, fund their children's education, and meet medical expenses. They described the government's alleged neglect of employees who have served for decades as un-

just. The union urged Jagan to press the government to abolish the third-party contract system, immediately clear all pending wage arrears, ensure payment of wages according to the prescribed rates, and provide job security to contract workers. After listening to their concerns, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy assured the delegation that the YSR Congress Party would stand by the RWS contract workers. He said the party would raise their legitimate demands with the government and work towards resolving their issues. Among those who accompanied the union representatives during the meeting were former minister Velampalli Srinivasa Rao, MLC Monditoka Arun Kumar, Devenini Avinash, Malladi Vishnu, Thanneeru Nageswara Rao, and other party leaders.

YSRCP urges Centre to protect Panchadarla heritage

MP M. Gurumoorthy submits memorandum to Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

NEW DELHI, JULY 23:

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MP M. Gurumoorthy has appealed to Union Minister for Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to immediately halt mining activities in the Panchadarla hills of Anakapalli district and protect the region's rich heritage. In a detailed memorandum submitted to the Minister, he requested the immediate suspension of mining operations around the historic Buddhist archaeological site and the Sri Dharmalingeswara Swamy Temple, and urged the Centre to declare the entire Panchadarla hill region a "No Mining Zone."

The MP stated that the Dhanadibba Buddhist archaeological site is an ancient heritage monument dating back to the Satavahana period and is a protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). He also noted that the Sri Dharmalingeswara Swamy Temple at Panchadarla is a historically significant temple belonging to the Eastern Chalukya period.

He expressed concern that ongoing mining and blasting activities near these heritage sites pose a serious threat to archaeological remains, the natural environment, and the region's perennial water springs. Gurumoorthy pointed out that mining is being carried out at distances of approximately 90 metres, 190 metres, and 200 metres from the ASI-protected Dhanadibba Buddhist site. He said this has been confirmed through satellite imagery as well as field inspections. He warned that if mining continues, it would amount to a violation of archaeological conservation laws. In light of these concerns, the MP requested the Union Minister to direct the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct an immediate field inspection, undertake a scientific assessment of the impact of mining, constitute a joint committee of experts, and suspend all mining and blasting activities until the inquiry is completed. He also reiterated his demand that the entire Panchadarla region be declared a "No Mining Zone."

YSRCP claims Mega DSC recruitment irregularities in Andhra, moves adjournment motion in Parliament

NEW DELHI, JULY 23

YSR Congress Party Rajya Sabha MP and Parliamentary Party Leader, Y.V. Subba Reddy, and Tirupati MP Maddila Gurumoorthy on Thursday moved motions in both Houses of Parliament seeking an urgent discussion on the Mega District Selection Committee-2025 recruitment process for over 16,000 teacher posts in Andhra Pradesh.

Gurumoorthy submitted an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha, while Y.V. Subba Reddy gave notice under Rule 267 in the Rajya Sabha, stating that the irregularities have placed the future of more than 3.5 lakh teacher aspirants at risk.

In the Rajya Sabha notice, Y.V. Subba Reddy stressed that Parliament had discussed issues affecting more than 22.79 lakh NEET aspirants and that the concerns of 3.5 lakh Mega DSC candidates in Andhra Pradesh equally deserved urgent national attention. He said the matter involved the future of educated unemployed youth, the credibility of public institutions and equality in public employment.

According to a party release, the MPs highlighted procedural violations, lack of transparency and manipulation, including the handling of confidential work by outsourced personnel, non-publication of merit and roster lists, exclusion of candidates after certificate verification, changes



to the Sports Quota policy, paper-leak concerns and recruitment-for-money charges. They urged the Union government to order a time-bound independent investigation, preserve digital evidence, protect genuine candidates and introduce reforms to ensure fairness and transparency in public recruitment examinations.

Last month, former Chief Minister and YSRCP President, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy demanded a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the alleged large-scale irregularities in the Mega DSC exam and recruitment process. He claimed that all the facts coming to light regarding the Mega DSC for recruitment of teachers are extremely shocking. He alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's government has betrayed the trust of lakhs of candidates through scams, severely damaging the lives of talented aspirants. The former CM claimed that such a disastrous recruitment process was never witnessed anywhere.

Bihar cadre IAS officer appointed Private Secy to Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav

NEW DELHI, JULY 23

The Centre on Thursday approved the appointment of Bihar cadre IAS officer Prashanth Kumar as the Private Secretary to the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav. The order issued by the Centre's Department of Personnel said that the appointment "at the level of Deputy Secretary is for a period of five years with effect from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or on co-terminus basis with the Minister or till he ceases to function as Private Secretary

to the Minister or until further orders, whichever occurs at the earliest". The Centre has asked the Bihar government to relieve the IAS officer, of the 2015 batch, of his duties immediately with instructions to take up the new assignment with the Union Minister. The letter has been sent by the Department of Personnel to the Chief Secretary of Bihar Pratap Amrit. On July 3, 2026, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change abruptly removed Union Minister Bhupender Yadav's Private Secretary, Assistant Private Secretary, and two Additional Private Secretaries.

Linking Horticulture with Employment Scheme Provides Assurance for Rural Livelihoods

The measures taken by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Shri Pawan Kalyan, to improve farmers' livelihoods through the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), which aims to enhance employment opportunities and create infrastructure in rural areas, are yielding positive results.

By linking horticulture with the employment guarantee scheme, Shri Pawan Kalyan has encouraged fruit orchard cultivation across nearly two lakh acres during the last two years. With approximately ₹500 crore in employment scheme funds, his decision has benefited more than 1.10 lakh farmers across the state. In line with the objectives set by VB-G RAM G, Shri Pawan Kalyan introduced these reforms two years ago with the aim of providing sustainable livelihoods to rural communities and increasing farmers' incomes. The integration of horticulture with the employment guarantee scheme has become particularly beneficial for farmers

With the initiative of Shri Pawan Kalyan, nearly two lakh acres of fruit orchards cultivated within two years

More than one lakh farmers benefited

Decision of the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister playing a key role in 'Operation Chaitanya'

Over 46,000 tribal farmers in Alluri Sitarama Raju district shifted from cannabis cultivation to fruit orchards

Large-scale promotion of fruit orchards in Rayalaseema districts as well



in the agency areas of Alluri Sitarama Raju district and the drought-prone districts of Rayalaseema. During the past two years, fruit orchard cultivation taken up under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has helped tribal farmers in Alluri district establish stable sources of income. It has also contributed to making agency areas free from cannabis cultivation. The decision of the Deputy Chief Minister

played a crucial role in the 'Operation Chaitanya' initiative launched to prevent cannabis cultivation. More than 46,000 farmers in Alluri Sitarama Raju district alone have benefited from fruit orchard cultivation through the employment scheme. Notably, the district accounts for the highest share of beneficiaries in the state. With the support of the NREGS, more than 48,000 acres of orchards have been cultivated in Alluri dis-



trict — the highest in the state. This also includes coffee plantations. A plan was designed to first provide tribal farmers with silver oak saplings and later distribute coffee plants after the silver oak trees begin growing. The shade provided by silver oak trees is highly suitable for coffee cultivation. Based on these silver oak plantations, pepper is also cultivated as an intercrop.

Shri Pawan Kalyan's decision has also played an im-

portant role in achieving the coalition government's goal of developing Rayalaseema into a horticulture hub. In the drought-prone districts of Anantapur, Annamayya, Sri Sathya Sai, Kurnool, Kadapa, Chittoor, Tirupati, and Nandyal, the employment guarantee scheme supported fruit orchard cultivation across 62,106 acres within two years.

Under this scheme, financial assistance is not limited

to planting fruit saplings. Support will continue for nearly three years until the plants grow into mature trees, including comprehensive crop protection measures. Financial assistance is being provided in phases for activities such as annual ploughing, digging pits, land leveling, transportation and planting of saplings, fencing, irrigation facilities, fertilizer application, and intercrop cultivation.

Plans have been developed to enable farmers to earn an annual income of around ₹1 lakh per acre through horticulture cultivation, with arrangements made to grow suitable crops according to local conditions.

The reforms introduced by Shri Pawan Kalyan, with farmer welfare as the priority and considering farmers' well-being as the state's welfare, are receiving appreciation at the national level.

EDITORIAL

The Parliamentary
Stalemate on NEET: Prioritising
Politics Over Pupil Futures

The stormy scenes unfolding outside Parliament’s Makar Dwar and within both Chambers encapsulate a frustrating reality of contemporary Indian governance. While millions of medical aspirants remain trapped in a cycle of anxiety following systemic leaks in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG), the floor of the House has transformed into a theatre of partisan warfare. The bitter stand-off between the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Opposition bloc serves as a bleak reminder that when institutional integrity crumbles, political opportunism often takes precedence over genuine remediation. At the heart of this confrontation is a fundamental disagreement over accountability versus process. Led by senior figures like Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, the unified Opposition has drawn a non-negotiable line: any parliamentary debate must be preceded by the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. To the Opposition, the minister’s continued presence at the helm of the education machinery signifies institutional complicity and a dismissal of public outrage. This stance has been bolstered on the streets by civic groups like the youth-led Cockroach Jan-ta Party (CJP) and veteran reformers like Sonam Wangchuk, keeping public pressure at a boiling point. Conversely, the Central government has adopted a posture of defense framed as procedural reasonableness. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has repeatedly announced the government’s readiness for an unrestricted discussion on national examination reforms, offering the Opposition as many days as they require to speak. However, the Treasury benches insist that this debate happen “without preconditions”—firmly rejecting the demand for ministerial resignations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has instead pivoted to long-term systemic solutions, highlighting swift arrests, re-examinations, and a newly proposed framework of fast-track courts to try paper leak offenders. Yet, this procedural deadlock satisfies neither justice nor necessity. By reducing a national crisis of meritocracy to an all-or-nothing political gamble, both sides are failing India’s youth. The Opposition’s rigid boycott of a structured debate silences the very platform where they could comprehensively dismantle the flaws of the National Testing Agency (NTA) on the national record.

Demanding an immediate resignation before a parliamentary inquiry can tabulate findings risks substituting structural accountability with a symbolic sacrifice. Simultaneously, the Centre cannot evade the truth that the buck stops with the executive. A policy of managing headlines, conducting hasty re-tests, and deploying heavy-handed police force against protesting students does not inspire trust. While fast-track courts are a welcome deterrent for criminal syndicates, they cannot fix an inherently vulnerable, centralised testing architecture that allows questions to leak onto social media platforms weeks before an exam. What the nation requires is a temporary ceasefire in partisanship. The Opposition should accept the government’s invitation for a floor debate, using parliamentary privilege to hold the executive’s feet to the fire through evidence rather than disruptions. In return, the government must show genuine humility, moving beyond bureaucratic platitudes to commit to an independent, cross-party commission aimed at restructuring national evaluations. If India’s leaders cannot bridge this divide for the sake of 25 lakh prospective doctors, they risk permanently alienating a generation that has already lost its faith in the system.

LET’S POUR WATER FIRST



Let’s pour some water gentle and clear,
“Why?” you ask then lend your ear.
A seed won’t sprout on lifeless ground,
Just like hearts where love’s not found.

Today we cry for things so small,
A word misplaced and tears will fall.
Storms arise from thoughts misread,
When trust is gone, and hope lies dead.

The roots of love are parched and dry,
Connections fade, as years go by.
So pour the water warm and kind,
For faith can heal the doubting mind.

Between two souls, let trust be grown,
Without it, we are lost, alone.
Each lock we fix, each guarded door,
Speaks of belief we hold no more.

Each street now hums a silent song,
Of hearts that ache to just belong.
Where trust is strong, peace starts to flow,
Like streams that spring from melting snow.

But when we doubt, and faith is thin,
The fights erupt, and none can win.
Revenge is just a wasted race,
While trust can lift the darkest face.

So let us pour not rain, but grace,
That brings back light to every place.
It soothes the soul, it clears the skies,
And makes the heavy spirits rise.

Let faith come first in all we say,
The guiding stream along our way.
For in its flow, new dreams take flight,
And every heart shines full and bright.



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



OPINION
EL NIÑO AND THE ILLUSION OF DEVELOPMENT

“In an age where the world has become a single living system,
is our model of development prepared to coexist with nature?”

