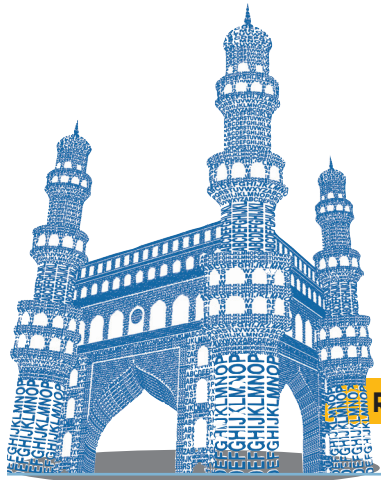
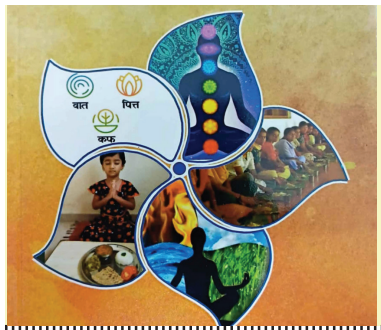




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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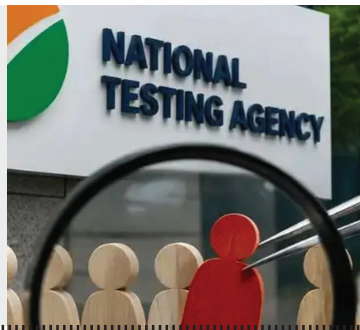


The Vedic Path to Holistic Health

OPINION 06

Massive NTA Purge: 47 Axed Post-NEET Leak

HOME LAND 07



MURMU ADDRESSES INDIA-ROMANIA BUSINESS FORUM

ROMANIAN COMPANIES SHOULD PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN INDIA'S GROWTH STORY: PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU

New Delhi, July 24: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu addressed the India-Romania Business Forum at Bucharest today (July 24, 2026) in the presence of the President of Romania, H.E. Mr. Nicușor Dan, members of the Government of Romania, business leaders from India and Romania and representatives of Industry Associations of India and Romania.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Romania, with its strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, highly skilled human resources, advanced indus-

trial capabilities and strong integration with the European Union, remains a natural and valuable partner for India. Romania serves not only as an important destination for investment but also as a gateway to the wider European market. She stated that the participation of a large Indian business delegation in this Forum reflects the growing confidence of Indian industries in the opportunities that Romania offers and their desire to build enduring partnerships with Romanian businesses.

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CURE Zone to Get Indiramma Houses

CM Revanth Reddy orders officials to identify unused lands of various departments



Hyderabad, July 24: Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy ordered the officials to develop Indiramma housing colonies in residential areas in the CURE (Core Urban Region) zone. Reviewing the implementation of the Indiramma Urban Housing scheme, the Chief Minister enquired about the availability of government lands and instructed the authorities to identify unused lands owned by various government departments in the ORR limits.

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NEW DELHI

When farmers lose trust and young people lose hope, no amount of publicity can protect a government. For the BJP, these are not ordinary protests—they are warning bells.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image appears to be losing some of its shine. Earlier, it was the farmers who challenged the government. Now, students and unemployed youth are taking to the streets. For the BJP, these developments cannot be dismissed as minor protests. They are serious warning signs.

Modi's political rise has been extraordinary. His journey from Gujarat Chief Minister to a three-term Prime Minister is undoubtedly historic. Whether one considers him a great administrator or not, there is no denying that he is a powerful political leader with exceptional communication skills.

A large section of Hindu voters supported Modi mainly for two reasons. First, they believed he could deal firmly with Pakistan and

protect India's national interests. Second, they trusted him to take a tough stand against terrorism and religious extremism within the country.

Most of Modi's election campaigns have revolved around national security, Hindu identity and strong leadership. Time and again, political developments around these issues have also worked in his favour.

However, when ordinary voters are asked how the Modi government directly improved their daily lives, the answers are not always convincing. People still complain about rising prices, unemployment, taxes, expensive education and healthcare. Many government achievements highlighted by BJP supporters may also have been carried forward under another government.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Centre Agrees to Drop NEET FIRs, Pay Compensation

New Delhi, July 24: In a major breakthrough in the NEET paper leak protests, the Centre has agreed in principle to compensate families of students who allegedly died by suicide due to the NEET crisis and withdraw FIRs filed against student protesters. The decision followed a nearly two-hour meeting between Union Ministers JP Nadda and Jitendra Singh and representatives of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), which is leading the agitation at Jantar Mantar. CJP leaders said the government also agreed in principle to ensure no fresh FIRs are filed against peaceful protesters, with another round of talks scheduled for Saturday.

However, protesters maintained that their key demand remains the resignation or dismissal of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him responsible for alleged failures in the examination system.

Speaking after the meeting, JP Nadda said the delegation submitted three major demands and five suggestions for examination reforms, adding that the government would hold further discussions before the next meeting. The CJP has also sought ₹1 crore compensation for each affected family and legal protection for all protesters.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi renewed his attack on the government, calling for Dharmendra Pradhan's removal and demanding action against those responsible for the police lathi-charge on students during the July 20 "Sansad Chalo" march.

The Centre has already terminated 47 NTA officials as part of a major overhaul of the examination agency and approved a draft law proposing stricter punishment and fast-track courts for paper leak cases.

Govt to back Singareni's DIVERSIFICATION BEYOND COAL: BHATTI

Hyderabad, July 24: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the State government will extend its full support to protect, strengthen, and transform Singareni into a globally competitive enterprise.

He assured that the government's doors would remain open round the clock for the development of Singareni.

The Deputy Chief Minister observed that the energy sector is expected to undergo a major transformation over the next 15-20 years. With the rapid growth of solar power, pumped storage, wind energy, hydrogen, rare earth minerals, and battery energy storage systems, the dependence on thermal power and coal is likely to decline gradually. In view of these changes, he said Singareni should not remain confined to coal mining alone but should proactively diversify into emerging sectors.

The Deputy Chief Minister made these remarks while chairing a special review meeting with senior officials of Singareni and GENCO at



the Singareni headquarters in Kothagudem on Friday.

Describing Singareni as the soul of Telangana, he said the 130-year-old institution has played a vital role in the State's development and assured that the government would stand firmly behind its continued growth and sustainability.

He noted that Singareni once enjoyed a monopoly in coal production, with consumers purchasing coal at prices fixed by the company. However, the situation has changed drastically with the expansion of privatization. The Union government's policy of auctioning coal blocks has enabled

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Congress Failed on Power, Water: Harish

Hyderabad, July 24: Former minister and BRS deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao alleged that the Congress government had completely failed in ensuring uninterrupted electricity, drinking water and irrigation supply across Telangana. He said that during the BRS government, farmers received uninterrupted 24-hour free electricity, every household had access to safe drinking water through Mission Bhagiratha and irrigation water was supplied without disruption. Harish Rao on Friday conducted a surprise inspection of the Solepet Electricity Substation in Bommalaramaram mandal of Aler Assembly constituency along with former Aler MLA Gongidi Sunitha.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Kishan Reddy to Inaugurate Komuravelli Station

Hyderabad, July 24 (NSS): Union Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy will inaugurate the newly constructed Komuravelli Punyakshetram railway station on July 26 this year marking a significant milestone in improving rail connectivity for pilgrims and residents in the region.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, local public repre-



sentatives, South Central Railway (SCR) General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, Hyderabad Divisional Railway Manager Santosh Kumar Verma, and other senior railway officials are expected to attend the inaugural ceremony.

The new station has been built on the recently commissioned Manoharabad-Siddipet railway line, which

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Uttam Seeks Centre's Nod on Kaleshwaram

Hyderabad, July 24: Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy today directed officials to immediately write to the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) and the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), seeking clear technical guidance on the future operation of the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages under the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS).

Chairing a high-level review meeting with senior irrigation officials, engineers, and tech-

nical experts, at Dr B R Ambedkar Secretariat building, the Minister made it clear that the Telangana Government maintained the barrages in free-flow condition as NDSA advises to address safety challenges. Written advice by any competent technical authority will be mandatory to decide whether storage and pumping operations could be safely resumed.

Uttam instructed officials



to attach the relevant portions of the NDSA report, earlier technical observations and supporting documents to the communication so that the entire technical basis for the Government's decision was placed on official record."The correspondence with the Ministry of Jal Shakti should clearly explain why the barrages have not been used for storage or pumping and seek a formal opinion

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Student Unions Hold Statewide College Bandh

Hyderabad, July 24: Various student unions, including AISF, SFI, NSUI, PDSU, AIFDS, AIPSU and AISB, observed a statewide college bandh on Friday, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged NEET paper leak.

The unions also sought an ex-gratia payment of Rs.1 crore to the families of students who allegedly lost their lives in connection with the controversy, stringent action against those responsible

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

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TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER



>FROM PAGE 1

The reality is that no political alliance, whether NDA or INDIA, has a magic wand to completely transform the lives of people in a massive country like India. Social media, however, has helped create the image of Modi as an unbeatable superhero. At times, the praise surrounding him has reached such a level that even criticism is treated as an insult to the nation.

This does not take away from Modi's political achievements. Becoming Chief Minister three times and Prime Minister three times is a rare accomplishment. His personal popularity, powerful speeches and ability to connect with voters helped the BJP grow into a dominant national force. But political popularity is never permanent.

Farmers Shook the BJP's Confidence

Before the previous Lok Sabha elections, the BJP appeared extremely confident. The Ram temple had been built in Ayodhya. The government claimed success in handling the Covid crisis. Modi had strengthened his image as a global leader. The BJP also repeatedly projected its tough stand against Pakistan. Its leaders confidently raised the slogan of winning more than 400 seats. But the final result was far below their expectations. Without the support of allies such as Nitish Kumar and N. Chandrababu Naidu, forming the government would have become extremely difficult.

One major reason for the setback was the long farmers' agitation against the three agricultural laws.

The government and its supporters tried to portray the movement as po-

MODI'S IMAGE IS FADING

litically motivated and even linked it to Khalistani forces. Yet, the anger among farmers was real. That anger damaged the BJP in several constituencies.

The electorate also strengthened the Opposition because it wanted to place some limits on a government that appeared too powerful and too focused on religious politics.

Now the Government Is Angering the Youth

The BJP seems to have forgotten the lessons of the farmers' movement. This time, it is facing anger from students and young people over examinations, paper leaks, unemployment and the lack of opportunities.

After its recent electoral victories, the BJP appears to have become even more aggressive. Its decisions sometimes create the impression that it no longer feels the need to understand the public mood. The party once took pride in discipline and ideological commitment. Today, however, it is ready to welcome rival leaders, make former opponents chief ministers and seek support from politicians who once abused the BJP. Even loyal BJP and RSS supporters may find this difficult to accept.

The RSS leadership is also unlikely to be fully comfortable with political

growth built mainly by importing leaders from other parties. Such growth is not organic and could create serious problems later.

Youth Anger Cannot Be Branded a Conspiracy

The ongoing youth protests should not be casually dismissed as foreign-funded or part of a so-called deep-state conspiracy.

Young people across the country are deeply frustrated. There are fewer quality jobs. Education and healthcare have become expensive. Household expenses have increased. Overseas opportunities are also becoming uncertain. Many young Indians feel that they are working harder but moving nowhere.

Religious emotions cannot forever hide economic frustration.

Young people are not so weak that they will come onto the streets merely because somebody sitting abroad provoked them. They understand politics, employment and social issues. Social media has made them better informed, and many of them are strongly patriotic. There may or may not be foreign groups trying to influence protests. But treating every angry student as an an-

ti-national or foreign agent is a foolish political strategy.

For nearly two months, youth mobilisation has been visible across several states. Instead of seriously addressing their concerns, BJP supporters and friendly television anchors have tried to blame shadowy forces.

The same mistake was made during the farmers' agitation.

Police Action May Boomerang

Every lathi raised against an unarmed student at Jantar Mantar can damage the government politically.

Videos of police beating students, particularly young women, travel instantly through mobile phones and social media. Every injury creates anger far beyond the protest site.

There have also been incidents in which protesters attacked police and security personnel. Such violence must be condemned. But excessive force by the authorities will only worsen the situation. The government appears to have slowly realised that significant damage has already been done.

Farmers have now also begun joining the protests in Delhi. Using force in a movement involving Punjab farmers can easily boomerang. The political impact of these developments could become visible in future elections, particularly in states such as Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Modi remains the BJP's strongest leader. But even the strongest leader cannot ignore farmers, students and unemployed youth for long.

When farmers lose trust and young people lose hope, no amount of publicity can fully protect a government.

For the BJP, these are not ordinary protests. They are warning bells.

GDC Women to Host Foreign Policy Meet on July 29

HYDERABAD, JULY 23

The Department of Political Science, Government Degree College for Women, Hussaini Alam, Hyderabad, will organize a One-Day National Conference on "India's Foreign Policy: Recent Trends and Challenges" on Wednesday, 29 July 2026, at the Khurshheed Jah Seminar Hall.

The conference is being held in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, and the Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE), Hyderabad. It aims to provide an academic platform for scholars, policymakers, faculty members, researchers, and students to discuss the emerging dimensions of India's foreign policy and the country's expanding role in international affairs.

The inaugural session will be presided over by Prof. Ch. Appiya Chinnamma, Principal, Government Degree College for Women, Hussaini Alam, Hyderabad. Janab Asa-uddin Owaisi Sahib, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Hyderabad, and Prof. V. Balakis-



ta Reddy, Hon'ble Chairman, Telangana Council of Higher Education, Hyderabad, will grace the occasion as Chief Guests.

The keynote address will be delivered by Prof. Upendra Choudhury, Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, and Former Director/Member Secretary, ICSSR, New Delhi. The conference will also witness the participation of eminent academicians and dignitaries, including Prof. Kumar Molugaram, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Osmania University; Prof. P. Bala Bhaskar, Joint Director of Collegiate Education; Prof. Afroz Alam, Department of Political Science, MANUU; Dr. K. Bhaskar, Associate Professor of Political Science, Government City College; Prof. M. Krishna Kumar, Department of Political Sci-

ence, Osmania University; and Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director, Research, ICWA, New Delhi.

The conference will focus on key themes such as changing global geopolitics, regional security, economic diplomacy, strategic partnerships, neighbourhood relations, and emerging international challenges. It is expected to encourage meaningful academic discussion and promote interaction between distinguished experts and young scholars.

The programme is being organized under the guidance of Prof. Ch. Appiya Chinnamma, Principal and Chairperson. Dr. Farhana Sultana is serving as the Organizing Secretary, while Dr. Mohammed Ghouse, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, is the Convener of the conference.

The organizers have extended a cordial invitation to academicians, researchers, students, and delegates from various institutions to participate in the conference and contribute to the deliberations on India's foreign policy in the contemporary global scenario.

MURMU ADDRESSES INDIA-ROMANIA..

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The President said that trade and economic cooperation are central to the contemporary partnership. With a combined market of nearly two billion people and an economic size of around 25 trillion dollars, the India-EU FTA is among the most significant economic partnerships in the world and aims at deepening trade integration, strengthening investment flows, and building resilient and diversified supply chains. She emphasised that the early and effective implementation of the FTA will be crucial. It will provide a predictable environment for businesses, enhance value chain integration, and create new opportunities for MSMEs, startups, and innovators on both sides.

The President said that India is today one of the world's fastest-growing major economies. Our vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047" aims to transform India into a developed nation by the centenary of our Independence. This journey presents immense opportunities for international partnerships, in-

vestment and technology collaboration.

The President said that India is undertaking initiatives to create a transparent, predictable and investor-friendly business environment by simplified taxation and production-linked incentives. The President said that there is immense scope for collaboration in the energy security and green transition between India and Romania. Given Romania's capabilities in the chemical & fertilizers industry, there is also scope for cooperation in this sector. India's globally recognised Digital Public Infrastructure, thriving start-up ecosystem and leadership in information technology can complement Romania's strengths in software engineering, cyber-security, research and advanced technologies. There are also opportunities for our companies to collaborate in transportation and logistics sectors, including ports, railways, highways, logistics parks and multi-modal transport. We can also deepen cooperation in pharmaceuticals, healthcare, agriculture and food processing.

Master Health Check-up Camp Launched for Press Club Members at NIMS



Hyderabad, July 24: A special Master Health Check-up Camp for Press Club members was launched at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) on Friday, following the directions of Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha. The camp was formally inaugurated under the supervision of NIMS Director Dr. Rahul Devaraj by Dean and Senior Professor Dr. Chandrasekhar, Senior Professor Dr. Paranjyoti, and Assistant Registrar Dr. Charan Raju.

On the occasion, Press Club President S. Vijay Kumar Reddy and General Secretary Ramesh Varikuppala said that the Master Health Check-up Camp would greatly benefit journalists and their family members.

The Press Club executive committee noted that journalists often neglect their health due to heavy work pressure and described the NIMS initiative as a valuable opportunity for them to undergo comprehensive health screening.

The inaugural programme was attended by Vice Presidents A. Ra-

jesh and Aruna Attaluri, Joint Secretary Chilukuri Hariprasad, Treasurer Ramesh Vaitla, Executive Committee members N. Srinivas Reddy, Vanam Nagaraju, Ashok Dayyala, and Rachana Mudumbai, NIMS PRO Satyam Goud, and senior journalists.

NIMS officials stated that all journalists holding valid Health Cards would be eligible to undergo the Master Health Check-up. The Press Club executive committee clarified that the facility is available only to registered Press Club members.

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Govt to back Singareni's DIVERSIFICATION..

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many private companies to enter the sector, compelling public sector enterprises to compete in an increasingly competitive market.

He stressed that Singareni must remain competitive by improving quality, enhancing efficiency, reducing operational costs, and delivering better services than private players.

The Deputy Chief Minister instructed officials not to compromise on coal quality under any circumstances. He directed the management and trade unions at every mine to initiate open discussions with workers, seek their suggestions on ensuring the company's long-term sustainability, and prepare a comprehensive action plan by making employees active stakeholders in the organisation's future.

Reiterating that the energy landscape will change dramatically over the next 15-20 years, he said the growing adoption of

solar power, pumped storage, wind energy, hydrogen, and rare earth-based battery storage technologies could significantly reduce dependence on thermal power and coal. Therefore, Singareni must strategically diversify into alternative sectors, he said.

Bhatti Vikramarka further proposed that Singareni should expand into the mining of critical minerals such as lithium and cobalt, which are essential for semiconductor manufacturing, microchips, electric vehicle batteries, and other advanced technologies. He suggested that the company participate in auctions for critical mineral blocks in countries such as Australia and South Africa. The Deputy Chief Minister also directed that future Board meetings should not be confined to routine administrative matters alone but should focus extensively on the company's expansion strategy and a comprehensive 10-year roadmap.

Congress Failed on Power, Water: Harish

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During the visit, he reviewed the substation logbook, interacted with electricity department staff and examined records relating to power supply being provided to farmers.

Addressing the media after the inspection, Harish Rao said he had visited the constituency to console the family of a deceased BRS party worker, but local women complained that drinking water was being supplied only once every two days. He alleged that despite inheriting a fully functional Mission Bhagiratha network built by the previous BRS government, the Congress government had failed to maintain the system. "The government is deliberately neglecting Mission Bhagiratha because proper implementation would bring credit to KCR and the BRS," he alleged.

He said people in Sangareddy, Narayankhed, Andole, Zaheerabad, Kamareddy, Yadadri, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar and several other districts were facing severe drinking water shortages, forcing women to once again carry water pots in search of drinking water.

Harish Rao said the surprise inspection at Solepet Substation was conducted after receiving complaints from farmers regarding prolonged power cuts.

According to him, the substation operator informed him that farmers had earlier been receiving 14 to 15 hours of power supply, but fresh instructions from the government limited agricultural power supply to only 12 hours a day. He further alleged that even during these 12 hours, electricity supply was frequently interrupted due to repeated tripping.

Harish Rao questioned why farmers were being denied uninterrupted 24-hour power despite repeated assurances from the Congress government.

Kishan Reddy to Inaugurate Komuravelli...

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forms part of the Manoharabad-Kothapalli new rail line project. Constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.6 crore, the station features a high-level platform, platform shelters, a waiting hall, drinking water facilities, and other essential passenger amenities. The station has been established primarily to improve access for devotees visiting the renowned Komuravelli Mallanna temple, one of Telangana's major pilgrimage destinations. It is also expected to benefit local commuters, including students and employees, by enhancing regional rail connectivity. To commemorate the inauguration, minister Kishan Reddy will flag off Train No.77654 (Siddipet - Secunderabad DEMU) from the newly inaugurated Komuravelli Punyakshetram Railway Station. Currently, four DEMU services operate between Secunderabad and Siddipet, and these trains will now have an additional stop at Komuravelli Punyakshetram station, providing convenient access for pilgrims and residents while strengthening connectivity with Hyderabad and other destinations. South Central Railway said the new station is expected to promote religious tourism, improve transportation for short-distance passengers, and contribute to the socio-economic development of the Komuravelli region.

CURE Zone to Get..

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The officials briefed the CM about the details of housing sites identified across several Assembly constituencies. The meeting has decided to utilise the lands owned by the Police, Revenue, and Transport departments for the Indiramma housing scheme. The departments will be given lands as an alternative arrangement in other places. CM Revanth Reddy noted that the construction of Indiramma houses far from residential areas could lead to difficulties regarding employment and livelihood opportunities for the dwellers. The Chief Minister pointed out that the houses constructed for the poor, which were far away, remained unused. The CM emphasized the need to construct houses near workplaces within residential areas and ensure the poor do not lose their means of livelihood.

The State government has already announced plans to construct Indiramma houses for the poor across several constituencies within the CURE area. Each flat will be built with a total area of approximately 528 square feet and a carpet area of 400 square feet. While the construction cost is approximately ₹11 lakh,

the government announced providing a substantial subsidy of ₹5 lakh. The beneficiary is required to pay the remaining ₹6 lakh. The government is bearing the entire cost of the land.

In the first phase, plans are being finalized to construct and deliver 7,680 flats across 17 constituencies. The 'Indiramma' houses will be built in the first phase in the following constituencies: Rajendranagar, Maheshwaram, Serilingampally, Ibrahimpatnam, Malkajgiri, Nampally, Khairatabad, Jubilee Hills, Karwan, Bahadurpura, Amberpet, Kukatpally, Medchal, Quthbullapur, Sanathnagar, Secunderabad Cantonment, and Malakpet. The Chief Minister directed officials to expedite the process of identifying unused government land in these assembly constituencies.

Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Ponnam Prabhakar, R&B Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, DGP CV Anand, CM's Principal Secretaries N. Sridhar and V. Seshadri, Revenue Secretary Lokesh Kumar, HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmad, Housing Special Secretary VP Gautham, Hyderabad District Collector Priyanka Ala, and other senior officials participated in this review meeting.

Uttam Seeks Centre's Nod on Kaleshwwaram Student Unions..

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from the competent technical authorities," he said.

The Minister also directed that copies of the communication be provided to the Resident Commissioner for immediate hand delivery to senior officials in the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

During the review, officials noted that the recent statements issued by the Union Minister for Jal Shakti and the correspondence from the Ministry had largely referred to the general policy that State Governments take operational decisions regarding barrages, but did not specifically address the recommendations contained in the NDSA report regarding maintaining the structures in free-flow condition.

The Minister instructed officials

to quote the relevant portions of the NDSA report accurately and include supporting technical material, including findings of the Central Water Commission (CWC), Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigations, photographs, cavity assessments beneath the raft foundation and other engineering evidence.

He said the State Government had followed every technical recommendation by the NDSA and the Ministry of Jal Shakti while conducting the investigations on the barrages to rehabilitate them in a full-fledged manner.

Issues surfaced in Annaram Barrage Raft foundation

Reviewing the ongoing rehabilitation studies, Uttam Kumar Reddy was informed that the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS)

was in the final stages of analysing the latest GPR data and other technical inputs. Water cannot be impounded at the present stage in Annaram barrage also as certain issues indicating cavities have surfaced in the raft foundation, said the officials.

Based on the available investigations, officials informed the Minister that a rehabilitation concept design for the Medigadda Barrage would be prepared by the end of August. A preliminary estimate of the rehabilitation cost would be ready by mid-September. Additional technical inputs relating to Annaram and Sundilla including an analysis of the investigation data would be available over the next two weeks. The Minister directed officials to present preliminary rehabilitation proposals before the Technical

Oversight Committee during its next meeting.

Technical Concerns Over Pumping Operations

The review also examined proposals regarding possible pumping operations during the current monsoon. Officials explained that merely having water flowing downstream did not automatically make pumping technically feasible. They informed the Minister that adequate upstream water levels could not presently be maintained.

Temporary interventions and pumping without satisfying the required hydraulic conditions could prove ineffective and might even aggravate existing structural concerns beneath the barrages.

Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated that

no operational decision would be taken on the basis of political pressure or visual assessment alone.

"Every decision must be supported by sound engineering evidence and the recommendations of competent technical authorities," he said.

Palamuru-Rangareddy Project Reviewed

The Minister also reviewed the status of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. Officials informed him that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) presently could not be processed because of issues relating to water allocations and tribunal proceedings remained unresolved. Irrigation Secretary E. Sridhar, Tunnel expert Col Parikshit Mehra and Joint Secretary K Srinivas were among those who took part in the review

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for the paper leak, and condemned the recent police action against the protesting students and youth in Delhi.

In Hyderabad, student organisations enforced the bandh at several colleges in Narayanaguda and organised a protest rally and human chain from Narayanaguda crossroads to the Y-Junction. Addressing the gathering, student leaders including Kasireddy Manikanta Reddy and Putta Lakshman (AISF), T. Nagaraju (SFI), Anil, Nagaraju and Mahesh (PDSU), Gaddam Nagarjuna and Murali (AIFDS), Hakeem Naveed (AISB), Gopal (AIPSU), Vali Ulla Khadri (AIYF), and Kota Ramesh and Venkatesh (DYFI) demanded the immediate arrest of those allegedly involved in the paper leak. The leaders alleged that the Centre had failed to ensure transparency in national-level examinations and called for the responsibility of conducting NEET to be transferred to the states. The student organisations announced that they would intensify their agitation across Telangana. Several leaders from Left-affiliated student organisations, including Rahman, Ashok Reddy, Srikanth, Javed, Chaitanya Yadav and Anil, also participated in the protest.



Students of NALSAR University Boycott Classes



■ Hold Campus March, and Resolve to Extend Legal Support to Student Protesters

HYDERABAD

Students of NALSAR University of Law assembled on campus, in response to a call issued to the educational institutions in Telangana to boycott classes in solidarity with students across the country demanding a fair, transparent, and accountable education system.

The concerns over the recent examination irregularities formed an immediate catalyst, the demonstrations reflected, as it marched, calling for broader institutional accountability and integrity of the education

system due to the systematic failure in public education.

At 9:00 am, nearly 100 students gathered in a circle of unity on campus and began preparing for the day's march. As posters were painted, slogans were written, discussions started unfolding. The atmosphere reflected solidarity and a resolve to stand with the voices of the nation and the constitution which accepts dissent from its citizens.

Students spoke about the ongoing issues and failures of public institutions, absence of meaningful accountability with the system, as can be seen by the visual reports of police brutality against peaceful protesters across the country. The slogans that echoed walls

of NALSAR, raised these concerns calling for transparency, justice, and reformation.

The march commenced at 11 a.m. and over 300 students were marching inside the campus, raising slogans and protests to reaffirm their solidarity with the student movement across India. The march continued until 1.30 p.m. The demonstration took on a greater significance with the faculty members of NALSAR joining the protest alongside the student body.

The students, alongside, staged a sit-in protest, demanding an immediate investigation into the examination irregularities, and an apology from the University. The students, alongside, staged a sit-in protest, demanding an immediate investigation into the examination irregularities, and an apology from the University.

believe were inadequately addressing the major concerns at hand regarding police brutality against peaceful protesters. The objection by the student body of NALSAR reflected its commitment to constitutional values and democratic dissent, which the Chief Justice was unable to uphold recently.

The slogans and chants in the protest were extended beyond educational reform to the lived realities of systematic and institutional apathy experienced by marginalised communities and minorities, where the action of the state is often translated into violence, surveillance, and control over the bodies that seek to exercise their constitutional rights.

Dissent was celebrated on the

grounds of NALSAR. They also emphasised that institutions, including the judiciary, should be open to constitutional criticism and public accountability. The march concluded with a public recitation of the Preamble of the Constitution of India, reaffirming the constitutional values, not only among the students but also for all those who are a part of democratic India.

The events of the day reflected the belief that legal education carried with it the responsibility to not just study the constitution, but to actively engage with the values it embodies. The student community of NALSAR University of Law reaffirmed its commitment to democratic participation, peaceful protest, and the rule of law.

Cabinet approves Rs.1,264-cr Ballari-Guntakal rail expansion project

NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved construction of the third and fourth railway lines on the Ballari-Guntakal section spanning Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The project, estimated to cost approximately Rs.1,264 crore, is aimed at enhancing rail capacity, improving logistics, and supporting regional economic growth.

Planned under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, the project focuses on strengthening multimodal connectivity through integrated planning and improved logistics efficiency. The additional railway lines will facilitate smoother movement of passengers and freight while re-

ducing congestion on the existing route.

The project will cover three districts across Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and add about 46 kilometres to the Indian Railways network. It is expected to improve connectivity for nearly 99 villages with a combined population of around seven lakh people. The enhanced rail infrastructure will also improve access to important tourist destinations, including Ballari Fort and the Sri Kumara Swamy Temple.

The Ballari-Guntakal corridor is a crucial freight route for transporting iron ore, dolomite, limestone, iron and steel, coal, fertilizers, and food grains. Upon completion, the capacity augmentation is expected to enable the movement of an additional 16.22 million tonnes of freight

annually. The government said the project will also contribute to environmental sustainability by promoting rail transport, which is more energy-efficient than road transport. It is projected to save about 1.32 crore litres of oil and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 6.67 crore kilograms, equivalent to planting approximately 27 lakh trees.

According to the government, the increased line capacity will significantly improve operational efficiency, service reliability, and mobility across the corridor while easing congestion. The project is also expected to generate employment opportunities during construction and support long-term economic development in the region.

CM Revanth greets Telangana People on Toli Ekadashi

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy extended greetings to the Telangana people on the occasion of Toli Ekadashi (July 25). Ekadashi falling in the month of Ashadha is being celebrated as the first festival of the year. The Chief Minister prayed that Toli Ekadashi would bring happiness, prosperity, and all-around auspiciousness to the lives of the state's people. Describing it as a festival for farmers, the CM expressed the hope that every farming family would celebrate the Ekadashi festival with joy.

Strict Penalties for Dumping Construction Waste in Public Places

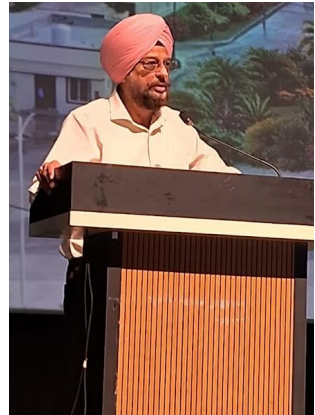
* Telangana Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government is making concerted efforts to beautify Hyderabad city. However, indiscriminate dumping of construction and demolition (C&D) waste across the city is becoming a major obstacle to its development, said Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Telangana and Chief Executive Officer of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Area Authority. He was addressed the workshop on "Construction and Demolition Waste Management - Challenges and Solutions" held at the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI) on Friday as the Chief Guest organized by Engineering staff College of India in coordination with Telangana State Control Board held at the ESCI conference hall on Friday, 24th June, 2026.

Mr. Jayesh Ranjan expressed concern that construction waste has accumulated all along the 160-kilometre Outer Ring Road (ORR) as well as the adjoining service roads, creating an unpleasant environment around the city. During the recently conducted 99-day Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalikareview, he observed that construction debris was being dumped into nearly 60 to 80 lakes, gradually filling and destroying these vital water bodies. He said witnessing this situation deeply saddened him.

Referring to the massive



construction waste dump near IKEA, he said the Government would have to spend 80 to 100 crore to remove it and questioned who should be held accountable for such negligence.

Mr. Ranjan warned that under the recently issued Government Order (G.O.) No. 626, stringent penalties will be imposed on those who dump construction waste illegally. He urged builders and contractors to transport construction waste to authorized waste processing plants, where it can be scientifically recycled into valuable construction materials.

Addressing the gathering as the Guest of Honour, Mr. G. Ravi, Member Secretary, Telangana Pollution Control Board, said that nearly 2,000 metric tonnes of construction and demolition waste are generated in Hyderabad every day, in addition to the approximately 7,000 metric tonnes of municipal solid waste produced daily. He stated that the Board has been taking stringent action against industries contributing to environmental pollution and elaborated

on the provisions of G.O. No. 626 relating to construction and demolition waste management.

Speaking on the occasion, Col. Harpal Singh Grewal, Director, Engineering Staff College of India, said cities are increasingly being burdened by construction waste comprising concrete, soil, steel, wood, bricks, plastic waste, electronic equipment, furniture and other discarded materials that accumulate in huge heaps, causing serious environmental pollution. He appealed to builders, contractors and the public to make mandatory use of authorized recycling plants for proper disposal and reuse of construction waste.