The defining question of the twenty-first century is no longer how fast nations can grow, but whether their growth can survive the ecological realities of an interconnected planet. For decades, development has been measured through highways built, factories established, exports expanded, urban skylines transformed and GDP accelerated. Nature appeared merely as the backdrop against which human progress unfolded. To-day, that assumption is steadily collapsing. A slight rise in sea-surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific can influence monsoon rainfall in India, alter food prices across Asia, affect inflation expectations, reshape monetary policy and eventually slow economic growth. If a climatic event originating thousands of kilometres away can influence the economic choices of another nation, then El Niño is far more than a weather phenomenon. It is a reminder that development has always operated within nature—not outside it.

Public discussions often describe El Niño as a climate event that weakens monsoon rainfall and threatens agriculture. Scientifically, that description is accurate but incomplete. It explains what happens, not why it matters. The significance of El Niño lies not merely in changing weather patterns but in exposing a deeper truth: modern economies remain inseparable from ecological systems despite decades of technological advancement. The World Meteorological Organization has repeatedly highlighted the global climatic influence of El Niño through atmospheric teleconnections. Yet its most profound implication is philosophical rather than meteorological. It reveals that the boundaries separating climate, economy, public health, agriculture and governance exist largely in administrative thinking, not in reality.

For much of the twentieth century, economic development was imagined as humanity’s gradual triumph over nature. Rivers were dammed, forests cleared, coastlines industrialised and cities expanded under the belief that technology could steadily reduce dependence on natural systems. This narrative produced remarkable prosperity, but it also fostered a dangerous illusion—that nature had become an external variable in economic planning. Climate change, biodiversity loss, extreme weather and El Niño have collectively dismantled that illusion. They demonstrate that economies are not independent machines occasionally interrupted by environmental events; they are ecological systems expressed through markets, institutions and human activity.

India illustrates this interconnectedness with remarkable clarity. A weak monsoon



is never confined to agriculture. It reduces farm incomes, weakens rural consumption, raises food inflation, influences monetary policy, affects industrial demand and ultimately moderates economic growth. A rainfall deficit begins in the atmosphere but travels through supply chains, labour markets, financial systems and household budgets. The farmer, the urban consumer, the central banker and the industrial investor become participants in the same climatic narrative. El Niño therefore does not merely disrupt weather; it exposes the invisible ecological threads connecting sectors that conventional policymaking often treats separately.

Water offers perhaps the clearest example of this misunderstanding. Public policy frequently approaches water through administrative categories—irrigation, drinking water, hydropower, groundwater or urban supply. Nature recognises no such divisions. Rainfall, forests, rivers, aquifers, wetlands and oceans constitute a continuous hydrological system. When development fragments that system institutionally while nature continues to operate holistically, vulnerability becomes inevitable. Floods and droughts increasingly occur within the same geographical regions, not because nature has become irrational, but because human planning often fails to reflect ecological reality.

The same principle applies to economic policy. Inflation, productivity and investment are commonly analysed through fiscal and monetary variables. Yet climate increasingly influences each of them. Agricultural losses affect food prices; food prices shape inflation expectations; inflation constrains central bank decisions; interest rates influence investment; investment determines employment and growth. What appears to be a macroeconomic challenge often begins

as an ecological disturbance. Nature has not entered economics recently; economics is finally recognising that it never existed outside nature.

Perhaps the greatest misconception of the digital age is the belief that technological sophistication automatically translates into ecological independence. Artificial intelligence, satellite forecasting, digital finance and advanced manufacturing have transformed economies, but none has altered humanity’s biological dependence on stable climate systems. A few degrees of ocean warming continue to influence food security, labour productivity, energy demand and public health. Technology has undoubtedly enhanced resilience, yet it has not replaced the ecological foundations upon which resilience itself depends.

Climate change further intensifies this reality. Earlier generations viewed El Niño as a recurring natural oscillation. Today, rising global temperatures amplify many of its consequences. Heatwaves become more severe, soil moisture declines more rapidly, water demand increases and ecosystems recover more slowly. The interaction between natural climate variability and anthropogenic warming means that environmental shocks no longer occur in isolation; they accumulate, reinforce one another and generate systemic risks. Development strategies designed for a stable climate are therefore becoming increasingly inadequate for an unstable one.

This demands more than climate adaptation. It requires intellectual adaptation. Governments often respond to climate disruptions through disaster management, relief packages and emergency interventions. Necessary as these measures are, they remain reactive. The deeper challenge lies in redesigning development itself. Agriculture

cannot be planned without hydrology. Urbanisation cannot ignore ecological carrying capacity. Industrial policy cannot remain detached from water security. Public health cannot be separated from environmental resilience. Climate policy cannot remain confined to environment ministries when climate increasingly shapes every ministry’s outcomes.

The fundamental question, then, is not whether societies can control nature. History suggests they cannot. The real question is whether development can evolve from extracting ecological capital to sustaining ecological systems. The twentieth century rewarded expansion. The twenty-first century is likely to reward resilience. Economic strength will increasingly depend not only on infrastructure, technology or financial capital, but also on the capacity of societies to function within planetary limits.

El Niño leaves behind a lesson far greater than seasonal rainfall forecasts. It reminds us that globalisation did not begin with trade agreements, container ships or digital networks. Nature globalised the planet long before humanity did. Ocean currents ignore borders. Atmospheric circulation respects no sovereignty. Carbon emitted in one nation alters climatic conditions in another. A warming ocean in one hemisphere can influence food prices in another. We continue to divide the world politically, even as ecological systems bind it together.

The future of development therefore rests on a profound shift in perspective. Nature cannot remain an externality in economic thinking because it is the very system within which economies exist. The nations that recognise this reality will not merely manage climate risks more effectively; they will redefine development itself. Those that continue treating environmental stability as a secondary concern may discover that the greatest obstacle to prosperity was never climate change alone, but an outdated understanding of what development actually means.



D. JAIRAM

Subject Expert – Current Affairs
Founder & Mentor
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Special Article on National Thermal Engineer Day (July 24)

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS OF COAL USE IN
THERMAL POWER PLANTS

National Thermal Engineer Day is observed every year on July 24 to recognize the importance and contribution of thermal engineering, with the objective of promoting awareness about the field and highlighting its significance at the public level. Thermal engineering is useful in various fields, including power generation and energy management. It helps in understanding and utilizing conditions where heat, energy, and their management play a vital role. Thermal engineering is a specialized branch of mechanical engineering that deals with the transfer and movement of thermal energy. Energy can be transferred between two media or converted into other forms of energy. The work of a thermal engineer involves the maintenance, construction, or repair of mechanical systems that include the process of heat transfer into other forms of energy. Thermal engineers analyze how mechanical



heat sources interact with different physical and industrial systems. Air conditioners and refrigerators used in homes and vehicles operate on the principles of thermal engineering. Through thermal engineering, engineers not only utilize heat in different media but also convert thermal energy into other forms of energy. Thermal engineering essentially involves the process of keeping objects warm or cool in closed or open environments, and thermal engineers design various types of machines to convert thermal energy into chemical, mechanical, or electrical energy, thereby controlling heat. The electricity used in our homes and offices is generated from this thermal energy, and this electricity is produced in thermal power stations.

Thermal power stations, also known as thermal power plants or thermal generating stations, are electricity generation facilities in which the primary turbines are driven by steam. This steam is obtained by heating water through the burning of coal, gas, or other fuels. Fuel is used to heat water, producing high-pressure steam, which drives turbines to generate electricity. Thermal power stations convert thermal energy into electrical energy by using steam-driven turbines. Water is heated to high temperatures to produce steam, for which coal, solar heat, nuclear heat, waste, and biofuels may be used. In many countries around the world, steam-driven turbines are still used for electricity generation. However, in view of environmental concerns, renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy are gradually being given greater importance for power generation. India is also moving rapidly in this direction. In recent years, several state-of-the-art mega solar power projects with capacities of thousands of megawatts have been commissioned. Some large-scale solar plants are already making significant contributions to power generation. In fact, burning coal to produce steam in thermal power plants causes irreparable damage to the environment because the harmful gases emitted during the process pollute the atmosphere severely. At the same time, the disposal of ash and other residues left behind after burning coal or waste also remains a major challenge.

Although thermal power stations in India use energy sources other than coal for electricity generation, the majority of electricity is still produced from coal. According to the World Health Organization, the burning of coal and the heat generated from it are among the major causes of mercury pollution. Globally, nearly 40 percent of electricity is generated from coal, whereas in India around 60 percent of electricity comes from coal, 16 percent from various renewable energy sources such as solar power, wind power, and biogas, 14 percent from hydropower, 8 percent from gas, 1.8 percent from nuclear energy, and 0.3 percent from diesel. Regardless of the energy source used for electricity generation, every thermal power plant employs a boiler in which fuel is burned to generate thermal energy. This heat is used to convert water into steam, which in turn drives the turbines.

Air pollution is emerging as a major global health crisis, and emissions from thermal power

plants are one of its significant causes. To address this problem, there has been growing emphasis for more than a decade on meeting emission standards and shifting towards renewable energy by restricting new coal-based power plants. The Supreme Court has also repeatedly set deadlines for compliance with emission standards, yet the implementation of these standards for thermal power plants has remained pending for years. Several environmental organizations have consistently demanded that the Ministry of Environment enforce emission standards, hold thermal power plants accountable for pollution, and stop the construction of new thermal power plants in order to achieve renewable energy targets.

It is believed that delays in implementing emission standards are resulting in more than 70,000 premature deaths every year. According to Greenpeace, if emission standards had been implemented on time, sulfur dioxide emissions could have been reduced by 48 percent, nitrogen dioxide emissions by 48 percent, and particulate matter emissions by as much as 40 percent, thereby preventing many of these premature deaths. During electricity generation in thermal power plants, more than 10 percent of the ash produced from burning coal escapes through chimneys along with smoke into the atmosphere, causing serious environmental problems. In view of the growing environmental threats, countries around the world are increasingly restricting the use of coal in thermal power plants and promoting renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. India, too, should encourage clean and green energy instead of coal-based thermal power plants. The need of the hour is to accelerate the transition towards renewable energy and gradually promote the use of these safer energy sources for electricity generation.



YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL

senior journalist



ED arrests three in Rs 70 crore mephedrone drug trafficking, money laundering case

INDORE, JULY 23

The Enforcement Directorate's (ED) Indore Sub-Zonal Office has arrested three persons in connection with a major drug trafficking and money laundering racket involving 70 kg of Mephedrone (MDMA), valued at nearly Rs 70 crore, probe agency officials said on Thursday. The arrested individuals have been identified as Ved Prakash Vyas, Dinesh Agarwal, and Akshay Agarwal. They were taken into custody on July 21, 2026, following an investigation initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Indore Crime Branch. The case pertains to offences punishable under various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, along with provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). According to the ED, the accused and others were involved in the illicit possession and trafficking of commercial quantities of Me-

phedrone. The investigation revealed that the accused generated substantial proceeds of crime through narcotics trafficking and routed the cash through multiple personal and business bank accounts. Financial probes uncovered evidence of systematic placement, layering, and concealment of criminal proceeds. During the investigation, the ED conducted extensive searches on July 17, 2026, at multiple premises across Indore and Mand-saur in Madhya Pradesh. The operations, supported by sustained surveillance and intelligence gathering, led to the recovery and seizure of incriminating documents, digital devices, and evidence related to the assets, financial transactions, and business affairs of the accused persons. Statements recorded during the probe also indicated the involvement of the accused in the supply and trafficking of narcotic drugs in addition to their regular business activities, the ED said.



NFR Announces Shravani Mela Special Train Service Between Katihar and Manihari

MALIGAON, 23 JULY, 2026

To facilitate the additional passenger rush during the forthcoming Shravani Mela, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has decided to operate special train services between Katihar and Manihari under the Katihar Division. These special trains have been planned to ensure convenient and comfortable travel for thousands of devotees, pilgrims and travellers visiting the annual Shravani Mela. The first pair of special trains, Train No. 07540/07539 (Katihar – Manihari – Katihar) Shravani Mela Special, will operate for 22 trips each. Train No. 07540 will depart from Katihar at 19:00 hours on every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 25th July to 23rd August, 2026, reaching Manihari at 19:45 hours. In the return direction, Train No. 07539 will depart from Manihari at 03:30 hours on every Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 26th July to 24th August, 2026,

arriving at Katihar at 04:15 hours. The service will make scheduled stoppages at Mansahi and Mahiyarpur enroute. Additionally, Train No. 07542/07541 (Katihar –Manihari – Katihar) Shra-vani Mela Special will operate for 8 trips each. Train No. 07542 will leave Katihar at 20:30 hours on every Monday and Thursday from 27th July to 20th August, 2026, reaching Manihari at 21:15 hours. In the return direction Train No. 07541, will depart from Manihari at 05:15 hours on every Tuesday and Friday from 28th July to 21st August, 2026 and arrive at Katihar at 06:00 hours, with intermediate stoppages at Mansahi and Mahiyarpur. The operation of these special trains is aimed at providing enhanced connectivity and easing congestion during the Shravani Mela period. Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to ensuring safe, convenient and efficient travel for pilgrims and passengers by augmenting train services in response to seasonal travel demand.