Around 300 participants, including Assistant Engineers, Environmental Engineers, Health and Sanitation Officers from various municipalities, and HYDRAA officials, attended the workshop.

Technical sessions covered various aspects of construction and demolition waste management. Ms. M. Srujana, Senior Environmental Engineer, Tel-

angana Pollution Control Board, delivered a presentation on the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, enforcement and monitoring mechanisms. Mr. Raghu Prasad, Additional Commissioner, Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation, spoke on municipal planning, collection, transportation, user charges and operational challenges of collection centres. Mr. Raghu Ram from Soma Srinivasa Reddy Engineering Construction, explained construction waste recycling technologies and quality control practices. Mr. R. Srinivasa Reddy, Superintending Engineer, GHMC, discussed the responsibilities of Urban Local Bodies in C&D waste management, while Mr. G. Venu Gopal Reddy, Additional Commissioner (Health & Sanitation), Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, also addressed the participants.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. K. Chandrakala, Head, Centre for Climate Change, ESCI, Dr. Adi Naresh, Faculty, and Ms. B. Sameera, Programme Assis

BJP NC Member Geetha Murthy visited Mantralayam

HYDERABAD

BJP National Council member Geetha Murthy visited Mantralayam, one of the most revered pilgrimage centers in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh, today.

Speaking to the media, she said that after offering prayers to Sri Raghavendra Swamy, she prayed for the nation to remain free from unrest and problems, and for the country to prosper in peace and prosperity.

She also expressed her hope that, with the blessings of Sri Sri Subudhendra Swamy, the Pontiff of the Mantralayam Mutt, all people would lead lives filled with happiness, peace, and well-being.

CPI to hold statewide protests on July 27; announces "Chalo Delhi" on Sept 1

HYDERABAD

CPI State Secretary and MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao announced that the Communist Party of India will organize protests at the District Collectorate across Telangana and at Lok Bhavan in Hyderabad on July 27 as part of a nationwide agitation.

Addressing the CPI State Extended Executive Committee meeting at Makhdoom Bhavan in Hyderabad, Sambasiva Rao said the protests would be held in solidarity with the students movement in Delhi and against the suppression of peaceful student demonstrations.

The meeting was attended by CPI National Secretaries

Palla Venkat Reddy and K Ramakrishna, National Control Commission Chairman Dr K Narayana, and was presided over by B Balakrishna, Mahabubnagar District Secretary. Dr. Narayana briefed the meeting on the national political situation.

Sambasiva Rao demanded the resignation of Union Edu-

cation Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, alleging moral responsibility over the reported examination paper leaks and their impact on students.

The CPI also announced that padayatras (foot marches) and campaign tours would be conducted across Telangana from August 6 to 14 to highlight the BJP-led Central government's anti-people policies. The party will also organize a "Chalo Delhi" (March to Delhi) programme on September 1.

In addition, the CPI said it would commemorate the Telangana Armed struggle anniversary from September 11 to 17 across the state, culminating in a massive public meeting on September 17.

CM IS JEOPARDISING FUTURE OF STUDENTS: NRR

HYDERABAD: BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today accused chief minister Revanth Reddy of jeopardizing the future of students by not clearing fee reimbursement arrears in Telangana state. Rao, in a social media post, asked since it is just politics for you when is Telangana CM Revanth Reddy resigning for jeopardizing future of over 20 lakh SC, ST, BC and EBC students by failing to clear pending fee reimbursement dues. He expressed concern that the certificates of the students have been withheld due to non-payment of fee imbursement as a result they are unable to pursue jobs or higher education.

TELECOM WORK IN KATIHAR DIVISION

Tender Notice No. : KIR-N-2026-K-18; **Dated:** 20-07-2026; **E-Tender** is invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of Work :** Telecom work in connection with provision of Machine and Plant facility for IOH/POH at STMD/New Jalpaiguri. **Tender Value:** ₹41,63,113.28/- **Earliest closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 11-08-2026.** For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender are available upto 15:00 hrs. on 11-08-2026 in website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (S&T), Katihar

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : EL-39-26, dated 23.07.2026. e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work from reputed tenderers having valid Electric contractor Licence and capable to complete the following work financially: **Name of the work with its location :** Asansol Division : Augmentation and Extension of Asansol Running Room with strengthening the existing structure and Creation of New Crew Lobby at Silarampur with Rest Room. **Tender value:** ₹ 91,22,745.94. **Earliest closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 11-08-2026.** For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender are available upto 15:00 hrs. on 11-08-2026 in website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (S&T), Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST/2026

The e-auction schedule for Sale of Scrap Lot through e-auction under the jurisdiction of GSD Pandu depot for the month of August/2026 has been fixed as per following details:-

SN	MONTH/YEAR	Auction Schedule No.	DATE/TIME
1	AUGUST/2026	GSDPNO26N2711	03-08-2026/11:00
2	AUGUST/2026	GSDPNO26N2712	19-08-2026/11:00

Interested bidders are advised to bid through IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in) for registration, training, participation in e-auction.

Sr. DMM/Lumding

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Green India Challenge Marks K. T. Rama Rao's 50th Birthday

- **with Launch of 9th Edition and Godavari Basin Restoration Mission**
- **1,000 Bamboo Saplings Planted at Babhali;**
- **9.9 Million Native Trees to be Raised Across the Godavari Basin with Five Million Volunteers**

BABHALI, DHARMABAD (NANDED DISTRICT), MAHARASHTRA

The Green India Challenge (GIC) today launched its 9th Edition with the plantation of 1,000 bamboo saplings on the banks of the Godavari River at Babhali village in Dharmabad Taluka of Nanded district, Maharashtra. The launch, held on the 50th birthday of Bharat Rashtira Samithi Working President Shri K. T. Rama Rao, marked the beginning of one of India's largest citizen-led river-basin ecological restoration initiatives.

The inaugural plantation was led by Green India Challenge Founder and former Member of Parliament Shri Joginipally Santosh Kumar in the presence of Shri Mardi Karunakar Reddy, Founder of Igniting Minds Organisation; Shri Sanjeval Raghavendra Yadav, Co-Founder of Green India Challenge; members of the Youth for Godavari movement; farmers; students; women's groups; environmentalists; local public representatives; Forest Department officials; Gram Panchayat representatives; and hundreds of volunteers.

The launch also unveiled the mission of the 9th Edition, to plant and nurture 9.9 million (99 lakh) native trees with the participation of five million volunteers across the Go-



davari, Manjara and Pranahita river basins. Plantation activities will extend along both banks of the Godavari from Basar in Telangana to Trim-bakeshwar in Maharashtra, creating a continuous green corridor aimed at strengthening river ecology, improving biodiversity and enhancing climate resilience.

A River Basin Approach to Climate Action

The decision to begin this year's campaign in Maharashtra reflects the growing climate challenges confronting the Deccan region. Marathwada has experienced nearly a 4°C rise in temperatures this year, highlighting the increasing urgency for large-scale ecological restoration. Rising temperatures, declining soil moisture, riverbank erosion and groundwater stress demand solutions that combine environmental restoration with community participation.

Recognising this challenge, Green India Challenge has adopted a river-basin restoration approach, emphasising native species capable of protecting watersheds while supporting local livelihoods.

Why Bamboo?

The campaign commenced

with the plantation of 1,000 bamboo saplings because bamboo offers both ecological and economic benefits.

Its extensive rhizome system stabilises riverbanks, prevents soil erosion, improves groundwater recharge and rapidly absorbs atmospheric carbon.

Native varieties such as Dendrocalamus strictus and Bambusa bambos, well adapted to the climatic conditions of the Deccan Plateau, will play a significant role in restoring degraded landscapes while creating sustainable income opportunities for farming communities.

A People's Movement for the Environment

Founded in 2018, Green India Challenge has grown into one of the world's largest citizen-led environmental movements. Inspired by Telangana's Haritha Haram, the movement follows its unique 3-3-3 model; plant three saplings, nurture them for three years and inspire three more people to do the same.

Without any statutory mandate, the initiative has mobilised over 44 million citizens and facilitated the plantation of more than 196 million saplings, demonstrating the transformative power of vol-



untary public participation in environmental conservation.

Youth at the Centre of the Mission

The campaign will be driven by Igniting Minds Organisation through its Youth for Godavari initiative, bringing together students, NSS and NCC volunteers, youth organisations and community groups across Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Volunteers will not only plant trees but also geo-tag plantations, monitor survival rates and ensure long-term maintenance, transforming plantation into a sustained programme of ecological stewardship and environmental education.

A Vision Beyond Plantation

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Joginipally Santosh Kumar said:

"A river is not merely a flow of water. It is sustained by its forests, nourishes its farmers and belongs to future generations. On Shri K. T. Rama Rao's fiftieth birthday, we wanted to celebrate with a gift that would outlive us all. These bamboo groves are not just plantations, they are investments in the future of the Godavari basin."

He said the ninth edition represents the next phase of Green India Challenge's journey towards its larger commitment of planting one billion trees by 15 October 2031, the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, whose vision continues to inspire the movement.

The initiative is expected to reduce soil erosion, strengthen riverbanks, improve groundwater recharge, enhance biodiversity, support wildlife habitats, increase farmers' resilience and contribute to climate moderation through expanded green cover.

Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals—SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), the Green India Challenge continues to demonstrate that meaningful climate action begins with citizens.

With today's plantation of 1,000 bamboo saplings at Babhali, the movement has formally embarked on its ninth edition, carrying forward a simple yet powerful belief: when millions of citizens plant together, rivers recover, landscapes revive and future generations inherit a greener India.

KCR Blesses Son K.T. Rama Rao on His Birthday; KTR Plants a Sapling

HYDERABAD

BRS President K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and his wife extended birthday wishes to their son, K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), former minister and BRS Working President. They blessed him with a long, healthy, and prosperous life on the occasion of his birthday.

Later, KTR spent time at the family's agricultural farm. Along with his father KCR and other family members, he planted a sapling to mark his birthday. KTR planted the sapling in solidarity with the Green India Challenge, following a request from its founder and former MP Joginapally Santosh Kumar.

The occasion was attended by KTR's wife Shailima, his son Himanshu, his daughter Riyanshi, other family members, and close associates. However, it is noteworthy that KTR stayed away



from birthday celebrations as a mark of solidarity with the youth protesting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. He also expressed his opposition to the alleged crackdown on the protesters and criticized the Central Government's rigid stance.

In this context, the BRS Students' Wing organized a protest at Indira Park Dharna Chowk

in support of students affected by the NEET paper leak. The protesters demanded that the Union Education Minister take responsibility for the incident and resign immediately.

KTR attended the protest as the chief guest and, after addressing the gathering, proceeded directly to KCR's residence in Erravelli.

Motkur-Rajannagudem Road Works Must Be Completed Within Two Months

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI



State Roads and Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has directed officials and contractors to complete the pending Motkur-Rajannagudem road construction within the next two months, warning that negligence or further delays would not be tolerated. On Friday, the Minister, accompanied by Aleru MLA and Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah, conducted a surprise inspection of the stalled road construction works in Motkur Municipality.

Speaking during the inspection, the Minister expressed concern over the series of accidents caused by the incomplete road, noting with regret that several people had already lost their

lives. He instructed contractors to ensure there were no further delays and to complete all pending works within the stipulated two-month deadline. He said that the current dry weather provided a favourable opportunity to speed up construction. The Minister directed officials to immediately complete the rolling works and begin laying the bituminous (BT) road. He emphasized that officials must monitor the work on a daily basis to ensure completion within the deadline. Komatireddy Venkat

Reddy also assured contractors that he would personally ensure the release of their bills immediately after the work is completed. Additionally, he instructed officials to prepare estimates without delay for the proposed road widening from Motkur Centre to Ammanabole.

The inspection was attended by District Collector Anurag Jayanti, R&B Superintending Engineer S. Rambabu, Deputy Engineer Surender, along with local public representatives and government officials.

Guardians of the Horizon: How Hyderabad's Defense Hub Engineered India's Sky Net

The modern geopolitical landscape demands unwavering vigilance, turning the skies above us into a critical theater of strategic deterrence. Amidst this backdrop, the LR-SAM (Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile), globally recognized as Barak-8, stands as a formidable technological shield. Developed through a high-stakes, collaborative synergy between India's premier defense research establishment, the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation), and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), this sophisticated system was engineered to neutralize a vast spectrum of complex aerial threats. Whether facing supersonic fighter jets, agile combat helicopters, hovering unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), low-flying cruise missiles, or incoming anti-ship weapons from 70 to 100 kilometers away, the Barak-8 operates with ruthless precision at speeds reaching Mach 2.

Underpinning this operational lethality are pioneering propulsion and tracking architectures. The missile relies on a sophisticated Dual Pulse Rocket Motor, which allows operators to intelligently restart or modulate propulsion mid-flight, maximizing energy during the terminal engagement phase. Coupled with an advanced Active Radar Seeker, the system ensures 360-degree multi-directional tracking and lock-on capabilities, rendering evasive maneuvers by hostile assets futile.

The journey of this defense masterpiece has been defined by a clear evolutionary timeline. It germinated from a bilateral defense agreement signed in 2006, a pact intended to insulate naval fleets from multi-vector saturation attacks. Years of rigorous design and software calibration culminated in its first successful validation test in Israel on November 10, 2014. Demonstrating its operational readiness at sea, the Indian Navy successfully test-fired the system from its frontline guided-missile destroyer, INS Kolkata, on December 29-30, 2015, followed by subsequent validations from INS Chennai off the coast of Odisha in 2019. These milestones permanently integrated the weapon into the spine of India's naval strike groups, securing absolute maritime superiority. Furthermore, this initiative acted as a massive catalyst for domestic manufacturing, empowering public sector undertakings like BDL (Bharat Dynamics Limited) and BEL (Bharat Electronics

Limited) to scale up indigenous production lines under the broader Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat frameworks, thereby saving crucial foreign exchange and building sovereign industrial capacity.

Building magnificently upon this collaborative foundation, India crossed a historic threshold in total air sovereignty with the unveiling of Project Kusha. Representing a quantum leap forward, Project Kusha is a fully indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile network designed to fundamentally reshape the subcontinent's security grid. The program achieved a monumental milestone with the successful execution of its maiden flight test on July 23, 2026, launched from the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

What makes Project Kusha a generational leap is its comprehensive three-tier defense architecture, engineered to intercept hostile aerial vectors across escalating depth zones spanning 150 km, 250 km, and 350 to 400 km. By fielding multi-layered interception ranges, this indigenous shield places India in an elite global club of nations capable of comprehensive multi-tiered airspace denial, positioning itself as a direct domestic equivalent to world-class systems like Russia's S-400. This capability forms the bedrock of India's ambitious nationwide protective grid codenamed "Mission Sudarshan Chakra."

Crucially, this entire technological evolution is deeply propelled by intellectual powerhouses and specialized defense laboratories anchored in research hubs such as Hyderabad. Home to elite institutions like the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and the Electronic Warfare Research and Development Centre (DLRL), Hyderabad serves as the cerebral engine where advanced radar algorithms, guidance software, and electronic counter-countermeasure (ECCM) protocols are conceived and tested. As scientists continuously refine these systems to counter emerging hypersonic velocities, stealth profiles, and fifth-generation electronic warfare threats, the seamless fusion of local R&D, robust public-private manufacturing partnerships, and visionary strategic planning ensures that India's airspace remains eternally guarded, impenetrable, and sovereign.

- Dr Chityala Ravinder
7798891795.



Government of Telangana Transforms Mee seva Centres into Digital Advertising Hubs Hyderabad

This new initiative helpful to Vendors, Shop keepers, Businessmen

HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana, through Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) – Mee Seva, supported by Meta, has launched a first-of-its-kind initiative to transform Mee Seva Centres into Digital Advertising Hubs, enabling small businesses across the State to grow through affordable digital marketing.

As part of the initiative, over 150 Mee seva Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) from the CURE Area were trained at Hyderabad, on creating and promoting advertisements through Meta Platforms.

The programme was attended by Sri T. Ravi Kiran, IFS, Commissioner, ESD (Mee Seva), and the Meta. The training equipped MeeSeva VLEs with practical

skills in designing advertisements, preparing promotional content, identifying target audiences and managing digital campaigns. This initiative not only supports businesses but also creates a new source of income for MeeSeva VLEs by introducing digital advertising as a value-added service.

Through this initiative, any business—from a kirana store, fruit shop, sweet shop, restaurant, pharmacy, hospital, school, salon, mechanic, electrician or plumber to startups, MSMEs and large enterprises—can simply visit their nearest MeeSeva Centre to create professional advertisements and promote their products and services on Meta platforms.