Delhi Schools Shift to Hybrid Mode Amid Protest

NEW DELHI: (JUL 23)

Several schools in central Delhi have either shifted to hybrid classes or made changes in transport arrangements owing traffic curbs and metro restrictions in the wake of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest. R S Junior Modern School on Humayun Road has informed parents that classes from Nursery to Class 5 will be conducted in the hybrid mode -- both physical and online -- from July 24 until further notice, citing the "ongoing situation in Central Delhi". Students attending classes from home have been asked to follow the regular timetable and join classes via Microsoft Teams, while wearing school uniform, according to a circular.

Uttarakhand University Cancels Two Exams Over Paper Leak

Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University cancelled two B.Tech examinations after an assistant professor was accused of sharing questions with students before the tests. The case has surfaced amid CJP-led protest over NEET paper leak.



The two B.Tech third-year semester examinations -- Machine Learning for Internet of Things and Electromagnetic Field Theory -- were conducted on July 7.

As protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) over the NEET paper leak continue at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, another paper leak has surfaced -- this time in Uttarakhand. Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University (UTU) has cancelled two B.Tech third-year semester examinations after an assistant professor allegedly leaked questions before the exams by sharing them with students on WhatsApp.

The university has ordered an FIR in the matter, barred the accused professor, Ashish Kumar Gupta, from all examination-related work for seven years and announced that fresh examinations for the two subjects will be held in the third week of August. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami warned of strict action against those involved in the incident. According

to the university, the two B.Tech third-year semester examinations -- Machine Learning for Internet of Things and Electromagnetic Field Theory -- were conducted on July 7. However, an internal inquiry found that Gupta of Shiv-alik College of Engineering had allegedly shared questions related to the Machine Learning paper with students through a WhatsApp group and the college's internal portal before the examination. The probe also found a breach of confidentiality in the Electromagnetic Field Theory question paper, prompting the university to cancel both examinations with immediate effect. UTU Vice-Chancellor Tripti Thakur directed that an FIR be registered in the case and ordered a detailed inquiry into the incident. The university also issued a stern warning to Shivalik College of Engineering over what it described as lapses

in maintaining examination confidentiality.

According to the FIR, the university received a whistleblower complaint via email alleging that the professor had shared "important questions" in a WhatsApp group around 11:34 pm on July 3, several of which allegedly matched questions that later appeared in the examination.

The university said it examined Gupta's mobile phone and WhatsApp chats as part of its investigation. Based on the available evidence, complaints and statements, the inquiry committee submitted its report on July 14, following which the university initiated disciplinary and legal action. Gupta belongs to Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur. Police have also registered a case on a complaint filed by the university's Controller of Examinations. Dehradun SP (City) Pramod Kumar said two committees had been

constituted to probe allegations that the question papers were leaked before the examinations.

"The investigation found that Assistant Professor Ashish Kumar had allegedly shared questions similar to those in both examination papers before the exam to provide an undue advantage. A case has been registered on the complaint received from the university, and legal action is being taken," he said.

Reacting to the controversy, Chief Minister Dhami said no one involved in examination malpractice would be spared. "Whether it is a government recruitment examination or an examination conducted by a university or college, no one involved in cheating or paper leaks will be spared," he said. The incident has triggered protests by the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), which termed the leak a threat to students' future and demanded strict action against those responsible, a fair investigation and safeguards for students affected by the cancellation of the examinations.

Uttarakhand Congress president Ganesh Godiyal also criticised the state government over the incident, holding state Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat responsible and demanding the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter.

Delhi CM Gives ₹1 Crore Aid to Covid Duty Victims' Families

NEW DELHI, JULY 23

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta provided the long-pending Rs 1 crore assistance each to the families of frontline workers who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty during the Covid-19 pandemic, an official said on Thursday. The contribution of frontline workers who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty will always be remembered, and the Delhi government's commitment to their families will forever remain paramount, she said in a message on social media platform X. Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister interacted with sanitation workers of the



Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), appreciated their dedicated service and acknowledged their vital contribution to building a clean and beautiful Delhi. She also shared a meal with them and expressed her gratitude for their commitment and service. The

interaction took place on the sidelines of the launch of a door-to-door waste collection and secondary transportation project in the West Delhi Municipal Corporation area by flagging off 917 modern vehicles. Chief Minister Gupta said that the Delhi government's objective is not merely to collect waste but to build a modern, technology-driven, transparent and citizen-centric solid waste management system. She added that the new system would make door-to-door waste collection more efficient, timely and accountable while playing a significant role in creating a cleaner, healthier and more beautiful Delhi. She expressed confidence that

the combination of modern technology, strong infrastructure and public participation would establish Delhi as the cleanest and most well-managed capital in the country.

The project will cover around 4.5 lakh families across 25 wards of the West Delhi Municipal Corporation, an official statement said. It has been launched in six wards in the first phase, while the remaining 19 wards will be brought under the system by August 31, it said. To strengthen sanitation services, a fleet of 917 state-of-the-art vehicles and modern waste collection equipment has been deployed to ensure timely and efficient door-to-door waste collection.

Tax Payment is a Great Responsibility, Not a Punishment

(On the occasion of "Indian Income Tax Day" on 24 July)

"Indian Income Tax Day" or "Aaykar Divas", observed on July 24, honours the establishment of income tax by Sir James Wilson in 1860, a significant turning point in India's fiscal history. Income tax is defined as the government levy on the income earned by individuals and businesses during a financial year. The Indian tax system was genuinely revolutionised by the Income-tax Act of 1922, keeping the 1860 implementation as foundation. This 1922 Act created a methodical administrative framework that still serves as the foundation for modern tax administration in India. As per the the GoI initiative, the Central Board of Revenue Act of 1924 further strengthened this structure by constituting the Board as a statutory body responsible for administering the income-tax Officers.

Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme:

The IRS staff college was established in 1957 to boost further professional growth. Group A officers were recruited in 1946 and had their initial training in Bombay and Calcutta. The process of electronic challans, computerisation was introduced in 1981. In 2009, the Central Processing Centre in Bengaluru was established to facilitate effective bulk processing. In the year 2014, new national website of the Income Tax Department was launched. The "Vivad Se

Vishwas Scheme" was introduced in 2020 to reduce litigation and generate government revenues. The Indian Income Tax Day is a celebration of these advancements and continuous attempts to update India's tax system. The facility of E-filing portal was launched in 2021.

Income Tax Revenue Reached up to ₹20 Lakh Crores:

The collection of income tax by government includes income from salary, house property, business of profession, capital gains, and income from other sources. By 2023-24, the personal income tax collections had surged to an impressive amount of ₹12.01 lakh crores. Income tax is crucial for nation-building, providing essential revenue for security, services, and economic development. It has been vital for a self-sustaining state and societal welfare. Now the income tax revenue increased from ₹30 lakhs to present ₹20 lakh crores. This year marks the 165th National Income Tax Day. The taxes are the price we pay for a civilised society. Paying taxes is not a punishment, but it's a responsibility. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing right. Taxation is the price which civilised communities pay for the opportunity of remaining civilised. Ironically, the income tax has made more criminals than any other single act of government.



Employee Grievance Redressal Camp Organized at Banaras Locomotive Works

VARANASI, JULY 23:

An Employee Grievance Redressal Camp was organized today, July 23, 2026, at the New Conference Hall of the Loco Division Workshop of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Varanasi. The camp was conducted under the able guidance of General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant and the direction of Principal Chief Personnel Officer Shri Lalji Chaudhary. The camp was chaired by Senior Personnel Officer (Workshop), Shri M. A. Ansari. During the camp, employees registered a total of 35 grievances related to promotion, pay, leave, railway passes, incentives, and other service matters. Out of these, 13 grievances were resolved on the spot, while the remaining cases were assured of prompt action in accordance with the applicable rules. During the

camp, officers of the Personnel Department held constructive discussions with the employees to address their grievances and clarify their queries. They also assured expeditious and rule-based disposal of pending and other important cases. On this occasion, Assistant Personnel Officer (Workshop) Shri Piyush Minj, Staff Council Members Shri Sushil Kumar Singh and Shri Manish Kumar Singh, along with officials from the Accounts Department, Time Office, Welfare Inspectors of the Personnel Department, and a large number of workshop employees were present. During the meeting, the Staff Council members emphasized the importance of maintaining continuous dialogue, coordination, and cooperation between the Personnel Administration and employees to ensure effective resolution of employees' grievances.

'No' SIR data used for processing passport applications, renewals: Govt tells Parliament

NEW DELHI: (Jul 23) The government on Thursday was asked whether the MEA or any agency under its administrative control has "sought, received or used data" collected during the SIR for processing passport applications or renewal. In its response, the ministry said "no".

The Ministry of External Affairs, in the Rajya Sabha, was also asked by CPI(M) MP John Brittas whether earlier Indian passports expressly carried the endorsement 'Citizen of In-

dia', thereby recording the holder's citizenship; and, if so, when and why such endorsement 'discontinued' from Indian passports.

"The passport booklet has progressively shifted to ICAO-compliant machine-readable passport booklets and adopted standardised text as per ICAO norms. The phrase nationality has been incorporated in keeping with these norms," Minister of State for External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh said in a written response.



EU urged to suspend Pakistan's GSP Plus status over human rights abuses in Balochistan

QUETTA

A leading human rights organisation has submitted a petition to the European Parliament seeking the suspension of Pakistan's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP Plus) status, citing systematic violence by Pakistani authorities, judicial weaponisation, and grave violations of core EU trade and human rights conventions in Balochistan.

The petition was submitted by Paank, the human rights department of the Baloch National Movement (BNM), alongside a comprehensive, well-documented supplementary evidence report to the European Parliament.

"Over the past several years, the human rights situation in Balochistan has deteriorated from a regional crisis into an institutionalised, state-sponsored campaign of repression against the Baloch people. This campaign is fundamentally incompatible with the 27 international conventions that form the legal prerequisite for GSP Plus trade privileges," read the petition.

The Paank report also documented "clear, chronological escalation of state violence," alleging that a decades-old covert "kill-and-dump" policy has evolved into the overt criminalisation of peace-



ful civil society. It alleged that the state apparatus has weaponised counter-terrorism legislation to "arbitrarily detain, torture, and silence" human rights defenders.

"The June 2026 life imprisonment of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leaders Mahrang Baloch and Sibghatullah Shah, following closed-door trials stripped of due process, represents a critical turning point. Similarly, the relentless harassment, travel bans, and violent home raids directed at free ac-

tivists like Sammi Deen Baloch demonstrate a systematic effort to eradicate all forms of peaceful dissent," the rights body added.

Highlighting the escalating human rights abuses in Balochistan, Paank stated that the contemporary crisis is rooted in the systematic practice of enforced disappearances, allegedly carried out by Pakistani state security forces, including the Frontier Corps, intelligence agencies, and the Counter-Terrorism Department, to suppress political, social, and eco-

nomic dissent.

"For over two decades, thousands of Baloch students, political activists, journalists, poets, and civilians have been abducted. The modus operandi is disturbingly consistent: individuals are taken from their homes, university dormitories, or public streets by armed personnel, often arriving in unmarked vehicles. The state subsequently denies any knowledge of their whereabouts," it stated.

The rights body further alleged that

the victims are taken to unacknowledged "black sites", where they are held incommunicado for months or even years. It added that testimonies from the few survivors recount horrific torture, with many cases allegedly ending in extrajudicial killings.

"Tragically, this practice is frequently coupled with extrajudicial executions, known locally and internationally as the 'kill-and-dump' policy. Mutilated bodies of the disappeared are frequently discovered in desolate mountainous areas, bearing undeniable signs of severe physical abuse, drill holes, and acid burns," it mentioned. Paank called on the European Commission to immediately launch an official investigation and initiate the procedure for the temporary withdrawal of Pakistan's GSP+ trade preferences due to systematic violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention Against Torture (CAT) as stipulated under the GSP regulation. It urged the European Parliament to formally request the United Nations Human Rights Council to establish an independent fact-finding mission to investigate extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and the operation of secret detention centres in Balochistan.



Pakistan's repeated sabre-rattling on IWT is self-defeating: Report

NEW DELHI

The dispute over the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) is no longer about water; it's about whether Islamabad can separate strategic interests from performative militancy, a report has noted.

"Pakistan's conduct is especially curious because it reveals a familiar habit in Islamabad: every crisis is treated as both existential and self-authored by India. The pattern is always the same. First comes the accusation that India is acting illegally. Then comes the declaration that any interruption of water is tantamount to war. Then comes the swaggering promise of retaliation, as if strategic credibility were created by shouting 'we will respond' louder than the other side can say 'we will comply,'" emphasised an India Narrative report.

Calling Pakistan's behaviour 'politics of permanent grievance' and it becoming the principal export of the country, the report mentioned that Pakistan's dependence on the Indus system is real and any disruption would hit agriculture, power generation, and day-to-day water security hard.

"That makes Islamabad's threats even more self-defeating. The louder it talks about war, the more it advertises

vulnerability. And the more it frames water as a sacred line in the sand, the more it turns a negotiable dispute into a national humiliation contest," the report stated.

India placed the IWT in abeyance following the heinous Pahalgam terror attack last year by Pakistan-backed terrorists that killed 26 innocent civilians.

"Pakistan's leaders insist that India is 'weaponising water,' yet the more immediate weapon is rhetorical: threats of war, warnings of 'decisive response,' and allusions to national survival whenever the treaty is discussed. This is not how mature States conduct themselves when seeking international sympathy. It is how governments under pressure try to convert weakness into moral theatre," the report highlighted.

New Delhi's position has been consistent: India has suspended the Indus Waters Treaty and kept it in abeyance until Pakistan completely stops cross-border terrorism. "The danger, however, is that repeated sabre-rattling can eventually make escalation feel normal. When leaders speak casually about war and destruction, they lower the threshold for miscalculation. Rivers do not need this kind of rhetoric.



South Korean FM urges faster progress in talks with Rubio on nuclear pact revision

MANILA

South Korea's Foreign Minister Cho Hyun has called for faster progress in discussions with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on security issues, including Seoul's efforts to develop nuclear-powered submarines and secure rights for uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing, a senior Seoul official said Thursday.

Cho conveyed the message during brief pull-aside talks with Rubio held before and after their trilateral meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on the sidelines of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-related meetings in Manila the previous day, according to the official.

The two sides had planned to hold another round of security consultations in July following their inaugural

meeting last month, but a detailed schedule has yet to be announced amid Washington's focus on the Middle East conflict and other priorities, Yonhap News Agency reported. The consultations, along with Seoul's investment commitments in the United States and bilateral shipbuilding cooperation, are among the key items outlined in a joint fact sheet adopted after last year's summit between President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump.

Cho also briefly met with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker in Manila ahead of the trilateral talks and delivered a similar message, according to the official. "Rubio and Hooker expressed understanding of Cho's remarks and shared the view that the two sides should continue close consultations on the pending issues," the official said.

PM Modi's three-nation visit reflects milestone in evolution of India's Indo-Pacific strategy: Report

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia demonstrates an important milestone in the evolution of Indo-Pacific strategy. The visit was not only a diplomatic reach to three nations but showcased India's effort to develop a network of strategic partnerships linking Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, a report has detailed.

"India's Indo-Pacific vision has evolved significantly over the past decade. Initially shaped by concerns about maintaining a free, open and inclusive regional order amid China's growing assertiveness, India's approach has increasingly incorporated economic resilience, connectivity, technological cooperation and trusted partnerships," Ashok Sharma, an Academic Fellow of the Australia-India Institute at the University of Melbourne, wrote in an analysis for the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

"India's Indo-Pacific strategy is based less on formal alliances and more on developing a network of partnerships with countries that share an interest in stability, sovereignty and a rules-based order," the expert added.

PM Modi's three-nation visit carried strategic importance



as Indonesia represents Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the maritime centre between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, Australia is a key strategic partner and Quad member and New Zealand demonstrates India's increasing engagement with the South Pacific. Taken together, ties with three nations demonstrate how India wants to strengthen its position as a leading Indo-Pacific power.

During his State Visit to Indonesia, PM Modi held a meeting with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and discussed bilateral ties. Both leaders also exchanged views on issues of global and multilateral interest and reaffirmed their shared commitment to peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

Cooperation between India and Indonesia has enhanced beyond traditional trade ties

to include maritime security, defence cooperation, digital transformation, infrastructure connectivity, critical minerals and the blue economy. The two nations also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, increasing defence-industrial cooperation, maritime collaboration, and promoting greater connectivity and resilient supply chains across the Indo-Pacific, the analysis mentioned.

During his visit to Melbourne, PM Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese participated in the third Australia-India Annual Summit, where the two sides reviewed progress across the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation. Both leaders exchanged views on regional and global developments and reaffirmed their commitment to a free, open, inclusive and

prosperous Indo-Pacific.

A key outcome of PM Modi's Australia visit was the reaffirmation of both nations' commitment to strengthen defence and security cooperation, including greater maritime collaboration, defence industry partnerships and interoperability, recognising the need to maintain a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific. Furthermore, Australia has agreed to sell uranium to India following the signing of a key administrative arrangement.

PM Modi's New Zealand visit marked the beginning of a new phase in bilateral ties as it was the first visit by Indian PM after 40 years. During the visit, India and New Zealand elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership and announced an agenda covering trade, agriculture, education, technology, defence, maritime security and critical minerals cooperation.

PM Modi and his New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon reaffirmed their commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific while enhancing cooperation in emerging technologies and resilient supply chains. The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations marked a major step towards strengthening economic ties and closer trade and investment cooperation.

Self-Care Puts Your Health in Your Hands: Test, Track, Thrive

(On the occasion of "International Self-Care Day" on 24 July)

Self-care is the process through which people, families, and communities, with or without the help of a healthcare professional, promote and maintain their own health, avoid diseases, and deal with illness and disability based on the available information. Self-care is actively protecting one's happiness and well-being, especially during times of stress. It is a decision-making process that enables people to quickly and comfortably take care of their health. WHO defines self-care across seven dimensions namely, health literacy, mental well-being, physical activity, healthy eating, risk avoidance, good hygiene, and responsible use of healthcare products and services.

International Self-Care Day

"International Self-Care Day" is a worldwide event on 24th of July annually, signifying the need and practicing self-care 24/7 without fail. This day marks the final day of

the "International Self-Care Month" (from 24 June to 24 July), which provides a significant opportunity to spread the word about the advantages of effective self-health-management globally. The "International Self-Care Foundation" has created "International Self-Care Day" in 2011, since then it has been observed annually on 24 July. The WHO also recognises self-care as a vital component of healthcare delivery. It's a chance to reach more people through the media and raise awareness about the value of self-care. On this day, people from all over the globe step forward to increase public knowledge about their self-care interventions, celebrating the advantages they bring to people's lives and the process made thus far, and call for expanding health systems to incorporate self-care interventions.

Theme of the International Self-Care Day-2026:

This year 2026, theme of International Self-Care Day is "Self-Care puts your health in your hands : Test, Track, Thrive", highlighting the im-



portance of regular health checkups and tracking daily habits so people can understand their health status and act early. It reinforces that preventive health self-care helps individuals stay healthier, avoid complications, and improve overall well-being. On this day, various people from local to international organisations contribute to providing self-care awareness to the public by hosting a self-care workshop, writing blogs, displaying placards at public rallies, creating and posting self-care kits and vision boards on social media platforms, etc.

Important Measures of Self-Care Day:

Let's resolve on this auspicious day to initiate action to aid our own health slowly and steadily. The daily actions like

walking for over 30 minutes, taking 3 - 4 litres of water, consuming balanced diet, sleeping for around 7 hours, decreasing screen time, relaxing activities such as meditation or yoga, developing positive attitude, maintaining body hygiene, regular health checkups, voluntary charity work, listening to music, reading motivational stories, solving brain puzzles, learning something new daily, etc. These self-care activities help you to benefit cardiovascular health, stress reduction, boosts immunity, improve cognitive performance, early detection of illness, better sleep, reduced anxiety, emotional regulation and mental clarity.

Humanitarian Crises & Pandemics

There are 430 crore people who do not have appropriate access to necessary hospi-

tal-based health workers are reportedly needed worldwide, primarily in low- and middle-income nations. Humanitarian crises affect over 20 percent of the global population, making it difficult for health systems to provide essential treatments. Armed conflicts, pandemics like COVID-19, and climate change affect and strain health care globally. Let's practice these small activities daily results in most effective maintenance of self health and long-term well-being. Don't forget, our health is in our hands. Practice these lasting habits that extend beyond a single day.

Remember, self-care include everything from healthy eating, regular physical activity, enough sleep, stress management, and responsible use of healthcare resources. These self-care practices plays vital role in preventing illness, managing chronic conditions, improving mental health, and reducing the strain on healthcare systems.

- Prof Madhusudan Reddy Burra
9949700037.

China AI theft may feature in Trump-Xi talks

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump is expected to raise concerns over China's alleged acquisition of American artificial intelligence technology when he meets Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year, the White House indicated on Thursday, underscoring Washington's determination to maintain its lead in the global AI race.

Speaking at the daily White House briefing, Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said protecting US technological leadership would be a priority in any future discussions between the two leaders after she was asked whether reports of Chinese AI firms allegedly distilling or stealing American AI models would feature in their expected September meeting.

"I have had the honour of being part of some of the meetings and discussions between President Trump and President Xi," Leavitt said. "And I can tell you, there is always a wide range of topics that come up." She added: "I would imagine this would be something



that's of high importance to the president and of this administration to obviously ensure that America remains dominant in the AI race."

Leavitt said the administration was closely monitoring reports that Chinese entities may have improperly obtained American AI technology.

"We're obviously tracking the particular situation that you mentioned," she said.

The comments came after a reporter referred to concerns raised this week by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent about China potentially "distilling or stealing AI technology" developed in the United States. The question also cited claims by AI company Anthropic that it had experienced its largest

known "distilling attack" last month. While Leavitt declined to discuss possible policy responses, she made clear that the administration considers the issue important for both economic competitiveness and national security.

Asked whether Trump was considering sanctions or other measures against Chinese AI companies if they were found to have stolen American intellectual property, Leavitt refused to speculate.

"I won't get ahead of the president on any potential actions," she said. "But obviously these conversations are taking place and again, they're of the utmost importance, not just for our national security, but to ensure America remains dominant in this space." The White House also linked its broader technology agenda to strategic competition with China during the briefing. Earlier, Leavitt said Trump's expansion of the administration's Ratepayer Protection Pledge for AI data centres would help strengthen US leadership in artificial intelligence.



MONEY MATTERS09

STAR Hospitals Launches Dedicated “Pain & Palliative Care Services for Cancer Patients”

Hon'ble Former Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Garu, inaugurated the facility and felicitates healthcare heroes
HYDERABAD, JULY 23, 2026

STAR Cancer Centre at STAR Hospitals, Nanakramguda, today marked a major milestone in oncology care with the official launch of its dedicated “Pain & Palliative Care Services for Cancer Patients.” With this initiative, STAR Hospitals becomes Hyderabad’s first private hospital to integrate a dedicated, full-scale Pain & Palliative Care Service directly into its comprehensive cancer care continuum. The programme was grandly launched by Chief Guest Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Garu, Hon'ble Former Vice President of India in the presence of Dr. Gopichand Mannam, Chairman & Founding Promoter, STAR Hospitals, Hyderabad (Unimed Healthcare Pvt. Ltd), Dr. Ramesh Gudapati, Director & Founding Promoter, STAR Hospitals, Hyderabad (Unimed Healthcare Pvt. Ltd), Dr. Sainath Bhethanabhotla, Sr. Consultant & Head, Medical Oncology, STAR Cancer Centre, Dr. Vipin Goel, Sr. Consultant & Head, Surgical Oncology, STAR Cancer Centre, Mr. Jairaj Kumar P. Former Director STAR Hospitals, Hyderabad, Mr Pradeep Chowdhary, Philanthropist.