MeeSeva operators will provide complete assistance in preparing advertisement creatives, selecting the right audience and publishing campaigns, helping businesses increase visibility, attract more customers and grow at affordable costs. Speaking on the occasion, Sri T.

Ravi Kiran, IFS, Commissioner, ESD (Mee Seva), said that the collaboration reflects the Government of Telangana's commitment to empowering entrepreneurs through technology. By combining Meta's global digital advertising expertise with MeeSeva's extensive network across Telangana, the initiative makes professional digital marketing accessible even to small and rural businesses that previously had limited access to such services.

Under the leadership of IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu

This landmark collaboration positions Mee Seva in a new avatar as a Digital Advertising Hub, expanding its role beyond citizen service delivery to support entrepreneurship, strengthen Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs), generate additional livelihood opportunities for MeeSeva VLEs and contribute to the overall growth of Telangana's digital economy.

Ananda Nilayam begins construction of Rs 30-cr old-age home in Maharashtra

HYDERABAD

Non-governmental organisation Ananda Nilayam has announced the construction of a fully equipped old-age home in Maharashtra to provide care and shelter for senior citizens.

Addressing a press conference at NSS here in Hyderguda on Friday, founder and chief promoter Ganji Jagan Babu, accompanied by founding member Ashok Kante, said the facility is being built at Tadgaon village in Sudhagad Mandal of Raigad district. The project, estimated to cost Rs.30 crore, will be developed over 73,000 square feet on a five-acre campus and is designed to accommodate up to 200 elderly persons. Jagan Babu said all required

government approvals, including non-agricultural land conversion clearance, have been obtained. The project is being funded through donations from well-wishers and is eligible for income tax exemption under Section 80G, he added.

The proposed facility will include a hospital, spiritual centre, modern library and a gymnasium, and is being developed based on inputs from experts in elder care. Appealing for support, Jagan Babu invited Telugu entrepreneurs based in Maharashtra and business persons from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to partner in the initiative. He said interested donors and supporters can obtain further information by contacting the organisation through its official email admin@anadanilayam.com.

CM IS JEOPARDISING FUTURE OF STUDENTS: NRR



HYDERABAD

BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today accused chiefminister Revanth Reddy of jeopardizing the future of students by not clearing fee reimbursement arrears in Telangana state.

Rao, in a social media post, asked since it is just politics for you when is Telangana CM Revanth Reddy resigning for jeopardizing future of over 20 lakh SC, ST, BC and EBC students by failing to clear pending fee reimbursement dues. He expressed concern that the certificates of the students have been withheld due to non-payment of fee imbursement as a result they are unable to pursue jobs or higher education.

Felicitates to Village Sarpanch

KARIMNAGAR

Renowned national poet, author, multilingual scholar, and Junior Commissioned Officer in Indian Army, Dr. Peruka Raju, visited his native village and felicitated the newly elected Sarpanch, Mr. Marathi Mallik. He conveyed his heartfelt congratulations, presented him with a shawl and a bouquet, and gifted him a copy of his 13th book, a translated anthology of Indian short stories.

Expressing his gratitude for the surprise gesture, Mr. Marathi Mallik thanked Dr. Peruka Raju for the honour. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Peruka Raju said, "Political parties may differ during



elections, but after the elections, everyone should unite for the development and welfare of the village."

The programme was attended by Kunta Lachaiah, Peruka Srinu, Merupula Shankar, Irukulla Srinu, D. Mohan, Suruvu Jali, and oth-

ers. Alongside his military service and literary contributions, Dr. Peruka Raju continues to serve society through his NGO My Gift, inspired by the motto: "Encouragement is the greatest gift." His literary and social service initiatives continue to inspire many.

NEXT DOOR

Andhra Eyes Top Spot in Climate Action, Energy Conservation

VIJAYAWADA, JULY 24:

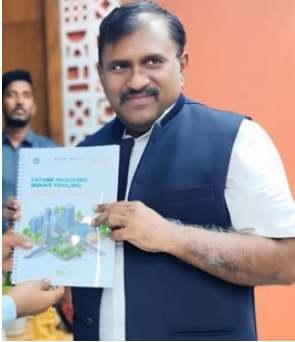
¶¶The Centre-State partnership between Andhra Pradesh and the Government of India will emerge as a national success story in energy efficiency and climate action, significantly contributing towards India's climate commitments and sustainable development goals," said the Chief Secretary, G Sai Prasad, of Andhra Pradesh. He said a bold and visionary initiative aimed at safeguarding the interests of present and future generations, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has reaffirmed its commitment to making the State India's leader in combating climate change through sustainable development, energy conservation and environmental stewardship. Declaring full support to the Union Government's mission of effective fuel management and the National Energy Conservation Movement, he said, the Andhra Pradesh Government has adopted a comprehensive multi-pronged strategy that integrates climate action with economic growth and technological advancement.

Unveiling a special report prepared by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power, on the economic and

- AP Declares Full Support to National Energy Conservation Movement for Sustainable Development
- State Adopts a Multi-Pronged, Pro-People Approach to Climate Action and Environmental Protection
- Energy Efficiency Can Contribute 40% Towards Combating Climate Change
- Centre-State Collaboration to Emerge as a National Success Story in Energy Efficiency
- Visakhapatnam Pioneered India's LED Street Lighting Revolution Nearly a Decade Ago
- Exclusive Action Plan to Scale Up Energy Efficiency and Expand Green Cover to 37% by 2030
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to Drive Andhra Pradesh's 12% Growth Vision
- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's Vision: Make Andhra Pradesh India's No.1 State in Climate Action

environmental impact of energy efficiency programmes in coordination with APSECM. The Chief Secretary said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has set an ambitious goal of making Andhra Pradesh the No.1 State in India in addressing climate change and sustainable economic development.

"Climate change is one of the greatest challenges confronting humanities today. The adverse impacts of global warming and changing climatic conditions, including the ELNiñophenomenon, underline the urgent need for governments, industries and citizens to work together in conserving energy, water and natural resources in a big way. Protecting the interests of future generations is not merely an option but a historic responsibility," he said. The Chief Minister is extremely keen to studying the fallout of El Nino effect and urgent need to create a massive awareness campaign in adverse weather conditions.



The Chief Secretary said keeping in view of Global Climatic conditions the State Government has adopted a pro-people approach that balances economic sustainability with environmental benefits through targeted interventions across key sectors.

As part of its climate action strategy, Andhra Pradesh will aggressively promote global best practices and advanced technologies developed by organisations such as the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), EESL and CESL under the Ministry of Power. The initiatives will be implemented on a saturation basis across

key sectors, including Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Housing, Education, Transport, Anganwadi Centres, MSMEs and Social Welfare institutions.

The State has already achieved nearly 37 per cent renewable energy capacity, out of its total installed power generation capacity of 21,457 MW. Taking this further, State has set an ambitious target of generating 160 GW of renewable energy through the New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP) under energy department.

Recognising water conservation as integral to climate resilience, the Government is accelerating a special irrigation action plan focusing on major river projects, canal modernisation and sustainable water management practices.

Further, AP has set a target of increasing its green cover from the present level of

around 30 per cent to 37 per cent by 2030 and 50 per cent by 2047, reinforcing its commitment towards ecological conservation and sustainable development.

Chief Secretary has emphasized the need for Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Mission (APSECM), the State's designated agency for expediting extensive public participation programmes backed by exclusive communication strategies to educate citizens at the grassroots level about the significance of achieving climate goals through energy efficiency. Energy efficiency alone contributes nearly 40 per cent towards addressing climate change while simultaneously accelerating economic development.

Emphasising the Chief Minister's vision of achieving a 12 per cent economic growth rate, the Chief Secretary said advanced technologies in energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation and fuel management will play a

transformative role in realising this goal.

"Energy is Life. Conserve it and use it judiciously. Every unit of energy saved is a contribution towards building a sustainable future for our coming generations," he remarked. The Chief Secretary recalled that the State Government had proactively entered into key agreements with EESL in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal in Vijayawada, which were subsequently strengthened during the CII Summit in Visakhapatnam.

He noted that Visakhapatnam had earned national recognition as the gateway for LED street-lighting technology after successfully implementing one of the country's pioneering energy-efficient street lighting projects in collaboration with EESL nearly a decade ago. The Vizagmodel has since been replicated by several metropolitan cities across India, yielding significant energy and economic benefits. Building on this legacy, the Urban Development Department is now poised to create a national record by launching India's largest LED Smart Street Lighting System in the State

Corruption allegations surface in KPSC veterinary officer recruitment

Candidates have accused middlemen of seeking up to Rs 80 lakh to sway KPSC veterinary officer recruitment. Veterinary doctors then protested in Bengaluru, calling for a fair and transparent inquiry.

Serious allegations of corruption have emerged in the recruitment of 400 Veterinary Officer posts by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), with candidates claiming that middlemen demanded up to Rs 80 lakh to influence the final selection process.

Candidates alleged that the recruitment for 342 regular posts and 58 backlog vacancies was manipulated through agents. They have released audio recordings, photographs and videos, including purported conversations involving alleged middlemen, as part of what they described as a sting operation.

Veterinary doctors staged a protest outside the Vidhana Soudha Police Station, demanding a fair and transparent investigation into the alleged recruitment scam.

Trinamool names Saugata Roy Lok Sabha deputy leader amid rebellion

The Trinamool Congress has named Saugata Roy its deputy leader in the Lok Sabha. The move fills a vacancy caused by defections and steadies the party's shaken parliamentary ranks.

The Trinamool Congress on Friday appointed veteran parliamentarian Saugata Roy as its deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, filling a key post that had fallen vacant after Satabdi Roy joined the rebel camp that broke away from the party. The appointment comes at a time of major organisational changes in the TMC's parliamentary ranks after 20 MPs rebelled and later aligned with the Nationalist

Conservative Party of India, leading to changes in the party's leadership structure in Parliament. Satabdi Roy had been serving as the TMC's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha before joining the rebel camp, making it necessary for the party to name a replacement. Saugata Roy is among the TMC's most senior and experienced parliamentarians and has been a prominent voice for the party in the Lok Sabha on a range of political and policy issues. A retired physics professor, Roy is a five-time Lok Sabha MP and currently represents West Bengal's Dum Dum constituency. He first entered the Lok Sabha in 1977 from Barrackpore and later served as an MLA for five consecutive terms from 1987 to 2009.

Union Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu resigns

Union Minister of State for Railways, Ravneet Singh Bittu has resigned from the Union Council of Ministers, with President Droupadi Murmu accepting his resignation with immediate effect, according to a press communique issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday.



Assembly elections scheduled for next year. Shortly after his resignation was accepted, Bittu thanked President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving him the opportunity to serve as a Minister of State in the Government of India. "I express my heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji and Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for giving me the opportunity to serve the nation as Minister of State in the Government of India. It has been an honour to serve the people of India, especially my beloved Punjab. I remain committed to the ideals of service, nationalism, and the vision of a Viksit Bharat under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. My journey of public service continues with renewed dedication," Bittu said in a post on X. The development comes as the Bharatiya Janata Party

gears up for the 2027 Punjab Legislative Assembly elections. The BJP has ruled out an alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal and plans to contest the polls independently. During his visit to Punjab earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi targeted the Shiromani Akali Dal, accusing it of serving its own "selfish interests" and caring "nothing for the people of Punjab." Ravneet Singh Bittu is the grandson of former Punjab Chief Minister and Congress leader Beant Singh. A three-time Lok Sabha MP from the Congress, he joined the BJP in 2024 ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. In the 2017 Assembly elections, Bittu contested on a Congress ticket against Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and Aam Aadmi Party leader Bhagwant Mann. He lost the election to Badal and finished third behind Mann. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Bittu contested on a BJP ticket for the first time but lost to Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring by a margin of 20,942 votes.

The BJP is looking to improve its performance in Punjab after winning just two seats in the 2022 Assembly elections, in which the Aam Aadmi Party secured 92 of the 117 seats.

CM Proposes Special Bureau for Traffic Management and Road Safety

HYDERABAD, JULY 24

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to establish a Special Bureau for Traffic Management and Road Safety to oversee traffic regulation and improve road safety across Telangana. Chairing a high-level review meeting on traffic management, road safety, anti-drug measures, and public security at the MCR HRD Institute on Friday, the Chief Minister instructed officials to conduct a comprehensive study before finalizing the bureau's organizational structure. He said the bureau should review traffic management strategies every two to three months and recommend measures for improving traffic flow. The Chief Minister stressed that imposing rules alone would not solve traffic problems and called for greater emphasis on systematic traffic regulation. He directed officials to prepare traffic management plans by considering factors such as weather conditions, working hours, and peak traffic periods. He also instructed that traffic impact studies should be conducted before developing new infrastructure projects. Expressing concern over frequent



accidents on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) due to vehicles being parked indiscriminately, Revanth Reddy asked officials to take strict preventive measures and ensure continuous monitoring to prevent unauthorized parking. He observed that closely spaced traffic signals in the city's core urban areas were causing severe congestion and suggested constructing underpasses and elevated corridors wherever necessary to move towards a signal-free traffic system. He also directed officials to study the implementation of a smart traffic signalling system to improve vehicle movement.

Tough Stand on Drugs

The Chief Minister also instructed officials to adopt a zero-tolerance approach toward drug abuse in the state.

Reviewing anti-drug initiatives and security measures, he said the government was committed to cracking down

on narcotics and called for stricter regulations to curb drug use and trafficking. Revanth Reddy proposed making educational institutions accountable for preventing drug abuse on campuses. He suggested obtaining declarations from students regarding drug use and making school and college managements responsible for ensuring drug-free campuses. In government institutions, principals should be held accountable, he said. The Chief Minister asked officials to examine the possibility of introducing rules that would hold educational institutions responsible for any drug-related incidents occurring on campus. He also proposed creating a system to gather intelligence on drug-related activities taking place outside campuses and assigning both authority and responsibility to educational institutions to address the issue. He directed institutions to establish dedicated units to monitor behavioural changes among students and recommended setting up toll-free helplines and QR codes on campuses to enable anonymous reporting of drug-related information.

The Chief Minister outlined a three-pronged

strategy to combat drug abuse:

- Identify individuals using drugs.
- Provide rehabilitation and de-addiction support to drug users.
- Take stringent action against drug suppliers and traffickers.

He further directed that first-time offenders caught using drugs should be referred to de-addiction centres, while repeat offenders should face stricter legal action. If necessary, the government should study the feasibility of introducing a new law to strengthen action against drug offenses.

The review meeting was attended by Government Advisers Sudarshan Reddy and Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, DGP C.V. Anand, Principal Secretaries to the Chief Minister N. Sridhar and V. Seshadri, Special Chief Secretary (R&B) Vikas Raj, Finance Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Transport Commissioner Ilambarathi, Education Secretary Yogita Rana, School Education Director Naveen Nicolas, along with senior officials from various government departments and the police.

Haryana Cong says Phase 1 of 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' campaign successfully conducted

CHANDIGARH: (JUL 24)

Haryana Congress President Rao Narendra Singh on Friday said the first phase of the party's "Chhatron Ki Goonj" campaign and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) awareness drive has been successfully completed.

Under the guidance of Haryana Congress in-charge Sanjay Dutt, the campaign was conducted from July 19 to 23, during which extensive public outreach, organisational meetings, and interactions with party workers were successfully organised across various districts of the state, he said in a statement.

Last month, the Congress had announced a 40-day nationwide "Chhatron Ki Goonj" (Voice of Students) campaign to press for reforms in the examination system and highlight issues of paper leaks, other irregularities and unemployment.

Southern Railway Unveils Three Digital Solutions

CHENNAI, JULY 24

Shri R.N. Singh, General Manager, Southern Railway, today launched three indigenously developed digital applications – e-TSR (Electronic Train Signal Register), RBMS (Railway Block Management System) and DOST (Delivering Occupational Safety on Track) – at a function held at Southern Railway Headquarters, today 24th July, 2026 Conceived and developed in-house, the three solutions together digitise some of the most safety-critical routines of day-to-day railway working – the recording of train signal events, the sanctioning and management of engineering blocks, and the protection of staff working on and near run-

**Staff-friendly applications to make train operations safer, smarter and paperless
General Manager Shri R.N. Singh launches these initiatives from the Southern Railway Headquarters**

ning lines. They mark a significant step in Southern Railway's transition from paper-based practices to a connected, real-time digital operating environment. Speaking on the occasion, the General Manager observed that technology in the railways must ultimately serve the men and women who run the system, and that these applications have been designed around the needs of the field staff – the Station Master, the Controller, the Section Engineer and the trackman – to reduce drudgery, eliminate avoidable error and, above all, to safeguard lives.

e-TSR – Electronic Train Signal Register

The e-TSR replaces the conventional paper Train Signal Register maintained at stations with a secure electronic register. Train movement events are generated directly from data logger inputs and time stamps are captured automatically, substantially reducing manual error while saving time and paper.