Honouring Extraordinary Acts of Compassion

As part of the launch event, extraordinary individuals and healthcare professionals were

felicitated for their exceptional commitment and selfless service to cancer patient care:

- Mr. Pradeep Chowdhry, Managing Director, Gemini Edibles and Fats India Limited: Recognized for his philanthropic support in sponsoring free cancer treatments for underprivileged patients.
- Dr. Gowda Sreehari, Sr. Consultant - Surgical Oncology, Laparoscopic & Minimally Invasive Surgeon, STAR Hospitals: Honoured for achieving the incredible milestone of performing 1,000 free cancer surgeries.
- Dr. Gayatri Palat, Associate Professor Pain & Palliative Medicine, MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Center, Hyderabad, India: Felicitated for her pioneering efforts in creating dedicated Palliative Care Services in the public sector.
- STAR Hospitals Staff Members: Honoured for demonstrating extraordinary selflessness, empathy, and devotion to patient wellbeing.

Key Highlights of the Service

The newly launched initiative offers a comprehensive 360-degree circle of support to improve quality of life and restore dignity at every stage of the patient’s journey:

- Early Intervention: Symptom and pain management integrated from Day 1 of diagnosis, working parallel



with active treatments like chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery.

- Advanced Pain Relief: Targeted interventional procedures (nerve blocks, intrathecal pumps) and customized WHO step-ladder protocols.
- Multidisciplinary Support: Holistic care encompassing psycho-oncology, nutritional counselling, physical rehabilitation, and 24/7 emergency pain support.

"Pleased to launch Star Hospital's Pain & Palliative Care Services to cancer patients at Nanakramguda in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. It gladdens me to learn that Star Hospitals is the first private hospital with dedicated Pain & Palliative Oncology Services. This step reflects a deep commitment on its part to providing holistic & patient-centred cancer care.

The Hospital's aim of seeking to restore comfort, dignity, & quality of life to those

prevention must become a national priority.

Periodic screening is another crucial component of cancer control, especially for individuals at high risk. We must encourage people to undergo regular health check-ups & screening programmes so that cancers can be detected at an early stage. Early detection remains the key to successful treatment. When diagnosed early, many cancers can be treated effectively, improving survival rates & reducing suffering."

- Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Garu, Hon'ble Former Vice President of India

"Cancer care is not just about adding years to life, but adding life and dignity to every year. By integrating palliative care alongside active medical oncology treatments right from the beginning, we ensure our patients retain their strength, comfort, and peace of mind throughout their treatment journey."

- Dr. Sainath Bhethanabhotla, Sr. Consultant & Head, Medical Oncology, STAR Cancer Centre

"Surgical interventions aim to cure or manage the disease, but relieving a patient's pain and restoring their daily comfort is equally vital. Dedicated palliative oncology allows us to offer seamless, comprehensive relief and procedural pain control so that patients can

Sensex, Nifty extend losing streak to 4th day as Brent crude nears \$100

Benchmark stock market indices ended lower on Thursday, extending losses for a fourth straight session, as Brent crude surged close to the \$100-a-barrel mark amid escalating tensions in the Middle East, raising fresh concerns over inflation, corporate margins and India's import bill. The BSE Sensex fell 363.66 points, or 0.47%, to close at 76,391.39, while the NSE Nifty50 declined 126.65 points, or 0.53%, to settle at 23,869.60. This marked Dalal Street's longest losing streak in seven weeks. Brent crude jumped 4.77% to \$98.56 per barrel, while WTI crude climbed 4.13% to \$90.42, as fears of further disruptions to global oil supplies intensified.

OIL SURGE KEEPS DALAL STREET UNDER PRES-SURE

Investor sentiment remained weak as crude oil prices continued their sharp rally following the escalating conflict in the Middle East. Higher oil prices pose a major risk for India, the world's third-largest importer and consumer of crude oil, as they can stoke inflation, widen the current account deficit and squeeze corporate profit margins. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said markets remained under pressure as investors reassessed the impact of rising energy prices. "With crude oil prices approaching the USD 100/bbl amid concerns over further disruptions to global energy supplies, investor sentiment remained subdued as markets reassessed inflation risks and corporate margins. Recent macroeconomic indicators suggest that prolonged geopolitical tensions are increasingly filter-



ing into the domestic economy, reflected in rising WPI and a moderation in business activity," he said. He added that elevated oil prices have strengthened expectations of a higher-for-longer global interest rate environment, reducing investors' appetite for emerging markets.

BANKING, REALTY AND MIDCAPS DRAG

Selling pressure remained broad-based, with most sectoral indices ending in the red. The Nifty Realty index emerged as the worst performer, falling 1.81%, followed by Nifty Chemicals (-1.87%), Nifty MidSmall IT & Telecom (-1.52%), Nifty MidSmall Financial Services (-1.23%), Nifty PSU Bank (-1.00%), Nifty Oil & Gas (-1.02%), Nifty Private Bank (-0.77%) and Nifty Financial Services (-0.62%). The broader market also remained under pressure. The Nifty Smallcap 100 declined 1.01%, Nifty Midcap 50 fell 1.08%, Nifty Midcap 100 slipped 0.99% and the Nifty 500 lost 0.70%. India VIX rose 1.37% to 13.48, indicating heightened investor caution. Among Sensex stocks, Adani Ports was the biggest loser, falling 2.26%, followed by Bajaj Finance (-1.96%), IndiGo (-1.89%), Axis Bank (-1.36%), SBI (-1.22%), Tata Steel (-1.21%), Maruti Suzuki (-1.11%), Reliance Industries (-1.05%) and Bharti Airtel (-0.97%).

Force Motors Launches New Urbania Deluxe

PUNE, 23RD JULY 2026

Force Motors Limited, India's largest van maker and a leading automotive manufacturer, today launched the new Urbania Deluxe—a premium new offering of its next-generation shared mobility platform. Building on the success of the Urbania platform, the new Urbania Deluxe has been developed to deliver an even more refined premium travel experience, with passenger comfort at its core, complemented by enhanced performance, premium interiors and advanced technology. With this launch, the new Urbania Deluxe will replace the current-generation Urbania, becoming Force Motors' standard offering in the premium shared mobility segment. Launched as India's first fully ground-up modular monocoque van platform, the Urbania created a new benchmark in premium shared passenger mobility, established a new segment in the Indian market, and has built a significant presence across international markets. Building on this legacy, the new Urbania Deluxe introduces a host of enhancements designed to

Key New Features

- Powerful 100 kW Mercedes-derived diesel engine for improved pick-up and effortless performance
- New premium interior theme with leatherette seats, matching upholstery and wood-finish flooring for superior passenger comfort
- Car-like 3-point seat belts for every passenger, for enhanced safety
- TFT instrument cluster with real-time vehicle

elevate passenger comfort while meeting the evolving expectations of customers in the premium shared mobility segment. Powering the new Urbania Deluxe is a more powerful Mercedes-derived 2.6-litre, four-cylinder turbo diesel engine, delivering 100 kW (134 HP) of power and 350 Nm of torque for improved pick-up, effortless performance and superior drivability. The cabin has also been comprehensively upgraded with a new premium



Distribution (EBD) and Engine Drag Torque Control (ETDC), ensuring enhanced occupant protection. Further enhancing the driving experience are a TFT instrument cluster providing real-time vehicle information and a customised 23 cm (9-inch) HD touchscreen infotainment system featuring smartphone connectivity, online and offline navigation, HD reverse camera, voice alerts and hands-free Bluetooth calling. New 16-inch alloy wheels lend the new Urbania Deluxe a premium road presence, while a power-operated sliding footstep ensures comfortable ingress and egress for passengers. The premium travel experience is further complemented by an 8-speaker Digital Theatre System (DTS) and illuminated USB Type-A and Type-C charging ports across all seating rows for seamless smart-

phone charging. The new Urbania Deluxe is backed by Force Care, comprising Force Motors' advanced i-Pulse telematics solution, a 5-year/5 lakh km warranty, a 3-year warranty on all sensors and 3 years of Roadside Assistance (RSA), ensuring complete peace of mind throughout the ownership experience.

Speaking on the introduction of the new Urbania Deluxe, Mr. Prasan Fiordia, Managing Director, Force Motors Limited, said "With Urbania, we redefined premium shared passenger mobility in India and created an entirely new segment that has found strong acceptance both in India and across international markets. Its success reflects the growing preference for vehicles that combine superior comfort, safety and modern engineering. With the introduction of the new Urbania Deluxe, we are taking this platform to the next level with enhanced performance, premium features and advanced technology to meet the evolving expectations of our customers and deliver the premium travel experience passenger's demand. As the premium mobility segment contin-

ues to evolve, we remain committed to enhancing our products and delivering mobility solutions that set new benchmarks in passenger comfort, safety and performance". The new Urbania Deluxe will be available in three wheelbases and eight seating layouts, ranging from 9+D to 16+D seating configurations, through Force Motors' dealer network across India. Prices start at ₹28.7 lakh (ex-showroom).

ABOUT FORCE MOTORS LIMITED: INDIA'S LARGEST VAN MAKER

Founded in 1958 by Shri N. K. Fiordia, Force Motors Limited was established with a vision to provide affordable, reliable, and efficient transportation for the masses. Today, it stands as a fully integrated automobile company specializing in the engineering, development, and manufacture of vehicles, aggregates, and components. The company operates five state-of-the-art manufacturing units across India, employs over 10,000 people, and is led by its Chairman, Dr. Abhay Fiordia. Its advanced R&D center in Pune, supported by a design team of over 1,000 experts, is regarded

as one of the finest in the country. Force Motors is a versatile automotive company with the capability to cater to diverse international markets by offering customized, country-specific solutions. Its formidable product range spans light commercial vehicles and multi-utility vehicles, and its export presence extends to over 25+ countries including Middle East and Gulf region, Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Force Motors has built strong relationships with global automotive leaders by consistently delivering high-quality engines and components. BMW & Mercedes-Benz assigned Force Motors the responsibility of producing and testing engines for all cars and SUVs manufactured in India. Every Mercedes-Benz car and SUV made in India is powered by an engine produced at Force Motors facility at Chakan in Pune. Similarly, Force Motors' world-class factory in Chennai, built to BMW's exacting standards, powers every BMW car and SUV made in the country. Force MTU Power Systems Pvt. Ltd. is a joint venture between Force Motors Ltd. and Rolls-Royce Power

Systems AG. The venture specializes in producing 10 and 12-cylinder Series 1600 engines, ranging from 545 hp to 1050 hp, at its manufacturing facility in Chakan, Pune. These engines are supplied globally for power generation and underfloor rail applications

PRODUCTS AND INNOVATION

Force Motors offers solutions for both passenger and goods transport, with its Traveller N and Trax ranges leading their respective segments. Building on the legacy of the Traveller, the new Traveller N range sets new benchmarks in efficiency, reliability, comfort and safety, while the rugged Trax caters to challenging terrains and demanding operating conditions. Urbania is Force Motors' next-generation modular monocoque passenger vehicle platform that has redefined premium shared passenger mobility in India. Having established a new segment in the market, the Urbania platform has built a strong presence across domestic and international markets, setting new benchmarks in passenger comfort, safety and performance.