The important aspects of this initiative are

- Digitisation of the conventional paper Train Signal Register.
- Generation of train movement events using data logger data, with auto-capture of time stamps.
- Fully compatible with Ab-

solute, Automatic and Slot working systems.

- Facility for red-link entries with corresponding entries in remarks.
- Provision for manual entry during fall-back conditions.
- Integration with the RBMS App for auto-generation of Line, Power and S&T block entries.

This e-TSR register eliminates manual paper working by auto capturing the events and their timings, making the job of Station Masters simpler and allows them to handle the trains more efficiently and to serve the public better.

RBMS – Railway Block Management System App

The RBMS App provides a complete, paperless digital solution for end-to-end management of railway blocks, from the initial request to final closure. A real-time workflow covers request, sanctioning, availing, extension and cancellation of Line, Power and S&T blocks, with algorithm-based optimisation of block planning.

The important aspects of this initiative are

- Platform-agnostic application that digitises and automates the entire block management process.
- Role-specific dashboards with role-based access and OTP authentication.
- MIS reports with a range of

performance indices.

- Location and geo-fencing features, with inhibition of multiple Station Master logins.
- Flexibility in modifying block timings and archiving of completed blocks.
- Robust integration with e-TSR.

DOST – Delivering Occupational Safety on Track (Phase I) DOST addresses one of the most serious safety concerns on the Indian Railways – the protection of staff working on or near running lines. The system correlates live train movement information drawn from the signalling network with the GPS location of field

staff, and generates advanced critical alerts to warn them of approaching trains.

The important aspects of this initiative are

- Real-time graded alerts (Yellow and Red) with location-aware protection.
- Audio, visual, flasher and vibration alerts for reliable warning in noisy track environments.
- Multilingual voice alerts for ease of use by field staff.
- Incident reporting and emergency SOS facility.
- Train feedback and continuous connectivity monitoring.

Empowering Our People, Strengthening Railways Taken together, the three initiatives are expected to deliver enhanced safety for Railway staff

and train operations, smarter operations through reduced manual intervention, real-time awareness enabling better and faster decision-making, higher efficiency in block management, and a decisive step towards a safer, smarter and seamlessly connected digital railway. The applications will directly benefit Railway Supervisors, Controllers, Station Masters, and Engineering, Signal & Telecommunication and Track maintenance staff across the Zone. Southern Railway has consistently been a torch bearer of innovations to the Indian Railways, and the launch of e-TSR, RBMS and DOST reaffirms the Zone's commitment to harnessing technology in the service of safety, efficiency and the welfare of its workforce.



EDITORIAL

A Promised Shield:
Navigating India’s
Dengue Vaccine Era

For decades, India’s annual battle against dengue has followed a grimly predictable script, as post-monsoon hospital wards across the country swell with patients suffering from high fevers, plunging platelet counts, and the debilitating pain that gives “breakbone fever” its fearsome reputation. Vector management—fogging streets and checking stagnant water—has historically served as our primary shield, yet with rapid urban density expanding and climate shifts altering mosquito breeding patterns, physical and chemical controls have clearly reached their natural limits. The approval of Takeda’s tetravalent live-attenuated vaccine, Qdenga (TAK-003), by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), along with promising domestic candidates in late-stage trials, marks a monumental shift in this national health effort, transitioning a nation that accounts for nearly a third of the global dengue burden from purely reactive treatment to active immunization. Understanding why a dengue vaccine took decades to reach Indian shores requires looking at the unique nature of the virus itself, which consists of four distinct viral serotypes (DENV-1 through DENV-4). While a primary infection with one strain offers lifelong protection against that specific type, a secondary infection with a different serotype carries a heightened risk of severe dengue through antibody-dependent enhancement. This biological challenge famously compromised earlier candidate rollouts like Dengvaxia, which required pre-vaccination blood screening to ensure recipients had previously contracted dengue, whereas Qdenga’s primary clinical advantage lies in its broad accessibility for individuals aged 4 to 60 regardless of prior exposure. However, translating this regulatory approval into meaningful public health equity presents major structural hurdles, beginning with the complex dynamic of shifting serotypes across India’s vast geography. Global clinical trials indicate that while Qdenga provides robust protection against DENV-1 and DENV-2, its overall efficacy against DENV-3 and DENV-4 in dengue-naïve populations is comparatively lower, making continuous nationwide post-marketing surveillance essential as regional serotypes fluctuate. Additionally, adherence presents a logistical hurdle because the recommended regimen requires two doses spaced three months apart, demanding dedicated public health tracking and patient outreach to ensure full coverage before peak monsoon transmission begins. Economic accessibility also remains a pivotal question; while manufacturing partnerships with domestic bio-pharmaceutical leaders like Biological E help secure local supply and reduce production costs, central authorities must decide whether to integrate the vaccine directly into the Universal Immunization Programme for high-burden regions or leave it primarily to the private market where cost barriers could leave marginalized populations unprotected. Ultimately, a medical breakthrough is a powerful tool rather than an isolated panacea, and immunizations cannot clean clogged urban drains, clear stagnant rainwater, or replace municipal sanitation efforts. A vaccine protects the individual host while municipal sanitation targets the vector, meaning medical innovation and urban infrastructure must operate in tandem. To truly turn the tide against one of its most persistent seasonal threats, India must integrate this landmark vaccine into a broader, well-funded public health strategy that combines targeted regional rollouts with unyielding vector control and civic sanitation.



FOR MOM

The Adivasi was never just the hills
Not the one who hunts for trophies with steel,
But a child of soil, of breathless nights,
Who guards the stars while others heal.

He doesn’t kill for sport or fame,
His silence louder than a scream,
His heartbeat drums the mountain’s pulse,
His eyes still hold a childhood dream.

We all long for love’s warm hand,
A home, a hearth, a lullaby
But some, like pots of Diwali clay,
Break in truth beneath the sky.

They smile — but it reeks of masks,
A stench that peace cannot disguise.
Tension... tension... the trigger speaks.
And gunshots bloom like fireflies.

So he left behind sweet Kannavur,
Where rice fields dance and sparrows sing,
Where Amma’s voice, like temple bells,
Once soothed his soul with every ring.

But now, he stands at a cursed line —
Where borders bleed and reasons blur,
Where even justice feels unjust,
And silence shivers in the stir.

Forgive him, Ma.
He chose the cold over your flame,
Snow over sandalwood and rain.
But every bullet carries you —
Your warmth, your name, your sacred pain.

So smile, my mother, smile and pray,
For he breathes for you through death’s decay.
He walks the edge, he bears the scar
He’s your moon beneath this war.

He lives for you.
He kills for you.
He dies... for you.

The soldier.
Your son.



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



Special on International Self-Care Day (24 July)

Self-Care: The Indian Vision of
Holistic Health and Human Flourishing



At this stage of human civilization, while science, technology, and material resources have advanced at an unprecedented pace, humanity has become increasingly entangled in stress, anxiety, unhealthy lifestyles, and a growing burden of lifestyle diseases. Ironically, modern people find time for almost everything in the world except themselves. They diligently fulfill their responsibilities toward family, society, profession, and nation, yet continue to neglect their responsibility toward their own body, mind, and soul. In this context, International Self-Care Day, observed every year on 24 July, is far more than a health awareness campaign. It is a global reminder to embrace a balanced, meaningful, and compassionate way of life. It reinforces the truth that a healthy society, a prosperous nation, and a peaceful world can only be built when every individual considers self-care as a primary responsibility. Initiated in 2011 by the International Self-Care Foundation, the observance emphasizes that self-care is not confined to a single day. Rather, it is a way of life that should be practiced 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Self-care extends far beyond preventing illness or undergoing periodic medical check-ups. In its true sense, it means nurturing and safeguarding the body, mind, emotions, thoughts, and spirit. The World Health Organization (WHO) also recognizes that when individuals adopt balanced lifestyles, nutritious diets, regular physical activity, mental wellness practices, and preventive healthcare, unnecessary pressure on health-care systems is significantly reduced, resulting in healthier societies. However, medical interventions alone cannot ensure complete well-being. True health remains incomplete without mental equilibrium, ethical awareness, and spiritual peace. One of the greatest paradoxes of our time is that while humanity has become increasingly modern externally, it has grown more restless internally. Fierce competition, consumerism, and uncontrolled ambition have robbed life of its simplicity. Stress is no longer confined to workplaces; it has entered homes, schools, and even childhood. Consequently, depression, hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and other lifestyle disorders have emerged as major global concerns. In such circumstances, self-care is no longer merely a personal necessity—it has become a social and national responsibility.

From the Indian perspective, self-care is

not a modern concept. It has always been an integral part of India’s timeless civilizational wisdom. Thousands of years ago, Indian philosophy proclaimed: “Shariram Adyam Khalu Dharma Sadhanam” “The body is indeed the primary instrument for the pursuit of all noble duties.” Indian thought has never restricted health to physical fitness alone. It has consistently regarded harmony among the body, mind, intellect, and soul as the true foundation of holistic well-being. Ayurveda, Yoga, meditation, pranayama, fasting, self-discipline, non-violence, and a sattvic lifestyle all emerge from this comprehensive vision. In India, health and spirituality have never been separate disciplines; they have always complemented one another. Today, as the world increasingly embraces Yoga for physical and mental wellness, it is essential to remember that Yoga is far more than a form of exercise—it is a complete philosophy of life. Yoga strengthens the body, pranayama calms the mind, meditation purifies consciousness, and spirituality provides direction and purpose to life.

Likewise, the Jain principles of self-restraint, non-violence (Ahimsa), Preksha Meditation, and self-observation; the Buddhist practice of Vipassana; and the Bhagavad Gita’s philosophy of equanimity all cultivate inner health and lasting peace. This spiritual heritage of India has become one of humanity’s greatest needs in the twenty-first century. If self-care is to become an integral part of everyday life, it must be embraced not merely as a health practice but as a philosophy of living. Morning walks, regular yoga, meditation, self-study, listening to spiritual discourses, balanced and

disciplined, value-oriented, and socially responsible. A society burdened by illness and chronic stress cannot build a prosperous nation. Healthy citizens are naturally more productive, creative, and capable of contributing meaningfully to nation-building. Therefore, self-care should become an essential component of India’s development strategy. Schools, colleges, workplaces, and community organizations must actively promote yoga, meditation, mental health awareness, and healthy lifestyle education. India is steadily progressing toward its aspiration of becoming a Vishwaguru—a global guide. However, becoming a world leader is not merely about economic or military strength; it is about offering humanity a higher way of living. Throughout history, India has shared with the world the timeless values of non-violence, compassion, coexistence, Yoga, and spirituality. Today, it has the opportunity to present another transformative message: “Global Well-Being Through Self-Care.” If India inspires every individual across the world to dedicate a small portion of each day to nurturing the body, calming the mind, and enriching the soul, self-care will evolve from a personal health practice into a foundation for global peace.

Ahimsa does not simply mean refraining from harming others. Neglecting one’s own body and mind is also a form of violence against oneself. Irregular lifestyles, addiction, chronic stress, uncontrolled anger, unhealthy eating habits, and disregard for nature’s laws all constitute forms of self-harm. In this sense, self-care is the first step toward practicing Ahimsa. A person who treats oneself with care naturally becomes

more compassionate toward others. Consequently, self-care nurtures harmony within families, social cohesion within communities, and peace across the world. Today, humanity faces enormous challenges, including climate change, pandemics, mental health crises, and lifestyle-related diseases. These cannot be overcome solely through hospitals, medicines, and technology. They demand profound changes in lifestyle, self-discipline, and spiritual awakening. India possesses thousands of years of wisdom in Yoga, Ayurveda, meditation, naturopathy, wholesome nutrition, and spiritual living. When integrated with modern scientific knowledge, these timeless traditions can become a priceless gift to humanity.

The central message of International Self-Care Day is therefore clear: every individual must become the first guardian of their own health. Doctors, hospitals, and medicines remain indispensable, but they are most effective when individuals accept responsibility for their own well-being. By dedicating a little time each day to Yoga for the body, meditation for the mind, self-study for the intellect, and spiritual contemplation for the soul, one can profoundly transform both the direction and quality of life. Today, India must aspire not only to a “Fit India” but also to a “Spiritually Fit India,” “Mentally Healthy India,” and a “Compassionate India.” Such an India will truly represent a developed nation—one that illuminates the world through its spiritual wisdom, the transformative power of Yoga, the culture of Ahimsa, and the philosophy of holistic health. When India proclaims that “The first step toward healing the world is to heal oneself,” the true purpose of International Self-Care Day will be fulfilled. India will then emerge as a genuine Vishwaguru, guiding humanity not merely toward material progress, but toward a life that is balanced, healthy, peaceful, and spiritually enriched.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

ANU GUPTA’S DEMISE LEAVES A VOID IN
REAL ESTATE WORLD AND BEYOND

The Delhi real estate fraternity is mourning the untimely demise of Anu Gupta, a formidable and respected name in the realty world of Delhi and the National Capital Region. Her passing on 16 July has left colleagues, clients, friends and family deeply saddened. Known for her professionalism, integrity and warm approach to business, she earned the enduring respect of many during her years in the sector. Her demise marks the end of a remarkable journey that touched countless lives, both personally and professionally.



As Director of the real estate consultancy firm 21 Century DGS, which she built brick by brick alongside her husband, Dr. Devinder Gupta, Anu Gupta was widely admired for her commitment to excellence and her rare ability to forge lasting relationships. In an industry driven by trust and credibility, she established a reputation for honesty, transparency and genuinely customer-centric service. Whether guiding first-time homebuyers, advising seasoned investors or assisting commercial clients, she offered thoughtful coun-

sel and dependable support that went far beyond transactional advice. Clients frequently spoke of leaving her office not only with clearer options but with a sense of reassurance that their aspirations were understood and respected.

An alumni of Khalsa College for Women, Ludhiana, Anu Gupta played a pivotal role in strengthening 21 Century DGS’s presence in Delhi’s intensely competitive real estate market. Her leadership combined sharp business acumen with genuine empathy, enabling her to connect meaningfully with people while upholding exacting professional standards. She firmly believed that real estate was never merely about buying and selling property. For her, it was about helping individuals and families achieve their dreams, secure their futures and create spaces in which lives could unfold with dignity and stability. This philosophy informed every interaction and set her apart in a field often criticised for opacity and short-term thinking.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Anu Gupta was remembered for her approachable nature and quiet willingness to support those around her. Colleagues recall her as a mentor who actively encouraged teamwork and believed in creating opportunities for younger professionals to grow. Her positive outlook, steady dedication and refusal to compromise on values inspired many who were just beginning their careers in real estate. She treated every member of her team with respect, listened carefully, and celebrated collective successes without seeking the spotlight for herself.

Together with her husband, Dr. Devinder Gupta, the couple became recognised as a prominent and admired pair whose contributions extended well beyond individual transactions. Their shared commitment to ethical practices and professional excellence earned them widespread regard across the real estate community. They demonstrated that commercial success and personal integrity need not be mutually exclusive, and that long-term relationships built on trust ultimately prove more valuable than any single deal.

Outside the office and the family, Anu Gupta remained a devoted and active member of the Sanatan Dharam Mandir in Greater Kailash-2. As a devout Hindu, she helped the needy with characteristic generosity and a ready smile. Born into a prestigious Jain family in Ludhiana, she moved to Delhi after marriage yet never lost her grounding in Punjabi values. In a conversation with this writer she once observed, with characteristic quiet insight, that unlike many

in the Punjabi community of Delhi, Punjabis in Punjab itself tend to remain unflashy and deeply grounded. That observation revealed much about her own character: successful yet unpretentious, rooted yet open, traditional yet progressive in her outlook.

The news of her passing has prompted an outpouring of heartfelt condolences from friends, associates and well-wishers across the city and beyond. Many have remembered her not only as a successful business leader but as a compassionate individual who treated everyone with dignity and respect. Her ability to balance demanding professional responsibilities with authentic human connection made her stand out in an increasingly competitive and sometimes impersonal business environment. In an industry where relationships can be fleeting, she cultivated bonds that endured.

Noted journalist V. Behl has observed that Anu Gupta’s legacy will continue through the values she championed— integrity, dedication and service. The impact of her work will be reflected in the many lives she touched, the relationships she nurtured and the quiet confidence she inspired among clients and colleagues alike. Her contribution to the Delhi and NCR real estate sector will be remembered with lasting gratitude and respect.

As family, friends and the wider real estate fraternity bid her a final farewell, they celebrate a life devoted to hard work, compassion and professional excellence. While her absence will be deeply felt in boardrooms, client meetings and community gatherings, her memory will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of knowing and working with her. Anu Gupta leaves behind a legacy of trust, thoughtful leadership and everyday kindness that will endure for years to come. In the stories shared by those she guided, the standards she upheld and the quiet generosity she practised, her influence remains a living presence in the world she helped shape.



VIVEK SHUKLA



BJP URGED
GOVT TO
IMPLEMENT
ANTI-COW
SLAUGHTER
ACT STRICTLY
HYDERABAD, JULY 24

BJP Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao today urged the state Cong government to strictly implement the Anti-Cow Slaughter Act in the state and appealed to every section of society to participate in preventing cow slaughter. Rao who visited Sri Hanuman Goshala in Bairamalguda, LB Nagar , said cow is the foundation of Sanatan dharma and anti-cow slaughter laws must be strictly enforced. He stated that the Holy Cow (Go-mata) holds the highest place in Indian culture and Sanatana Dharma. He mentioned that it is our duty to worship the cow, which continuously contributes to the well-being of humanity in the form of milk, dairy, and natural fertilizers.

Patna Police
Release Photos
of Over 100
Suspects

Linked to Violent Student Protest Accused may be imprisoned for 5 years, along with heavy fines

Patna, July 24: Patna Police have released photographs of more than 100 individuals allegedly involved in the recent violent student protest in the city as part of efforts to identify and apprehend those responsible for the unrest. According to the police, the accused are suspected of participating in violence, vandalism, and attacks on law enforcement personnel during the protest. Authorities have appealed to the public to help identify the individuals shown in the released images and provide any relevant information. Police officials have warned that those found guilty under the applicable provisions of law could face imprisonment of up to five years, along with substantial fines and other legal action. The investigation is ongoing, and further arrests are expected based on the evidence collected. Officials also stated that strict action will be taken against anyone involved in the violence to ensure accountability and maintain law and order.

Misquoted: CJI on 'don't have time to watch videos' remark amid protest crackdown

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Friday said he had been "misquoted" over his courtroom remarks on hearing pleas related to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protests, asserting that the Supreme Court remains "open 24x7 for every seeker of justice" and never refuses to hear any properly filed matter. Speaking on the sidelines of the UNCITRAL conference, the CJI said he had been "misquoted" over his courtroom remarks and stressed that the Supreme Court responds to every properly filed petition, irrespective of the nature of the case. "I have been misquoted in the media," the CJI said. Emphasising the accessibility of the apex court, he said, "The Supreme Court is open 24x7 for every seeker of justice. Whosoever has any grievance is most welcome, but they need to come within the prescribed format and the manner in which petitions are filed in the Supreme Court." Referring to petitions connected to the ongoing protests, the CJI noted that matters mentioned before the court on Friday had already been listed for hearing. "There were petitions mentioned today which are being heard on Monday," he said. The CJI said the two petitions filed on Friday had already been listed after being mentioned before the court, adding that matters are



automatically listed once procedural defects are cured. "If there is an extreme urgency, I do entertain those requests," he said. The controversy stems from remarks made by the CJI on Wednesday while declining an urgent mention of a plea seeking the Supreme Court's intervention over the police crackdown on student protesters at the CJP's sit-in. During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel referred to videos purportedly showing police excesses and urged the court to intervene. Responding, the Chief Justice said, "We are not interested in videos; we don't have time to watch." The bench also declined to take up the matter immediately, saying the petition could not be heard merely because a letter had been sent to the court. **COURT OPEN BUT FOLLOW PROCEDURES** However, he underlined that while the court remains open to everyone, judicial procedures must be followed. "People should not expect every letter addressed to the Supreme Court to be entertained as a petition.

Akhilesh Slams 'Foodbandi' Advisory Near Jantar Mantar

Akhilesh Yadav criticised Delhi Police for regulating food delivery and app-based services around Jantar Mantar during the CJP protest. The restrictions, imposed under Section 163, have disrupted services and triggered opposition criticism amid tighter security in central Delhi.



TO REGULATE In an advisory, the Delhi Traffic Police directed app-based mobility and delivery platforms to regulate their services within the notified area until further orders. The advisory applies to ride-hailing services, food delivery platforms, quick-commerce operators, logistics firms and other e-commerce services. In view of the prohibitory orders under Section 163 BNSS, 2023, citizens are advised to avoid unnecessary travel to the notified area and use alternate routes wherever possible. App-based mobility, ride-hailing, food delivery, logistics and e-commerce pic.twitter.com/k3mYGUo152—Delhi Traffic Police (@dtptraffic) July 24, 2026 According to the police, the restrictions have been imposed to maintain public order and ensure the safety of delivery partners, drivers and commuters in view of the ongoing law-and-order situation. Authorities also advised the public to avoid travelling to the affected areas unless necessary.

TRADERS REQUEST STORES TO STAY SHUT Separately, the New Delhi Traders Association on Thursday had issued an advisory requesting shopkeepers, office establishments and restaurant owners in Connaught Place to shut their establishments by 6.30 pm. The association said the advisory was issued following guidance from the Chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), citing security arrangements and traffic restrictions linked to the protest. The CJP's agitation at Jantar Mantar has continued for several days, prompting heightened security measures, multi-layered barricading and traffic diversions across central Delhi as authorities seek to prevent any deterioration in the law-and-order situation.

NFR Strengthens Freight Services

Maligaon, 24 July, 2026 Northeast Railway (NFR) has introduced several customer-focused initiatives to improve freight services while boosting freight revenue across its network. These measures are aimed at making cargo movement faster, more efficient and more convenient for customers. To expand parcel handling facilities, Narangi Station under Lumding Division has been opened for booking and handling both inward and outward leased parcels, advance booking of parcel space in SLRs and Parcel Vans and indented parcel traffic with effect from 10 th June 2026. In another step towards streamlining freight operations, the chargeable inter-distance for the newly constructed Broad-Gauge stations on the Balurghat - Hilli section under Katihar Division has been approved from 23 rd June 2026, ensuring smoother freight movement. NFR has also

recorded impressive freight loading across its divisions. Alipurduar Division loaded six rakes (252 wagons) of maize, generating Rs. 4.22 crore in freight revenue. Katihar Division loaded 39 rakes of maize, earning Rs. 23.53 crore. Lumding Division also registered strong performance by booking 1,712 wagons of stone chips, generating Rs. 6.97 crore in revenue. In addition, 2,420 wagons of cement were loaded, contributing Rs. 9.89 crore, while loading of 444 wagons of Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants generated another Rs. 4.08 crore. These initiatives reflect NFR's continued efforts to improve customer experience by expanding freight facilities, strengthening logistics infrastructure and ensuring efficient cargo movement. By creating more opportunities for businesses to use rail transport, NFR remains committed to supporting regional trade, economic growth and reliable freight services across the region.

Massive NTA Purge: 47 Axed Post-NEET Leak

47 NTA Officials Terminated in Major Crackdown After NEET Paper Leak
NEW DELHI, JULY 24:

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has terminated 47 officials in a major crackdown as part of a comprehensive overhaul of the agency following the NEET-UG paper leak controversy. Legal and criminal action will also be initiated against some of the officials, according to official sources. The action comes amid nationwide protests over the examination scandal, which led to the cancellation of the NEET-UG exam held in May and a re-test in June. The Centre said the overhaul aims to eliminate irregularities and prevent future paper leaks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday reiterated that protecting the future of students is the government's top priority and announced the setting up of fast-track courts for speedy trials in paper leak cases. He said those responsible for compromising the future of the country's youth would face strict punishment. In a related move, the Centre has reshuffled senior officials in the Education Ministry. Naresh

Pal Gangwar has been appointed Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, while T.K. Anil Kumar will head the Department of School Education. Former Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi has been transferred to the Department of Panchayati Raj. The Union Cabinet has also approved amendments to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which are expected to be introduced in Parliament next week to strengthen the legal framework against examination fraud. Meanwhile, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda and Union Minister Jitendra Singh met representatives of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), which has been leading protests over the issue. The government assured the delegation that their demands and reform proposals would be considered. The latest measures are part of the Centre's efforts to restore confidence in the country's examination system and ensure strict accountability for those involved in examination malpractices.

Creating Hopes, Advancing Fertility, Transforming Lives

(On the occasion of “World IVF (or Embryologist) Day” on 25 July)

The “World IVF Day”, also known as “World Embryologist Day” is celebrated on 25 July annually to mark the birth anniversary of the first IVF (In Vito Fertilisation) baby, ‘Louise Brown’ on 25 July 1978. This historic birth in England was the result of the pioneering work of ‘Dr Patrick Steptoe’ and ‘Dr Robert Edwards’, a Nobel laureate (also Nurse Jean Purdy), and it opened to doors to new possibilities for couples experiencing infertility. It is a landmark achievement in reproductive medicine, and is also a tribute to the dedicated work of embryologists, the scientists behind IVF miracle success. The theme of World IVF Day-2026 is “Creating Hopes, Advancing Fertility, Transforming Lives”, calls for more consciousness,

more access to reproductive services, and more acknowledgment of the people who enable it. **Role of Embryologists :** An embryologist is a scientist who takes care of patients’ sperm, eggs, and embryos, ensuring which ones are the healthiest to help make babies happen. They are literally create life in their hands, hence playing a critical role in the IVF treatment. **Over 8 Million IVF Births Globally:** Once considered experimental, IVF is now a mainstream solution for female and male infertility and even complex fertility challenges like azoospermia, blocked Fallopian tubes, unexplained infertility, or advanced maternal age. IVF treatments have

enabled over 8 million births globally and continue to grow in success, accessibility, and affordability. Infertility affects millions globally with nearly 1 in 6 couples facing challenges in conceiving. The treatment options for infertility include, ovarian stimulation, trigger injection, egg retrieval, and sperm collection. This day not only celebrate the scientific brilliance behind the fertility lab but also their role in assisting people and couples achieve their aspirations of parenthood. **IVF Means...!** The full form of IVF is ‘In Vitro Fertilisation’. It is a medical procedure where an egg is fertilised by sperm outside the body, in the lab. The resulting embryo is then transferred to the uterus for implantation.

Main Causes of Infertility: The important causes of male infertility are low sperm count, poor sperm mobility, varicocele, hormonal imbalance, and genetic disorders. The reasons for female infertility are polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), endometriosis, blocked tubes, ovulation disorders, age, and hormonal issues. The shared causes of couple, such as lifestyle factors like smoking, alcohol, obesity, stress, and exposed to environmental toxins. **Prevention Methods of Infertility:** On this World IVF Day, the awareness campaigns emphasise the prevention of infertility through timely fertility assessments, stress reduced techniques, early diagnosis of

reproductive issues, maintaining a healthy weight and diet, and avoiding smoking and excessive alcohol consumption. The main risks in IVF procedure are ovarian hyper stimulation syndrome, multiple pregnancy, egg retrieval complications, ectopic pregnancy, and miscarriage. World IVF Day dais may be used by NGOs, fertility awareness groups, and public health networks to organise educational activities, free fertility checkup camps, virtual workshops, honouring embryologists, and other support programs. This may also be used to encourage open discussions to reduce stigma around assisted reproduction, in addition to educating the couples suffering from infertility disorders.

BLW Hosts Hindi Essay, Speech Competitions

VARANASI, JULY 24:

In accordance with the directives of the Railway Board and under the guidance of Shri Ashutosh Pant, General Manager, Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Hindi Essay, Speech, Noting and Drafting Competitions were successfully organised on July 24, 2026, under the aegis of the Rajbhasha Department at Banaras Locomotive Works. During the first session, held in the auditorium of the Technical Training Centre, Hindi Essay was conducted on the topics "Water Conservation – Need and Measures" and "Importance of Indian Languages in the Contemporary National Perspective" and as well as Hindi Noting and Drafting competition. Competitions Participants enthusiastically took part in these competitions and demonstrated their proficiency in the Official Language as well as their writing skills.



In the second session, a Hindi Speech Competition was organised in the Hall of Fame the Administrative Building on the topics "Various Dimensions of Artificial Intelligence" and "Health and Daily Discipline." Participants showcased their talent through effective expression, clear pronunciation and insightful presentations. Shri Subhash Chandra Yadav, Principal, Technical Training Centre; Shri Anoop Mishra, Deputy Chief Marketing Manager/Sales; and Shri Yatharth Pandey, Senior Rajbhasha Officer, served as judges for the competition.

These competitions, organised at the Zonal/All-Indian Railways level, aim to promote interest and awareness among employees regarding the Official Language Hindi, encourage its use in official work, and strengthen employees' Hindi writing and communication skills. During the competitions, Shri Yatharth Pandey, Senior Rajbhasha Officer; Shri Vijay Pratap Singh, Senior Translator; along with the staff of the Rajbhasha Department, played a significant role in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the events.

MP to Launch Fast-Track Courts for Youth in Four Metro Cities: CM Mohan

BHOPAL, JULY 24:

Chief Minister DrMohan Yadav has said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is making efforts for the welfare of the world by moving forward on the path of its glorious culture and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. In our culture it is said about welfare of all and love for humanity. In the interest of the youth, Prime Minister Shri Modi has announced the creation of a fast track court to hear cases related to their education and employment. Similar fast track courts will be established in the four metropolitan cities of Madhya Pradesh – Bhopal, Jabalpur, Indore and Gwalior. Chief Minister DrYadav said that Panna Medical College will be inaugurated next year. NEET candidates will get an opportunity to become doctors. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing the program organized in Panna. Chief Minister DrYadav transferred an amount of approximately Rs



210 crore to more than 35 lakh beneficiaries under the Social Security Pension Scheme with a single click. As a symbol, he presented certificates to the beneficiaries of schemes run by various departments and self-reliant Gram Panchayats. Chief Minister DrYadav was honored by presenting him a plow on the occasion of Agricultural Welfare Year. **Migration stopped, now we will make Bundelkhand prosperous** Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the land of Bundelkhand is the best. This is the land of Maharaj Chhatrasal and the brave Alha-Udal. Only a fortunate person can come to such a virtuous land. Here

in Panna, diamonds come out from under the earth, but gradually there was a shortage of water. People started migrating, which was stopped by our government. Now our government has started the inter-state Ken-Betwa river linking project as per the resolve of Bharat Ratna Rev. Atal Bihari Vajpayee for the prosperity of Bundelkhand. The Central Government approved to provide 90 percent of the amount for this project worth Rs 1 lakh crore. River linking project will bring prosperity to farmers. The state government has decided that if someone's land, house and shop comes under such projects, he will be given appropriate compen-

sation. This project is going to change the landscape of Bundelkhand. Farmers should not think of selling their land. This region will now leave behind Punjab and Haryana in terms of farming. **New unique glass floor and view point will increase tourism in Panna area** Chief Minister Dr. Yadav inaugurated glass floor and view point and other development works built under beautification at Brihaspati Kund in Panna at a cost of Rs 8 crore. This glass floor view point built in Panna will increase tourism here. Chief Minister DrYadav said that people from across the country and abroad will come to see it. Tourists from India also do not need to go to other countries. The natural waterfalls here are worthy of becoming a global center in tourism. **Gift of two Sandipani schools** Chief Minister DrYadav inaugurated and performed the bhoomi puja of development works costing a total of

Rs 184.83 crore. These works include 2 Sandipani Vidyalayas of Gunnaur and Powai costing Rs 74 crore. The Chief Minister said that Sandipani schools are the best schools in the country. Grand Sandipani schools have been built in the state. This school is a symbol of the friendship between Lord Krishna and Sudama. In Sandipani schools, children are being given education with quality and values. **Employment to youth** Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the state government has sanctioned about 10 thousand new posts in the police department. Last year, recruitment was done on 8 thousand posts. Youth have got job opportunities on more than one lakh government posts in the state. The government wants to connect the youth with employment. Farmers can increase their income through animal husbandry and milk production. Currently the milk production in the state is 12 percent, a target has been set to increase it to 20 percent.



Iran's IRGC claims
fresh strikes at US
bases and assets
TEHRAN

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said Friday that its forces had launched fresh retaliatory strikes against the US bases and assets in Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan. In statements carried by its official news outlet Sepah News, the IRGC said the attacks were carried out in response to what it described as US "crimes" against Iran.

The IRGC said its forces had struck and completely destroyed a "very large" US ammunition depot at Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait with "advanced and ultra-heavy" kamikaze drones, Xinhua News Agency reported. It added that its forces also attacked facilities housing US forces at the base, causing casualties.

According to the IRGC, its forces completed an earlier military operation against the data centre of a US company in Bahrain, destroying its remaining building.

It further claimed to have demolished three US ammunition and equipment depots at the Al-Adiri Camp in Kuwait, and struck the watchtower of the US Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain, causing significant damage. The IRGC also said its aerospace forces had carried out a "crushing" attack on Al-Azraq Air Base in Jordan, causing significant damage to a number of US fighter aircraft. It added that barracks housing US forces at the base had also been struck, causing casualties among US personnel. According to the IRGC, its forces carried out "surprise" operations against US military positions in Erbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region, destroying a Patriot air defence system.