Growing role of women-led kirana stores

Five women entrepreneurs from Madhya Pradesh felicitated by NITI Aayog and Reliance Foundation
NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and Reliance Foundation felicitate outstanding Rural Women Kirana Entrepreneurs
The initiative supported women-led kirana stores across three districts of Madhya Pradesh through digital and financial capacity building, market access, and business planning

NEW DELHI, JULY 23, 2026

Five outstanding women kirana entrepreneurs were felicitated by the Women Entrepreneurship Platform incubated at NITI Aayog in partnership with Reliance Foundation under the Empowering Rural Women Kirana Entrepreneurs (RWKEs) ATR pilot programme at a special event held at NITI recently. The felicitation ceremony in Delhi was attended by Dr. Joram Aniya, Member, NITI Aayog; Ms. Anna Roy, Mission Director, WEP and Programme Director, NITI Aayog; Ms. Deepthi Nukalapati, Chief - Women Empowerment, Reliance Foundation; and Ms. Sonal Jaithy, Associate Partner and Global Lead – GEDSI, Mi-



croSave Consulting (MSC), along with the awardees and their family members. The five outstanding women entrepreneurs who were felicitated were presented with a grant of INR 1,00,000 each in recognition of their entrepreneurial commitment and progress. The five women entrepreneurs represented inspiring examples of resilience, adaptability, and

entrepreneurial leadership within their communities. During the ceremony they shared their learning experiences and vision ahead to expand their business implementing the techniques and knowledge gained through the training programme. Empowering Rural Women Kirana Entrepreneurs (RWKEs), a pilot initiative by Reliance Foundation, in partnership

with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), and implemented with MicroSave Consulting (MSC) as the technical partner to strengthen women-led kirana stores across the districts of Barwani, Vidisha, and Raisen in Madhya Pradesh. The programme was designed in recognition of the critical role that rural women entrepreneurs play in supporting

household incomes and local economies, while acknowledging the structural barriers that often constrain the growth of their enterprises. Through targeted capacity-building and handholding support, the programme focused on four key areas: financial capability, digital adoption, market orientation, and business planning. Since its launch, the RWKE programme has delivered 1,200+ hours of structured learning across 175+ training sessions spanning 6 blocks (Barwani, Pati, Ganj Basoda, Vidisha, Obedullaganj, and Sanchi) across 3 districts (Vidisha, Raisen, and Barwani), reaching 108 women entrepreneurs. Delivered in local languages through participatory sessions, the capacity-building curriculum equips wom-

en with practical skills from budgeting to bookkeeping, from supplier linkages to inventory and enterprise growth planning. The programme underscores the importance of collaborative efforts between public and private sector stakeholders in strengthening rural entrepreneurship ecosystems. By combining institutional support, technical expertise, and on-ground implementation, the initiative has created a structured pathway for rural women entrepreneurs to enhance their business capabilities and improve enterprise outcomes. The RWKE programme also highlights the growing role of women-led kirana stores as vital nodes in rural supply chains and local economies. Through targeted interventions, such

programmes could improve business resilience, increase digital adoption, and enable better financial and operational decision-making among women entrepreneurs. Reliance Foundation has a deep commitment to women's empowerment through various pathways, including economic empowerment and entrepreneurship to catalyse impact not just for the individual but for society as a whole. The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), incubated in NITI Aayog in 2018 and transitioned into a public-private partnership in 2022, serves as India's national platform for strengthening the women's entrepreneurship ecosystem through collaborations with public and private sector partners. At the core of WEP's programmatic interventions is the Award-to-Reward (ATR) programme – a cohort-based, sector-specific accelerator for women entrepreneurs, designed for contextual adaptation across sectors and geographies, enabling implementing partners to tailor interventions to specific entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Airtel Africa Q1 profit after tax rises 27 pc to USD 198 million
NEW DELHI: (JUL 23)

Airtel Africa, Bharti Airtel's African arm, has posted a 27 per cent increase in profit after tax to USD 198 million (about Rs 1,916 crore) in the quarter ended on June 30, 2026.

The company had posted a profit after tax (PAT) of USD 156 million in the same period a year ago.

"Profit after tax of USD 198 million improved from USD 156 million in the prior period. Higher profit after tax in the current period was driven by higher operating profit, partially offset by derivative and foreign exchange losses of USD 6 million in the current period compared to USD 22 million derivative and foreign exchange gains in the prior period," Airtel Africa said in a statement.





Who Invented The Sandwich?

A Bite Into Its Surprising History

Before it became a lunch-box staple, café favourite or fast-food essential, the sandwich had already travelled through centuries of culinary history. Today, it is one

of the world's most popular and versatile foods, enjoyed in countless forms across cultures—from simple buttered bread with vegetables to elaborate deli creations

stacked with meats, cheeses and sauces. Its appeal lies in its convenience, portability and adaptability, making it suitable for breakfast, lunch, dinner or a quick snack.

Although the sandwich is commonly associated with England and the 4th Earl of Sandwich, the concept of placing food inside or between bread is much older. Civilisa-

tions across Asia, the Middle East and Europe had already developed similar ways of eating centuries before the term "sandwich" entered the English language.

Historians believe the modern sandwich is the result of many culinary traditions evolving independently before eventually receiving its now-famous name.

The Ancient Idea of Food Wrapped in Bread

The practice of combining bread with meat, vegetables or other fillings is nearly as old as bread itself. Bread has been one of humanity's earliest staple foods, and naturally it became a convenient way to hold or carry other ingredients. Ancient societies relied on flatbreads and simple loaves not only as food but also as edible plates and utensils. People discovered that placing cooked meat, herbs or vegetables inside bread made meals easier to transport, reduced mess and allowed labourers, travellers and soldiers to eat while on the move. This practical approach to eating gradually developed in different regions, giving rise to several foods that closely resemble what we recognise today as sandwiches.

China's Rou Jia Mo: One of the Oldest Sandwiches

Among the earliest documented examples is Rou Jia Mo, a traditional Chinese street food that dates back more than 2,000 years to around 200 BC during the Qin Dynasty.

Often described as one of the world's oldest sandwiches, Rou Jia Mo consists of a round, slightly crisp flatbread filled with slow-cooked meat—traditionally pork—seasoned with a rich blend of spices. The bread is prepared using flour, water and yeast before being baked until golden, while the meat is simmered for hours until tender.

The filling typically includes:

- Pork belly or shredded pork
- Star anise
- Cinnamon
- Cloves
- Ginger
- Garlic
- Soy-based seasonings

The meat absorbs these flavours over long cooking periods before being finely chopped and stuffed into the bread. Even today, Rou Jia Mo remains immensely popular across China, especially in Shaanxi Province, where it originated. Modern versions also feature beef, lamb and vegetarian fillings, demonstrating the enduring appeal of meat enclosed within bread. The existence of Rou Jia Mo centuries before the Earl of Sandwich highlights that the idea of a sandwich predates its English name by more than two millennia.

Bread and Fillings Across Ancient Civilisations

China was far from alone in developing bread-based portable meals. Throughout the ancient Mediterranean and Middle East, flatbreads served as everyday staples. Rather than using forks or spoons, people often wrapped cooked meats, vegetables, herbs and cheeses inside soft breads or folded them together for easier eating. These early combinations resembled modern wraps, pitas and stuffed breads. While they were not called sandwiches, they fulfilled exactly the same purpose: providing a convenient, self-contained meal. Nomadic communities especially valued such foods because they travelled well and required minimal utensils.

Hillel the Elder and the Passover Tradition

One of history's earliest recorded examples of a sandwich-like meal comes from Jewish religious tradition.

Hillel the Elder, a renowned Jewish scholar born in Babylon who later lived in Jerusalem during the first century BC, is remembered for combining several symbolic Passover foods into a single bite.

According to the Haggadah, the sacred text read during the annual Passover Seder, Hillel wrapped together:

- Paschal lamb
- Bitter herbs
- Unleavened matzah bread

This combination represented religious symbolism rather than culinary innovation.

tion, but it also demonstrated the practical use of bread as a holder for fillings. Today, many Jewish families continue the tradition by preparing what is commonly called the "Hillel Sandwich" during Passover meals. While the ingredients vary according to religious customs, the ritual preserves one of history's oldest documented examples of sandwich-style eating.

The Middle East's Long Tradition of Stuffed Flatbreads

Across the Middle East, flatbreads such as pita, lavash and other regional varieties have been central to daily diets for thousands of years. Unlike thicker European loaves, these breads could easily be folded, rolled or stuffed.

Popular fillings historically included:

- Roasted lamb
- Chicken
- Goat meat
- Fresh herbs
- Yogurt
- Pickled vegetables
- Cheese

Many of today's globally recognised foods—including shawarma, kebabs and falafel wrapped in pita—continue this ancient tradition. These portable meals evolved naturally from local lifestyles, proving once again that the sandwich concept developed independently across multiple cultures.

The Ottoman Influence

Food historian Mary Isin, author of Bountiful Empire: A History of Ot-

toman Cuisine, argues that wrapping meat inside bread had long been common throughout the Ottoman Empire. Ottoman cooks prepared numerous dishes featuring grilled meats enclosed within flatbreads, making them convenient for travellers, merchants and soldiers. Interestingly, historians note that John Montagu, the future Earl of Sandwich, travelled through parts of the Ottoman Empire—including Turkey—during the mid-18th century. Although there is no definitive evidence, some researchers believe he may have encountered these bread-and-meat combinations during his travels. If so, the famous English sandwich may have been inspired, at least in part, by foods already popular across the eastern Mediterranean.

The Famous Earl of Sandwich Story

Despite earlier examples from around the world, the sandwich owes its name to an English nobleman: John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich. The most widely repeated story dates to 1762. According to popular legend, Montagu was engaged in an extended gambling session that reportedly lasted for many hours. Unwilling to interrupt his game for a formal meal, he instructed his servants to bring him slices of salt beef placed between two pieces of bread. This allowed him to continue playing cards while eating with one hand and without dirtying his fingers. Whether the gambling tale is entirely accurate remains debated by historians.

Some believe Montagu may simply have requested such meals while working long hours at his desk rather than during card games. Regardless of the exact circumstances, the meal became closely associated with him.

Why the Meal Became So Popular

Montagu's version was practical for several reasons. It required no plates or cutlery. It could be eaten while working, travelling or socialising. The bread helped keep hands clean. The filling remained enclosed, making it easier to transport. These advantages made the idea immediately attractive to others.

Soon, people at London's clubs reportedly began asking for "the same as Sandwich." Over time, the phrase shortened simply to "Sandwich."

The Birth of a New Word

One of the earliest known written references to the word appears in the diary of English historian Edward Gibbon.

On November 24, 1762, Gibbon recorded seeing men dining at a London club, describing them as eating "a bit of cold meat, or a Sandwich."

This diary entry is widely regarded as the first documented appearance of the term in written English.

From there, the word rapidly entered everyday conversation and eventually dictionaries.

Rapid Spread Across Britain

Once the sandwich became fashionable among London's elite clubs, it quickly spread beyond aristocratic circles.

Restaurants, taverns and coffee houses

began serving sandwiches to customers looking for quick meals. Workers appreciated their portability. Travellers found them convenient. Families adopted them for picnics and packed lunches. Within decades, sandwiches had become an everyday part of British dining. Expansion Around the World As the British Empire expanded during the 18th and 19th centuries, so too did the sandwich. British sailors, merchants, administrators and settlers introduced the concept—and its English name—to many parts of the world. Local cultures soon adapted it using regional ingredients.

Examples include:

- Cucumber sandwiches in Britain
- Bánh mì in Vietnam
- Club sandwiches in the United States
- Vada pav in India
- Katsu sandwiches in Japan
- Bocadillos in Spain

Although each differs in flavour and ingredients, all follow the same basic principle of bread surrounding a filling.

The Sandwich Becomes a Verb

By the middle of the 19th century, the word "sandwich" had become so familiar that it evolved beyond being merely the name of a food. English speakers began using it as a verb. To "sandwich" something meant placing one object between two others.

Examples include:

- Sandwiching papers between books.
- Sandwiching a meeting between appointments.
- Sandwiching vegetables between bread slices.

This linguistic evolution reflected just how deeply the sandwich had become embedded in everyday life.

Endless Variety

One reason for the sandwich's enduring popularity is its incredible versatility. Almost any ingredient can become a sandwich filling.

Common choices include:

- Meat
- Fish
- Eggs
- Cheese
- Vegetables
- Salads
- Fruits
- Nut butters
- Chocolate spreads





SPORTS

MoS Raksha Khadse chairs high-level meeting



NEW DELHI: The Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Raksha Khadse, chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials of the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra to deliberate on a comprehensive roadmap for strengthening the state's sports and youth development ecosystem. Reinforcing the spirit of cooperative federalism, the discussions focused on institutional reforms, high-performance sport, athlete development and governance, to position Maharashtra as a leading sporting state while contributing to India's long-term sporting ambitions. The meeting was attended by Pravinsinh Pardeshi, Chief Executive Officer, MITRA; Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary (Sports), Government of India & Director General, Sports Authority of India; Ram Singh, Secretary, Sports Authority of India.

RURAL GAMES

Sadhguru's Isha Gramotsavam's in Haryana from July 25



CHANDIGARH: Sadhguru's Isha Gramotsavam, which is turning sports into a way of life in rural India, will be making its debut in Haryana this month, bringing the spirit of rural sports and community celebrations together. Swami Pulaka, national coordinator of Isha Gramotsavam, told the media here on Thursday that Isha Gramotsavam, which has been held over the years, has witnessed inspiring transformations beyond the playing field. "Villages have come together in celebration, women have stepped out to participate with wholehearted support from their families, and communities have become stronger through the spirit of sport. We have also seen many participants choosing healthier lifestyles, gradually moving away from unhealthy habits and addictions." He said that Haryana already has a proud sporting legacy.