Romanian university
confers Honorary
Doctorate on President
BUCHAREST

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate by the Bucharest University of Economic Studies at a ceremony in Bucharest, Romania. During her address at the ceremony, President Murmu encouraged Bucharest University and other Romanian educational institutions to deepen cooperation through joint research and faculty and student exchanges.

"Today, as the world is being reshaped by artificial intelligence, digital technologies and other rapid scientific advances, universities like this have even greater responsibility to ensure that knowledge is guided by wisdom, ethics and compassion," President Murmu noted. "Education is not merely a means of individual advancement, but the surest foundation of a just and inclusive society," she noted.

The President said she had the privilege of working as a teacher for some time and she saw firsthand how a single classroom, however modest, can change the course of a family's future and, in time, a whole community.

Bangladesh at a crossroads: Secularism under strain as Islamist radicalisation gains ground

DHAKA

Bangladesh has projected itself as a nation founded on the principles of linguistic identity, secularism and democratic pluralism. Born out of the Liberation War of 1971, the country's Constitution envisioned equal rights for all irrespective of religion. Yet, the reality is much more complex.

The suspension of the proposed 82-foot Lord Ram statue at a temple complex in Palashbari, Gaibandha, has renewed concerns among Bangladesh's Hindu community regarding the security of their religious and cultural spaces. The temple, being constructed alongside the historic Sri Radha Govinda Temple and Kali Temple, was reportedly nearly 80 per cent complete before authorities halted the project.

It would have acted as a booster for the Hindu community after what happened with the 2021 Durga Puja Pandal and all that was lost during Muhammad Yunus' tenure who led the interim government after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to



leave the country.

The issue escalated when Haridas Chandra Tarani Das was arrested and sent to one-year jail based on false allegations of money laundering. According to 'JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France' (JMBF), the suspension was a result of pressure applied by the Islamist groups, threats of communal unrest by Muslims, and concerns over minority security.

The suspension of the Ram statue was not a dispute over a religious monument, it exposed the shrinking political space for Bangladeshi Hindus. At the time of Partition in 1947, Hindus constituted more than

22.8 per cent of the population which has lowered down to 7.3 per cent at present.

The political transition after Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August 2024 led another blow to the Hindu community. Hasina had tried to bridge the gap by repeatedly affirming a better future for the Hindus. The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council reported over 3200 incidents of violence against Hindus, 200-300 Hindu homes and businesses and 15-20 temples being attacked or vandalised across the country between August 2024 and June 2026. The latest incident was the demolition of a 500-year-

old temple in Noakhali. Amnesty International had earlier called on the interim government to conduct "swift, thorough, impartial and independent investigations" into crimes against Hindu, Ahmadi and other minority communities. It had urged to prosecute those responsible through fair trials, and ensure justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence. Human Rights Watch (HRW) also similarly asked the authorities to protect minorities and uphold human rights following the violence.

The surge in communal violence has coincided with the renewed political visibility of Islamist organisations, particularly Jamaat-e-Islami - a party which has contributed to the oppression and has also backed imposing the Islamic principles in public life.

Its repeated protests for the implementation of the July Charter, which will completely change the Constitution, has only intensified the differentiation that minority groups, especially Hindus, will face after its implementation. Yunus

and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman, widely perceived as a Pakistani agent, regularly held political consultations after Hasina had left. A high surge of religious conversion - either by marriage or forcefully - was also witnessed during the tenure of the interim government led by Yunus. Jamaat was steadily rehabilitated within Bangladesh's political mainstream despite its historical alignment with Pakistan and its contested political legacy. Jamaat being the advocate of Quran and Sunnah stressed that they are the primary basis of legislation, and no law by Parliament can contradict Islamic injunctions. They have repeatedly demanded for constitutional reforms for strengthening Allah's role in governance and have opposed secularism.

Jamaat leaders have repeatedly emphasized strengthening relations with Pakistan, referring to it as a "brotherly Muslim country" and advocating closer cooperation in trade, education, diplomacy and cultural exchanges with Islamabad.

Detention of activist in
Tibet sparks concerns
among rights defenders

LHASA

The detention of Zhang Yi, a Wuhan activist long monitored by the authorities in Tibet, has sparked concerns among Tibetan human rights activists and those who have followed his trajectory since the late 1980s. He was arrested on July 1 during his trip to Tibet after allegedly showing a picture of Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on his phone.

The opaque handling of the case and the arrest indicates that the first day of implementation of China's new National Ethnic Unity and Progress Promotion Law may have given local authorities an opportunity to demonstrate severity, a report in 'Bitter Winter' highlighted.

Zhang visited Lhasa with his younger brother after they received permission to travel to Xinjiang and Tibet after making repeated requests. During their visit, the two brothers visited the Sera Monastery in Lhasa and tried to borrow a prayer mat from a Tibetan. Since they could not communicate verbally, he showed a picture of Dalai Lama on his phone.

Shortly afterwards, the police intervened and arrested both men. Zhang Yi's brother was released after giving a statement. However, Zhang was placed under 15-day administrative detention. On July 18, Zhang's family re-



ceived a call, where they were told that he had been placed under criminal detention for alleged "incitement." No formal notice has been issued yet and the place of his detention remains unknown. His family feared that the timing of the arrest, coinciding with the first day of implementation of China's National Ethnic Unity and Progress Promotion Law, may have made him a convenient target for showcasing severity.

According to the 'Bitter Winter' report, born in Wuhan in 1968, Zhang was a law student at Wuhan University during the 1989 protests and emerged as one of the student leaders in the city. After the crackdown, he was sentenced to two years in prison for "gathering crowds to disrupt traffic" and he served his sentence in Hongshan Prison, where he was tortured that left him permanently deaf in one ear. Following his release, he continued to express dissenting views and marked Tiananmen Square massacre, which led local authorities to identify him as a key individual for stability maintenance.

Romania shoots down
drone breaching airspace



BUCHAREST

Romanian President Nicusor Dan said Friday that Romania shot down a drone breaching its airspace in Buzau County.

He said that the authorities are conducting investigations at the scene of the incident to establish all the circumstances in which the drone entered Romania's airspace and to identify it, Xinhua News Agency reported. "It is important to note that the area was uninhabited, which is why the pilot was able to fire from above," Dan added.

Romania's Ministry of National Defence said in a press release that its radar surveillance system detected an aerial target approximately 20 km east of Sulina. The track subsequently penetrated the national airspace. An F-16 fighter aircraft of the Romanian Air Force engaged the target with an air-to-air missile and neutralised it over an unpopulated area in the vicinity of Padina, Buzau County.

Two Italian Air Force Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft, conducting NATO Air Policing Service, and two Roma-

nian Air Force F-16 aircraft were scrambled to respond to the situation. In early June, a maritime drone self-detonated in Romania's Constanta port, causing no casualties, Romania's Ministry of National Defence has revealed.

A statement issued by the Ministry of National Defence detailed that the drone was not part of the equipment of the Romanian Army and was not involved in the recent exercises organised by the Ministry of National Defence in the Black Sea area.

In May, a Russian drone hit a residential building in Galati city of Romania, igniting a fire and injuring two people.

Romania summoned the Ambassador of Russia to Romania, Vladimir Lipayev, to the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after the incident.

Romanian Foreign Minister Toiu Oana said that the Ministry of National Defence confirmed that the drone which crashed into a residential building in Galati was of Russian origin. The incident was condemned by several leaders across the world.

Pakistan forces forcibly disappear
six civilians in Balochistan

QUETTA

Several leading human rights organisations on Friday strongly condemned the enforced disappearance of six civilians, including women and children, by Pakistani forces in Balochistan. Citing the victims' family, Paank, the Baloch National Movement's Human Rights Department, said that more than 20 Pakistan Frontier Corps (FC) vehicles carrying around 60 personnel, accompanied by three masked individuals in civilian clothes, raided their home in the Killi Kongarh area in Mastung district on July 21.

The rights body noted that the security personnel damaged household property under the pretext of conducting a search operation before taking



all six individuals into custody. Since then, it said their whereabouts remain unknown, and no official information has been provided to the family.

The victims were identified as 33-year-old Bibi Rafia, her three young children aged 3 months, 4 years, and 6 years, her 40-year-old brother Muhammad Arif, and her 18-year-old niece Bibi Nida.

Criticising the incident, Paank said, "Enforced disap-

pearance is a serious violation of international human rights law and places those detained outside the protection of the law, exposing them to an increased risk of torture and other ill-treatment."

Expressing grave concern over the continued pattern of enforced disappearances, especially targeting Baloch women, the Baloch Voice for Justice (BVJ) said, "Women have reportedly been subject-

ed to torture in secret detention, while some have allegedly been forced at gunpoint to participate in scripted press conferences in which they are presented as suicide bombers."

The BVJ urged UN Women and other global human rights mechanisms to urgently take notice of these cases and take immediate action to protect Baloch women and children. It also called on the Pakistani authorities to disclose the whereabouts of all disappeared persons, ensure their safety, and uphold their obligations under international human rights law. Meanwhile, Sammi Deen Baloch, a member of the human rights organisation Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), said that Balochistan has reached a stage where people are forced to bury the dead almost every day.

Calls mount for China to end
suppression of animal abuse protests

NEW YORK

Human Rights Watch (HRW), a US-based advocacy group, called on the Chinese authorities to stop suppressing public discussion of animal abuse, release protesters who remain in detention, and investigate allegations of police violence in China's Chongqing.

According to HRW, two widely circulated videos showing abuse of stray animals in China this summer triggered widespread public outrage. As the videos spread rapidly online, the right body alleged that Chinese authorities responded with a familiar pattern: "censorship, intimidation, and dispersion."

"In late June, videos of four boys cruelly mistreating and



burning a dog and her puppies in Jieyang, Guangdong province, circulated widely online. Public outrage was swift and overwhelming: paid billboards and other advertisements appeared in over 100 cities across the country called for an end to animal abuse. More than 70,000 people signed an online petition demanding accountability and a national animal protection law," the HRW

stated. "Animal protection supporters abroad crowdfunded a billboard in Hong Kong's Mong Kok district and purchased screen advertisements in Taipei and New York's Times Square," it noted.

The HRW noted that while the Chinese authorities on June 30 acknowledged that the abuse had occurred, it also urged "netizens not to spread related information."

"Suppression followed. Social media platforms removed posts about 'Wang Wang,' a generic and endearing term supporters used for the puppies' mother. The Chinese social media site Weibo also reportedly blocked a celebrity's statement and a related trending topic.

Online, people have reported that police ordered memorial advertisements taken down from public screens in several

cities," the rights body mentioned. Drawing parallels with the response in Jieyang, HRW said that earlier in June, police in Chongqing forcibly dispersed hundreds of residents who had gathered for several days to protest another alleged case of dog abuse. It added that the crackdown left several people injured, while dozens were briefly detained before the alleged abuser was taken into custody following public pressure.

"Animal abuse has clearly touched a nerve in China, especially among young people for whom pets have become an important source of companionship. Peaceful expressions of public outrage should never be considered a threat to state security," HRW stressed.

Nepal's public debt grows more than fourfold in a decade

KATHMANDU

Nepal's public debt has increased more than fourfold over the past decade as the country borrowed heavily to cope with the impact of two major crises — the 2015 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to statistics released by the Public Debt Management Office (PDMO), Nepal's public debt reached NPR 2.974 trillion at the end of fiscal year 2025-26, which ended in mid-July, up from NPR 697.68 billion at the end of fiscal year 2016-17, representing a 4.26-fold increase over the decade.

The PDMO said public debt

rose by 11.25 per cent year on year in fiscal year 2025-26. Of the total public debt, external debt accounted for 53.77 per cent, while domestic debt made up the remaining 46.23 per cent.

Nepal borrowed heavily from both domestic and external creditors to finance the reconstruction of infrastructure damaged by the 2015 earthquake, which killed nearly 9,000 people and destroyed public and private infrastructure, including thousands of homes.

As a result, public debt surged by 31.48 per cent in fiscal year 2017-18, when reconstruction activities gathered

pace. Just as the country was recovering from the earthquake, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, forcing Nepal to borrow more to address the public health emergency and the economic losses caused by the pandemic.

Public debt grew by 36.75 per cent in fiscal year 2019-20, according to PDMO records.

Nepal's public debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio has also risen steadily in recent years. According to the PDMO, Nepal's debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 45.07 per cent at the end of fiscal year 2025-26, up from 43.79 per cent a year earlier. In comparison, the ratio was just 26.84 per cent in fiscal year



2016-17. Nepal's debt-to-GDP ratio has not reached the level the country witnessed during the civil war (1996-2006). In

the early 2000s, the public debt-to-GDP ratio was over 60 per cent, inviting suggestions from external donors for

debt relief measures under the Highly Indebted Poor Country initiative. Despite the steady increase in public debt, Nepal's

debt remains sustainable, and the risk of debt distress is low, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

However, in its latest Article IV consultation report on Nepal, the IMF expressed concern over the growing share of government resources being used to service domestic debt.

"External debt remains relatively modest and highly concessional because of the low interest rates offered by multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank," the IMF said.

However, it noted that treasury bills and development bonds — the main instruments used for domestic borrowing —

create repayment obligations that mature much faster than concessional external loans.

According to the PDMO, Nepal spent NPR 386.22 billion on debt servicing, including principal and interest payments, in fiscal year 2025-26. Of that amount, NPR 311.93 billion was spent on servicing domestic debt alone.

In the current fiscal year 2026-27, Nepal plans to raise NPR 657.29 billion through domestic and external borrowing, according to the Ministry of Finance.

The government has also allocated NPR 245.89 billion for the repayment of principal on existing domestic debt.



Banks, insurers to launch CKYC 2.0 in August: Will it make banking easier?

CKYC 2.0 is an upgraded version of India's central KYC system. Instead of submitting identity and address proof separately to every bank, insurer or financial institution, customers will be able to share their existing verified records through a central registry. The banks and insurers across the country are set to roll out a new common customer identification system, called Central Know Your Customer 2.0 (CKYC 2.0), from August, reported Reuters. The new framework will allow banks and insurance companies to access a customer's verified KYC details from a central database after receiving the customer's consent. Mutual funds and stockbrokers are expected to come on board later this year. The move is expected to reduce paperwork, speed up onboarding and make it easier for people to access financial products.

WHAT IS CKYC 2.0?
CKYC 2.0 is an upgraded version of India's central KYC system. Instead of submitting identity and address proof separately to every bank, insurer or financial institution, customers will be able to share their existing verified records through a central registry. The institution will only need the customer's approval, which will be given through a one-time password (OTP), before fetching the details. This means customers may no

longer have to upload the same documents every time they open a new account or update their information.

WHY IS THE NEW SYSTEM BEING INTRODUCED?

India already has a central KYC registry with around 1.2 billion customer records. However, the system has not been widely used because many records contain duplicate entries, incomplete information or outdated details. As a result, financial institutions have continued to ask customers to complete KYC separately. The upgraded system aims to solve this problem by improving the quality of records. One of the biggest changes in CKYC 2.0 is the introduction of a confidence score for every customer record. The score will indicate how reliable the information is and whether it has already been verified by another financial institution. This will help banks and insurers decide how much they can rely on the data while onboarding customers. According to people familiar with the project, this could also strengthen fraud detection by making customer records easier to monitor. Banks and insurance companies are expected to start using the new system in August. Mutual funds, brokerages and other capital market participants are likely to join later this year as regulators complete sector-specific requirements.

Sensex ends 332 points lower, Nifty below 23,800; Eternal down 2%

Benchmark stock market indices ended lower on Friday, extending their losing streak to a fifth consecutive session, as investors remained cautious over the escalating Middle East conflict and its impact on global oil prices. However, markets recovered sharply from the day's lows after crude prices retreated from above the \$100-a-barrel mark.

The BSE Sensex fell 331.62 points, or 0.43%, to close at 76,059.77, while the NSE Nifty50 declined 102.15 points, or 0.43%, to settle at 23,767.45. Brent crude, which briefly crossed the psychologically important \$100-a-barrel mark during the day, eased nearly 3% to \$97.71 per barrel by the close. WTI crude also declined 2.68% to \$89.72, helping markets recover from steeper intraday losses.