CWG 2026: Happy to witness a thrilling match, says Dr Mandaviya

GLASGOW

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sport Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has expressed his happiness at the country making a thrilling start in the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow as the Indian bowls squad excelled on the opening day on Thursday. The Indian women's pairs combination of Pinki Singh and Rupa Rani Tirkey battled past Malta in a dramatic tie-break to open their Commonwealth Games 2026 Bowls campaign with a hard-fought victory in the sectional Group Play stage on Thursday. "A thrilling start to #Glasgow2026! Witnessed an absolute edge-of-the-seat thriller today as our athletes clinched a spectacular victory on the very last delivery against Malta in the Bowls Women's Pairs event," Dr Mandaviya wrote in a post on X, formerly Twitter, on Thursday. Competing in the discipline's new indoor format, now offi-

cially called Bowls for the first time in Commonwealth Games history, the Indian pair overcame a spirited challenge from sisters Rebecca Louise Rixon and Connie-Leigh Rixon, recovering from a tense second set before Pinki produced the decisive bowl in the tiebreak to seal the contest. India made an assured start, taking control from the opening end. After Rupa Rani Tirkey settled into her rhythm, Pinki capitalised with accurate deliveries that earned India two points for an early 2-0 advantage. Later in the day, Putul Sonowal continued India's superb start in the bowls competition in Glasgow on Thursday, pulling off a major upset on his Commonwealth Games debut by beating reigning World Champion and World Bowls Hall of Fame inductee Ryan Bester in men's singles sectional play. Sonowal started his campaign in Section D of the preliminary competition, defeating Canada's Bester in a thrilling encounter.

Mayank, Prince, and Sooryavanshi star as India crush Zimbabwe by seven wickets

HARARE

Dynamic Delhi-based fast bowling duo of Mayank Yadav and Prince Yadav delivered a masterclass in aggressive fast bowling before teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi etched his name in the history books with an 18-ball half-century as India registered a comfortable seven-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the first T20I at the Harare Sports Club.

While Mayank took 2-18, Prince picked 2-19, with Shivam Dube and Ravi Bishnoi bagging a scalp each. At 32/4, Zimbabwe were on the verge of getting a total less than 100. But Ryan Burl (26), Wessly Madhevere (39) and Tadiwanashe Marumani (27 not out) ensured Zimbabwe didn't lose many wickets later and crossed the 120-mark. The chase was always going to be a stroll in the park for India, as Sooryavanshi's 18-ball fifty, laced with four boundaries and as many sixes, made him the youngest player to score a half-century in international cricket. His blitzkrieg reduced the chase to a mere formality as India reached home with 40 balls remaining and gained a 1-0 lead in the three-game series. The result also meant that Shreyas Iyer finally got a win as India's T20I captain on his eighth attempt. Returning to international cricket after a 21-month injury lay-off, Mayank wasted no time making an impact. On the very first ball of the match, he hurled a 144 kmph back-of-a-length thunderbolt that nipped away and took Brian Bennett's edge behind and got him out for a golden duck following a successful review



by keeper Ishan Kishan.

Though debutant pacer Ashok Sharma was hit for back-to-back boundaries by fellow debutant Ben Curran, Prince ensured the pressure remained relentless from the other end. Coming into the attack in the fourth over, Prince struck with his second delivery as Curran miscued a pull straight to mid-wicket. Mayank then used his pace to rush Dion Myers, who tamely chipped a length ball to mid-on, while skipper Sikandar Raza managed just four runs before slapping a back-of-a-length delivery from Shivam Dube straight to deep square leg.

Ryan Burl attempted to rebuild with a few heavy hits, including a six off Dube over deep mid-wicket. However, leg-spinner Bishnoi broke the 32-run partnership when Burl failed to clear the long-off boundary. Entering the death overs, Madhevere spearheaded a late push for the hosts.

He capitalised on anything loose, scooping Ashok Sharma fine for consecutive boundaries and dispatching Bishnoi over long-on for a six. Marumani added vital support with a crisp six off Dube, lifting the hosts past the 100-run mark. But India regained tight control in the final over. Madhevere's useful stay ended when he was run out trying to sneak a second run following a sharp throw from Dube. Prince then dismissed Brad Evans for a duck on the very next ball as he mistimed a full toss straight to mid-off and capped off a clinical performance by the Indian bowlers.

Chasing 126, Sooryavanshi dismantled Richard Ngarava in the second over by smashing two mammoth sixes and a boundary to collect 20 runs. Despite losing opening partner Abhishek Sharma (1) to Blessing Muzarabani in the third over, Sooryavanshi showed no

signs of slowing down. While deploying the pull shot well and moving around the crease effectively, Sooryavanshi continued his onslaught against Evans - whipping him for consecutive boundaries, before smashing Muzarabani for two fours and a six down the ground. From the other end, Ishan Kishan capitalised on poor lines from debutant Newman Nyamhuri to get three boundaries, even as Sooryavanshi brought up his maiden international fifty off just 18 balls at the venue where he hit an explosive 175 in this year's U19 World Cup final. But on the very next ball, his knock ended when he top-edged Ngarava to deep third man in the seventh over. By then, India were in a commanding position, and Kishan, along with Shreyas Iyer (27 not out) and Tilak Varma (5 not out) ensured there were no further hiccups in guiding India home.



Today's performance gives everyone some confidence, says Iyer after win over Zimbabwe

HARARE

India captain Shreyas Iyer expressed delight after securing his first win as T20I skipper, adding that winning the series opener over Zimbabwe by seven wickets at the Harare Sports Club will give everyone some confidence for future matches.

India restricted Zimbabwe to 125/7 before chasing down the target with seven wickets in hand, with the victory powered by two-wicket hauls from Mayank Yadav and Prince Yadav and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi hitting an 18-ball fifty - his first half-century in international cricket. "I think the boys were tremendous. Couldn't have been happier with my first win. There was bounce from good length, and it was also variable. I felt it was there in both innings. The start Mayank gave was great." We are going to play two more matches here, so today's performance gives everyone some confidence. I think Vaibhav has played here - he got 175 in the U-19 World Cup final - so he knows the conditions," Iyer said after the match ended.

Mayank, the Player of the Match, said he relished bowling on the helpful pitch. "It

always feels great when you contribute in a win. So it was a very special moment for me. The wicket was very good. After playing in India, I was enjoying bowling here. "It's my first time here in Zimbabwe. The bounce I got and the seam movement was a great help for me. We got a good start from the very first ball, and the way they (Prince and Ashok Sharma) were squeezing from their end was really good." Fellow pacer Prince, meanwhile, highlighted the team's disciplined execution. "I'm very happy with my performance. But even more importantly, we won the match. There was quite a bit of assistance at the start. If you bowled the right length, the ball carried nicely and nipped around a little. The key for us was to keep hitting those lengths consistently till the end, and that worked in our favour. He was also in praise of his bowling counterparts Mayank and Ashok. "We performed well as a bowling unit too. Mayank bowled well, Ashok bowled well - in fact, all our fast bowlers bowled really well. The most important thing is that we won the match, and that feels great. "The coaches and Shreyas kept telling us one thing - bowl

the right lengths. If a batter hits a good shot off a good ball, that's absolutely fine. We have no problem with that. But as long as we keep bowling good balls consistently, everything remains in our control," he concluded.

I dedicate this moment to my elder brother, says Ashok Sharma

Fast bowler Ashok Sharma described making his international debut in the first T20I against Zimbabwe as a 'dream come true' and dedicated the milestone moment to his elder brother. Ashok received his India cap from bowling coach Sunil Joshi ahead of the toss, marking the culmination of years of hard work in the domestic circuit. During the cap presentation, stand-in head coach VVS Laxman reminded the youngster of the significance of the achievement. "We know Ashok is going to make his international debut, and we discussed that it's a matter of great honour. Representing the country, all your hard work, and all your performances were rewarded by this opportunity." Hailing from Rampura, a small village near Jaipur, Ashok is five years younger than his brother, Akshay, who also played cricket.

Rublev surges to dominant win, Portugal's Faria reaches QFs in Estoril

ESTORIL (PORTUGAL)

Andrey Rublev lost just two games to earn his most comfortable win of the season on Thursday, beating lucky loser Timofey Skatov 6-1, 6-1 for a dominant and emphatic victory in the Estoril Open in Portugal. Top seed Rublev started his campaign at the ATP 250 event high in confidence, having captured his first title of the year and 18th overall on the clay in Bastad. Under the Portuguese sun, the 28-year-old hit through the World No. 163 Skatov and sealed victory in just 59 minutes when he struck his 26th winner off a Skatov second serve. The No. 14 player in the ATP Rankings, Rublev, has now won his past five matches and is into his seventh



tour-level quarterfinal of the season, according to the ATP Win/Loss Index. "I am happy to be here. It is my first time," Rublev said. "The conditions are not easy to play in, but I feel great that I was able to win in straight sets, to be able to spend the least time on court and be as fresh as possible for tomorrow." Rublev will next meet Frenchman Luca Van Assche, who overcame eighth

seed Pablo Carreno Busta 6-3, 4-6, 6-2. Carreno Busta was trying to advance to his first ATP Tour quarterfinal since Winston-Salem in 2024, but it was Van Assche who had the answers down the home straight. The 22-year-old Van Assche holds a 0-3 record in the last eight at tour-level events but will hope to change that and reach his first semi-final when he plays Rublev. Earlier this season, Van Assche lifted an ATP Challenger trophy on clay in Parma. In other action, Portugal's Jaime Faria delighted home fans with a 6-2, 6-4 victory against Peruvian qualifier Gonzalo Bueno. The 22-year-old Faria is into his second tour-level quarterfinal of the season after reaching that stage at the ATP 500 event in Rio de Janeiro.

Peace Through Sports: Army Brings the Durand Cup to Imphal

By Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem, Indian International Football Player

IMPHAL

Manipur is a state where sport is a way of life. This land of warriors has produced countless national and international athletes across various disciplines, with football holding a special place in the hearts of its people. From children playing in every street and open ground to players representing India on the international stage, football is deeply rooted in the culture of Manipur. Whenever football comes to the state, people welcome it with immense excitement, pride, and enthusiasm. The Durand Cup, being one of the oldest football tournaments in the world, carries immense prestige and history. I have had the privilege of par-



ticipating in this historic tournament on multiple occasions. I have also had the privilege of lifting the trophy of this prestigious tournament twice with FC Goa and finishing as runners-up with Mohun Bagan. Having experienced it firsthand, I understand the significance of this tournament - not just as a competition, but as a celebration of Indian football. It provides a unique platform where top clubs from the ISL and I-League, Defence teams, and local clubs compete together, raising the standard of the game and creating opportunities for players at every level. ootball has no language, no culture, and no religion

- only love for the game. It unites people beyond their differences. Inside the electrifying atmosphere of the stadium, everyone cheers for the same game, shares the same emotions, and celebrates together. That is the true power of football. Bringing the IndianOil Durand Cup back to Manipur for the 135th edition is much more than hosting a football tournament. It is a catalyst for people from different walks of life and communities of Manipur to come together with a shared passion, creating an all-pervasive environment of unity, hope, and positivity. It would also give thousands of young footballers the opportunity to watch their idols play in front of them, inspiring them to dream bigger, work harder, and believe that they too can represent their clubs and country one day. Here, I want to commend the Indian Army for making

this possible. Despite challenging circumstances, the Army has continued to organise and support the IndianOil Durand Cup with professionalism and commitment. By ensuring a safe, secure, and well-organised tournament, the Army has demonstrated how sport can become a bridge between communities. Their efforts go beyond hosting matches - they create an atmosphere where football can thrive, where people can come together peacefully, and where the youth are encouraged to channelise their energy into sport. In a state like Manipur, where football is an emotion, the return of the IndianOil Durand Cup will send a powerful message that hope, unity, and peace can prevail through sport. Football has the ability to heal, inspire, and connect people, and the Durand Cup provides the perfect platform for that spirit to flourish.

UTT Season 7: Dabang Delhi TTC seal semifinal berth with win over Pune, set to meet Goa Challengers

PANAJI (GOA)

Dabang Delhi TTC secured the fourth and final semifinal berth in Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7 with a 10-5 victory over PBG Pune Jaguars in Panaji on Thursday. The former champions will now take on unbeaten league phase leaders Dempo Goa Challengers in the first semifinal on Friday, while HVR Kolkata ThunderBlades face defending champions U Mumbai TT in the second last-four clash a day later. Playing at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Maria Xiao starred for Delhi with commanding victories in the women's singles and mixed doubles, while captain Sathiyam Gnanasekaran once again led from the front to guide his side into the semifinals. Pune began brightly through Omar Assar, but Delhi responded with three successive match victories to take control before closing out the tie. Staged under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), 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. Pune made the stronger start as Omar Assar won the all-Egyptian battle against Youssef Abdelaziz in

three games. Delhi responded emphatically through Xiao, who swept aside Prithika Pavade in straight games before partnering Sathiyam Gnanasekaran to overpower Anirban Ghosh and Diya Chitale in the mixed doubles, handing Delhi a considerable advantage.

His team needing nine wins to qualify, Sathiyam then produced another captain's performance, defeating Snehit Suravajjula in three games to seal the tie and confirm Delhi's place in the semifinals. Snehit's third-game victory, however, ensured Delhi could not climb above fourth place, setting up a daunting semifinal against the unbeaten Dempo Goa Challengers. Diya Chitale signed off Pune's campaign with a hard-fought victory over Sutirtha Mukherjee in the closing women's singles. Sathiyam was named both the ChatGPT MatchIQ Player and Indian Player of the Tie after leading Delhi into the semifinals. Xiao claimed the Foreign Player of the Tie award, while Pavade earned the Biseri Shot of the Tie honour.

Final scores

Dabang Delhi T.T.C 10-5 PBG Pune Jaguars
Youssef Abdelaziz lost to Omar Assar 1-2 (8-11, 8-11, 11-8)
Maria Xiao bt. Prithika Pavade 3-0 (11-7, 11-10, 11-7)

Top teams in fray in Junior Women Academy Championship

GWALIOR

Top teams in the fray in the 4th Hockey India Junior Women Academy Championship 2026 (Zone A & B) are set to commence on 24 July in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, bringing together some of the country's finest junior women's hockey academies to showcase the next generation of Indian hockey talent. The 11-day tournament will conclude on August 3, with the top teams from both pools competing for the championship title. A total of 12 academy teams have been divided into two pools of six teams each, with every team playing the others in its respective pool during the league stage. The top two teams from each pool will qualify for the semi-finals, scheduled for August 2, followed by the third-place playoff and the final on August 3. Pool A comprises Raja Karan Hockey Academy, Khalsa Hockey Academy (Amritsar), Sports Authority of Gujarat.

Radha Ramana: A Melody from ROMANCHAKAM



Romanchakam has taken its promotions a step further with the release of its first single, “Radha Ramana,” a melody filled with warmth, devotion, and romance. Presented as the “Dance of Brindavana,” the song captures the purity of everlasting love through graceful visuals and a soothing musical arrangement that instantly leaves a lasting impression. The

highlight of the number is Vasuki Vaibhav, who effortlessly balances the roles of composer and singer. His melodious voice perfectly complements the composition, while Chandrabose’s soulful lyrics add poetic beauty to every verse. Together, they create a song that resonates long after it ends. Featuring Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar, Romanchakam is directed by newcomer Venu Gopal Reddy and presented by Sandeep Reddy Vanga alongside producer Pranay Reddy Vanga under Bhadrakali Pictures. Their association has significantly boosted excitement for the youthful romantic entertainer. After impressing audiences with its vibrant poster and visually striking glimpse, the film continues to build momentum through music. Radha Ramana showcases the film’s emotional depth while reflecting the classy musical taste that audiences often associate with Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s creative choices. Romanchakam gearing up for grand release on September 3rd.

Vijayashanti Backs Small Films at ‘Karmakhya’ TRAILER LAUNCH



Veteran actress and politician Vijayashanti stressed the importance of encouraging small-budget films, saying they often bring the freshest ideas and strongest stories to the big screen. Speaking as the chief guest at the trailer launch of Karmakhya, directed by Adhire Abhi (Abhinaya Krishna), she said greater support from audiences and the media would help strengthen the Telugu film industry. Addressing the gathering, Vijayashanti noted that while big-budget films receive wider attention, it is often small films that showcase genuine creativity, innovation, and powerful storytelling. She urged audiences to support such efforts, adding that doing so would encourage more talented actors, filmmakers, and technicians to enter the industry. She also highlighted the crucial role of the media in promoting content-driven cinema. According to her, small-film producers need strong media backing to ensure that unique stories reach a wider audience and receive the recognition they deserve. Praising actress Abhinaya, Vijayashanti revealed that shaving her head was not a mandatory requirement for the role, but the actress chose to do it purely out of dedication to the character. She appreciated Abhinaya’s commitment and expressed confidence that audiences would reward her hard work with success. Speaking about her own acting career, Vijayashanti said she is currently occupied with politics and has no immediate plans to return to films. However, she added that she would certainly consider acting again if offered a powerful story and a memorable role. Karmakhya is scheduled for a theatrical release on July 31.



Mahendragiri Varahi Targets This Release Date

Review of film ‘Uttar Da Puttar’- Karam, Kismat, and the Comedy of Wrong Directions



VIVEK SHUKLA

Uttar Da Puttar is a sharp, timely Hindi comedy-social satire that arrives at the right moment. Directed by Ravinder Siwach from a story by Sandeep Kapur, with screenplay contributions that keep the tone light yet pointed, the film stars Annu Kapoor in the central role of a physics professor whose life becomes entangled with the very beliefs he might otherwise dismiss. Released theatrically on today (24 July 2026), it is produced by Sandeep Kapur and Priya Kapur under Promodome Motion Pictures, a banner already known for content-driven work. The ensemble includes Rukhsar Rehman as Ginni, Brijendra Kala, Pavan Malhotra, Ishiyak Khan, Jeeveshu Ahluwalia, Rajendra Sethi, Sumit Gulati and Nitin Arora. Together they deliver a film that laughs at superstition without sneering at the people who hold it. The premise is deceptively simple and culturally specific. Vastu, astrology and numerology are not treated as exotic background colour; they sit at the heart of the story. The title itself plays on “Uttar” (north) and the idea that the right direction can change one’s fortunes. Annu Kapoor’s professor is a man who teaches rational science to students preparing for the IIT entrance exams, yet finds himself drawn into the same systems of faith and fate that shape everyday Indian decisions. The tagline “Karam Bade Ya Kismat?” captures the central tension: does effort matter more than destiny, or do the two keep circling each other? The film does not deliver a neat lecture. Instead it lets comedy do the heavy lifting. Situations escalate through misunderstandings, stubborn beliefs and the quiet absurdity of people rearranging their lives according to directions and numbers. The humour feels rooted rather than forced; it comes from recognition. Annu Kapoor anchors everything with the ease of a performer who has spent decades moving between comedy, drama and satire. His professor is neither a pure skeptic nor a convert. He is a man trying to hold on to reason while life keeps presenting him with signs, coincidences and well-meaning advice that refuse to stay in their lane. The performance is warm, precise and free of the broad mannerisms that sometimes overtake similar roles. Opposite him, Rukhsar Rehman brings emotional clarity as Ginni; their relationship, which includes a significant age difference and

eventual marriage, is handled with a mix of affection and practical complications that avoid both melodrama and easy cynicism. The supporting cast is uniformly strong. Brijendra Kala and Pavan Malhotra, in particular, know exactly how to land a comic beat without tipping into caricature. The smaller roles fill out a world that feels lived-in: neighbours, colleagues, relatives and opportunistic advisors who all have opinions about the correct direction one should face while sitting, sleeping or starting a new venture. What elevates the film beyond a string of jokes is its refusal to mock belief itself. Superstition is shown to have real costs, delayed decisions, strained relationships, money spent on remedies that never quite work yet the people who turn to Vastu or numerology are not painted as fools. They are anxious, hopeful, sometimes desperate for control in a chaotic world. The satire works because it understands that rationalism and faith often coexist inside the same person. The professor’s classroom scenes, where physics meets the practical pressures of entrance exams, quietly underline the point: science is taught, but life continues to demand other kinds of answers. The film’s visual language supports this balance. Cinematography keeps the frame clear and uncluttered, allowing the comedy of spatial obsession (which way is north? does this wall face the wrong direction?) to register without visual noise. The pacing is brisk; at roughly one hour and forty-three minutes the story never overstays its welcome. There are minor limitations. A few supporting characters remain closer to types than fully rounded people, and the third act leans a little hard on resolution that feels tidier than the messy questions the film has raised. These are small complaints in a work that largely succeeds at what it sets out to do. The laughter is consistent, the social observation is sharp, and the emotional undercurrent never feels grafted on. In an industry still dominated by spectacle, franchise logic and safe formulas, Uttar Da Puttar stands out for trusting an idea that is both local and universal: the human need to find direction when life feels directionless. We should make such films. Cinema that treats Indian social habits with humour, honesty and a

measure of compassion is rarer than it should be. Uttar Da Puttar proves that a comedy about Vastu, destiny and self-belief can be entertaining without being empty, critical without being cruel. It respects the audience’s intelligence and its cultural knowledge. More stories like this—stories that start from everyday contradictions and refuse to flatten them into either pure ridicule or pure endorsement—would enrich Hindi cinema. They would also give actors of Annu Kapoor’s calibre the kind of material that lets them show range rather than simply occupy space. Content-driven comedy with a social spine is not a niche; it is a necessity if the industry wants to stay connected to the lives people actually live. Uttar Da Puttar is a welcome reminder of what becomes possible when that necessity is taken seriously. This film should not be missed despite vociferous Jantar Mantar pro.

Sumanth is all set to arrive with an unusual cinematic experience in Mahendragiri Varahi, a mythological mystery thriller directed by Santhosh Jagarlapudi. The film is currently targeting September 11 for its theatrical release, a date that could work significantly in its favour as there are no major Telugu films expected to hit cinemas during the same period. The project has steadily captured attention ever since its teaser introduced audiences to its mysterious world, promising an engaging blend of mythology, divine elements, and edge-of-the-seat suspense. Every promotional asset released so far has only deepened the intrigue surrounding the film. What truly sets the campaign apart, however, is its spiritually inspired outreach. In a unique approach, the team has installed Varahi idols in theatres across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, transforming cinema halls into spaces that reflect the film’s devotional essence while creating a powerful emotional connection with moviegoers. With the release date drawing closer, the makers are preparing an extensive promotional rollout packed with fresh content, special events, and innovative campaigns aimed at taking the excitement surrounding Mahendragiri Varahi to the next level.



'Chennai Love Story' Creates Massive Buzz; Premiere Tickets Sold Out Like Hotcakes

Young hero Kiran Abbavaram’s upcoming film Chennai Love Story is creating a strong buzz even before its theatrical release. The romantic entertainer is set to hit screens worldwide on July 24, and the paid premieres scheduled a day earlier have received an overwhelming response. Tickets for the premiere shows have been sold out across most major centres in the Telugu states, with several shows already declared houseful. Due to the huge demand, many exhibitors have added extra screens in key locations. Leading multiplexes such as Prasads, AMB Cinemas, and PVR in Hyderabad, along with theatres in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, and Rajahmundry, are witnessing packed bookings. The film’s team announced the



sold-out status on social media, thanking audiences for the tremendous support. The paid premiere strategy, which has worked well for several recent Telugu films, appears to be paying off once again for Chennai Love Story. Trade circles believe the impressive advance bookings indicate that the film is likely to register a strong opening at the box office. The film stars Kiran Abbavaram alongside Sri Gouri Priya in the lead roles and is directed by Ravi Namburi. It is produced by S.K.N and Sai Rajesh under the Mass Movie Makers and Amrutha Productions banners, with Dheeraj Mogilineni serving as co-producer. Sai Rajesh has also shared story and screenplay credits with director Ravi Namburi. The film has generated additional curiosity because it features a story from Sai Rajesh, who previously delivered the blockbuster Baby. Veteran composer Mani Sharma has scored the music for the romantic drama. With sold-out premiere shows and strong advance bookings, Chennai Love Story has built impressive pre-release momentum. All eyes are now on whether the film can translate this excitement into a successful box-office run and become a major milestone in Kiran Abbavaram’s career.

Kavya Thapar Dazzles In Copper Sequin Gown

Kavya Thapar’s filmography reads like a string of near-misses. From Ek Mini Katha to Eagle to Ooru Peru Bhairavakona, none of her outings managed to click with audiences the way her team had hoped. Her last theatrical appearance came in 2024’s Viswam alongside Gopichand, which received mixed reviews and turned out to be only an average grosser at the box office. Two years on, Kavya remains without a new theatrical release, a quiet stretch in an otherwise steady career. Whether it’s selective choices or a lack of the right offers, the actress hasn’t been seen on screen since. That hasn’t stopped her from staying visible off-screen, though. Her latest red-carpet appearance in a shimmering copper-sequin gown proves she hasn’t lost her spark, even as fans wait to see what her next project will be.