CRUDE OIL, GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY KEEP SENTIMENT WEAK

Investor sentiment remained fragile as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continued to dominate market sentiment. Higher crude oil prices remain a key concern for India, the world's third-largest crude importer, as they can fuel inflation, widen the current account deficit and squeeze corporate



profit margins. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said elevated oil prices and rising global bond yields continue to cloud the market outlook. "Market sentiment is likely to remain under pressure in the near term, as sustained oil prices in a higher range could begin to adversely impact key macroeconomic indicators and growth dynamics. The US 10-year yield has climbed to a 52-week high despite crude oil trading well below its crisis-era peak, reflecting the bond market's concerns over energy-led inflation risks, resilient labour market conditions, and a persistently hawkish Fed," he said. Nair added that these factors have increased expectations of another US rate hike, while fresh US tariffs have also hurt export-driven economies. "Washington's new tariffs on imports added another headwind for ex-

port-driven economies, with technology-heavy markets having been hit the most as higher rates weigh on growth and investors are increasingly seeking to diversify their concentrated exposure to other emerging market opportunities," he said.

IT RECOVERS, BANKS OUTPERFORM

Despite the weak market, the Nifty IT index rose 0.82%, emerging as one of the best-performing sectoral indices after recovering from early losses. Media stocks also gained 1.86%, while the Nifty MidSmall IT & Telecom index climbed 1.11%. The Nifty PSU Bank index advanced 0.58%, supported by buying in banking stocks. Among Sensex constituents, HCLTech led the gainers with a 1.94% rise, followed by ITC, Axis Bank, TCS, Trent, Maruti Suzuki, Kotak Mahindra Bank, SBI and Reliance Industries. Nair said Bank Nifty continued

to outperform on improving fundamentals.

"Bank Nifty outperformed, supported by favourable valuations and credit growth outlooks," he said.

REALTY, AUTO AND METAL DRAG

Selling pressure, however, persisted across several other sectors. The Nifty Realty index was the worst performer, falling 1.53%, followed by Auto (-1.10%), Metal (-0.55%), Oil & Gas (-0.46%), Financial Services Ex-Bank (-0.41%) and Pharma (-0.41%). The broader market also remained weak. The Nifty Smallcap 100 declined 0.32%, while the Nifty 100, Nifty 200 and Nifty 500 also ended in the red. The Nifty Midcap 50 was the only broader index to buck the trend, edging up 0.11%. India VIX rose 4.11% to 14.03, indicating that volatility remained elevated despite the recovery in benchmark indices.

Among the biggest losers on the Sensex were Eternal, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints and Infosys.

Although Dalal Street recovered substantially from its intraday lows as crude oil prices cooled, investor sentiment is likely to remain cautious in the near term as markets continue to monitor developments in the Middle East, oil prices and global interest rate expectations.



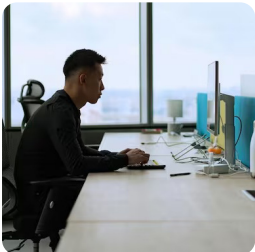
Divi's Laboratories and Aurobindo Pharma handed over their CSR contributions

HYDERABAD, JULY 24:

Representatives of the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation, Divi's Laboratories Limited, and Aurobindo Pharma Limited met Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the MCRHRD Institute. In the presence of the Chief Minister, Divi's Laboratories Limited and Aurobindo Pharma Limited handed over their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions to the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation to support the Breakfast Scheme in government schools. Aurobindo Pharma Limited contributed ₹10 crore. Divi's Laboratories Limited contributed ₹12.18 crore. The Telangana Government, in collaboration with the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation, is providing students with nutritious breakfast and midday meals. The Chief Minister explained that the government is planning measures to support farmers in areas

surrounding the centralized kitchens established under the scheme. He said the government intends to encourage farmers to adopt organic farming by procuring vegetables, rice, and other essential food items directly from them for use in the kitchens. He also stated that steps are being taken to provide farmers with high-quality seeds. According to the Chief Minister, this initiative would not only promote crop diversification but also enhance farmers' incomes and profitability. On the occasion, the Chief Minister congratulated and appreciated the companies for their CSR contributions.

The event was attended by Government Advisor Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Minister's Principal Secretary N. Sridhar, Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation President Satya Gandra Chandra Das Prabhuj, Divi's Laboratories Limited Vice President Madhu Babu, Aurobindo Pharma Limited Managing Director Nityananda Reddy, and other dignitaries.



Your manager didn't back you this appraisal cycle? Survey shows 1 in 3 felt the same

The nationwide survey found that 22% of employees said they received no support from their manager during appraisals, while another 10% said they were mostly on their own. Together, that means 32% of employees navigated the appraisal process without meaningful backing from their reporting manager. Over half are actively seeking new roles despite appraisals. You know the feeling. You're sitting across from your manager (or worse, on a rushed video call), presenting your own case, defending your own numbers, in hopes of a good salary hike but your manager keeps quiet and somewhere in the middle of it you think, wait, whose side is this person even on? If that was you this cycle, take a breath, it wasn't just you. According to foundit's Appraisal Trends Report 2026, a nationwide survey of 2,598 employees across 15 sectors, fielded in June 2026, roughly 1 in 3 employees went through this year's appraisal with no manager actually backing them up. The nationwide survey found that 22% of employees said they received no support from their manager during appraisals, while another 10% said they were "mostly on their own". Together, that means 32% of employees navigated the appraisal process without meaningful backing from their reporting manager. On the other hand, 37% said their managers actively supported and advocated for them during appraisal discussions. The findings come at a time when salary expectations are widening sharply from the increments companies are actually offering.

REC Declares ₹4.25 Interim Dividend; Q1 PAT Rises 23%

DELHI, JULY 24, 2026:

The Board of Directors of REC Limited, today approved the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026.

Operational and Financial Highlights: Q1 FY27 vs Q4 FY26

- Net interest income: ₹5,212 crore Vs ₹4,961 crore up by 5%
- Net Profit: ₹4,149 crore Vs ₹3,362 crore, up by 23%

Despite a dynamic operating environment, REC sustained a healthy NIM of 3.34%, reflecting the strength of its lending portfolio and disciplined financial management. Consequently, the Company delivered an annualised EPS of ₹63.04 per share for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, underscoring its robust earnings performance.

REC's standalone loan book stood at ₹5.90 lakh crore as



on June 30, 2026 which is the largest for any CPSU-NBFC in India, demonstrating the strength and stability of its lending operation. Aided by growth in profits, the Net Worth has grown by 15% on Y-o-Y basis to ₹91,836 crore as on June 30, 2026.

The renewable energy portfolio continued to witness robust traction, growing to ₹78,596 crore, constituting 13.32% of the overall loan

composition, reinforcing REC's commitment to fostering sustainable infrastructure development and accelerating the growth of green energy in India. The infrastructure and logistic portfolio has grown to ₹59,289 crore, which is over 10% of the overall loan assets.

Driven by sustained initiatives to improve asset quality, the Company has reduced its Stage-3 loan asset to the total loan portfolio ratio to near-ze-

ro levels i.e., 0.11%.

Indicating the ample opportunity to support the future growth, the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) of the Company stands at comfortable 23.06% as at June 30, 2026 against the regulatory minimum of 15% as mandated by RBI.

In line with its consistent dividend distribution track record and commitment to enhancing shareholder returns, the Board of Directors of the Company has declared the First Interim Dividend of ₹4.25 per equity share (face value ₹10 each).

The strengthening fundamentals of the Indian power sector have contributed to the improved financial position of power utilities, resulting in stronger overall credit profiles and consequently lower provisioning requirements. Reflecting its customer-centric approach, REC proactively shared these benefits with borrowers by rationalizing

lending rates resulting in yield of 9.55% in Q1-FY 2026-27.

The Company was recognized with the 'NBFC of the Year' Award at the 3rd Annual Bharat NBFC & FinTech Summit & Awards 2026 and the 'AI & GenAI Adoption Excellence Award' at the 2nd Bharat PSU Manthan & Excellence Awards 2026, underscoring its strong business performance, digital innovation, and leadership in leveraging advanced technologies to drive operational excellence and enhance customer experience.

REC Limited is strategically broadening its business footprint through targeted investments in conventional power, renewable energy and infrastructure & logistics development in the country apart from being a strategic partner to government of India in implementing the government programs, policy and reforms in the country and steadily fostering long term growth.

Hyderabad Welcomes Aakhol, Its First Authentic Assamese Home-Style Cuisine

HYDERABAD, JULY 2026

As Hyderabad's appetite for regional Indian cuisines continues to grow, the city welcomes a new culinary destination that brings the warmth, simplicity and rich traditions of Assam to the table. Aakhol – An Assamese Restaurant has opened in Kokapet, offering an authentic home-style dining experience inspired by the food, culture and hospitality of Northeast India. Founded by Dr. Alpaxee Kashyap and her husband Akhil, Aakhol is more than a restaurant—it is the continuation of a family legacy built around food and hospitality. Dr. Alpaxee's maternal grandfather established the iconic Laxmi Cabin in Guwahati's Fancy Bazar in 1942, one of the city's oldest and most loved sweet shops, remembered for its legendary samosas. Decades later, her parents carried forward the family's passion by establishing Aarian Woods, one of Guwahati's pio-



neering boutique resorts.

When Dr. Alpaxee moved to Hyderabad in 2019, she found herself missing the familiar flavours of home. Unable to find authentic Assamese cuisine in the city, she started Aakhol in 2025 as a small home kitchen, serving carefully prepared meals on a one-day pre-order basis. What began as a passion project soon earned a loyal following among both the Assamese community and Hyderabad's food enthusiasts, inspiring the couple to open a full-fledged

restaurant. "When I moved to Hyderabad, I realised I missed more than just the food—I missed the feeling of home. Aakhol is our way of sharing that feeling with the city while giving fellow Assamese a place they can call their own. We hope every guest leaves with a deeper appreciation of Assam's cuisine, culture and hospitality," says Dr. Alpaxee Kashyap, Founder, Aakhol. Staying true to its roots, Aakhol deliberately avoids adapting its recipes to suit local tastes. Instead, it celebrates the understated

elegance of Assamese cuisine, where fresh ingredients, subtle spices and traditional cooking techniques take centre stage. Mustard oil, green chillies and seasonal produce enhance each dish without overpowering its natural flavours, offering diners an experience that is refreshingly different from conventional Indian restaurant fare.

The menu showcases signature dishes such as Bamboo Shoot Fish, traditional pork and chicken preparations, and thoughtfully curated vegetarian and non-vegetarian Assamese thalis, making them the perfect introduction to the cuisine. Essential ingredients, including bamboo shoots, xoru aloo and kaji nemu, Assam's iconic citrus fruit, are sourced directly from Guwahati to preserve their authentic flavours. Guests can also discover regional favourites like dali bota, fish chutney and sesame chutney, while those seeking a fiery challenge can request the

famous bhoot jolokia achaar. Desserts complete the experience with traditional favourites such as White Payokh, Black Payokh and Pati-Sapta Pithaeach reflecting the same philosophy of simplicity, balance and authenticity. Beyond the food, Aakhol offers an immersive cultural experience. Inspired by the architecture of Dr. Alpaxee's grandmother's home in Bharalu, Guwahati, the restaurant recreates the warmth of a traditional Assamese household. Guests can explore a handcrafted décor wall, a legacy wall narrating the family's journey, and a thoughtfully curated library featuring contemporary Assamese literature alongside books celebrating the region's rich culinary and cultural heritage. With Aakhol, the founders hope to introduce Hyderabad not only to the authentic flavours of Assam but also to its stories, traditions and warm hospitality—one meal at a time.



EMIs now consume almost entire family income for 60% of borrowers

For many financially stressed households, monthly loan repayments have become so overwhelming that they leave little or no money for everyday expenses, according to a new survey that highlights the growing debt burden among borrowers. The survey by debt resolution platform Expert Panel found that 60% of distressed borrowers said their monthly EMI obligations either matched or exceeded their family's total monthly income. Another 40% said they were repaying existing loans by taking fresh loans or relying on credit cards, indicating that many have fallen into a cycle of debt that is becoming increasingly difficult to escape. The findings are based on inquiries and counselling sessions with borrowers who approached the platform for debt-related assistance.

MEDICAL BILLS, JOB LOSSES DRIVING BORROWING

Contrary to the perception that loans are largely taken to fund discretionary spending, the survey found that most borrowers had taken loans to meet essential or unavoidable expenses. Medical emergencies accounted for the biggest share of borrowings at 26%, followed by family and personal expenses such as weddings and education at 22%. Another 18% borrowed because of job or business-related challenges, while 15% took loans simply to meet day-to-day household needs. The report suggests that financial shocks, rather than excessive spending, are pushing many households into debt.

WHY REPAYMENTS ARE BECOMING DIFFICULT

Among those struggling to service their loans, nearly one-third cited job loss or salary reduction as the primary reason for missing

repayments. Another 28% said their EMI burden had become too high compared with their income, while 19% blamed multiple loans and over-borrowing. Medical or family emergencies accounted for another 12% of repayment challenges. The survey also found that nearly 60% of borrowers were either making only the minimum payments on their loans or had stopped repayments altogether by the time they sought help. One in five had already received legal notices from lenders.

HARASSMENT ADDS TO FINANCIAL STRESS

Financial difficulties are often compounded by aggressive recovery efforts, the survey found. About 35% of borrowers reported facing some form of harassment, while another 17% said they had experienced severe intimidation, including abusive calls, threats and home visits by recovery agents. Many respondents also reported receiving repeated calls from multiple lenders after falling behind on repayments. Commenting on the findings, Anurag Mehra, Director of Expert Panel, said the figures showed that India's debt challenge extends beyond missed repayments. "The numbers tell us that India's debt problem is no longer just about missed EMIs—it is about people losing their dignity, peace of mind, and in some cases, even the will to live. Most borrowers we counsel are not habitual defaulters; they are ordinary individuals pushed into financial hardship by medical emergencies, job losses, or unexpected life events," he said. He added that lenders, regulators and policymakers should work towards structured debt resolution mechanisms that protect borrowers from intimidation while ensuring legitimate recovery efforts continue.



Hyderabad Real Estate in 2026

A Clear Picture of the Market

The city's real estate success is closely linked to its transformation into a major technology and business hub. Hyderabad has become home to some of the world's largest technology companies, including Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Meta, Deloitte, Accenture, Infosys, TCS and Cognizant. The rapid expansion of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) has further strengthened the local economy by creating thousands of high-paying jobs. Every new office campus generates demand for residential apartments, villas, rental homes, retail outlets and commercial properties. Unlike speculative markets that depend mainly on investors, Hyderabad's property market is supported by genuine end-user demand created through employment and migration.

One of the biggest reasons behind Hyderabad's sustained growth is its relatively affordable property prices compared to other metropolitan cities. While home prices have increased considerably during the past five years, purchasing a quality apartment in Hyderabad is still less expensive than buying a similar property in Bengaluru, Mumbai or Delhi NCR. This affordability continues to attract professionals, entrepreneurs and NRIs looking for long-term investments. Many families relocating for employment also prefer Hyderabad because it offers better infrastructure, comparatively lower living costs and a high quality of life.

The city's infrastructure development has played a crucial role in driving real estate growth. Projects such as the Outer Ring Road (ORR),

Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP), multiple flyovers, elevated corridors and Metro Rail expansion have significantly improved connectivity across Hyderabad. The proposed Regional Ring Road (RRR) is expected to open up several new growth corridors over the coming years. Improved road networks have reduced travel time between residential suburbs and major employment centres, encouraging people to buy homes in emerging locations that were previously considered too far from the city.

Hyderabad's commercial real estate market remains equally strong. Office leasing activity continues to be driven by technology companies, multinational corporations and Global Capability Centres. The city has become one

Western Hyderabad continues to dominate the real estate landscape. Areas such as Gachibowli, Financial District, Kokapet, Narsingi, Nanakramguda, Puppalaguda and Neopolis remain the most sought-after residential destinations. These localities enjoy excellent connectivity to major IT parks and business districts while offering modern infrastructure, reputed schools, hospitals, shopping centres and recreational facilities. Premium apartments, gated communities and luxury villas in these areas continue to attract both end-users and investors. Although property prices in western Hyderabad have risen substantially, demand remains healthy because employment opportunities continue to grow.

The luxury housing segment has emerged as one of Hyderabad's strongest performers. There has been a noticeable increase in demand for high-end apartments, branded residences and luxury villas priced above ₹2 crore. Wealthy professionals, entrepreneurs, senior corporate executives and NRIs

are driving this demand. Developers are responding by launching projects that feature larger homes, smart technologies, wellness amenities, landscaped open spaces and premium clubhouses. Hyderabad is gradually establishing itself as one of India's leading luxury housing markets, competing with Bengaluru and Mumbai in certain premium segments.

At the same time, the affordable housing segment is facing new challenges. Rising land prices, increasing construction costs and higher labour expenses have made it difficult for developers to launch projects in lower price categories. As a result, many builders are focusing on mid-income and premium housing where profit margins are better. This shift has reduced the supply of affordable homes, making it more challenging for first-time buyers to enter the market. However, suburbs such as Bachupally, Kompally, Pragathi Nagar, Tellapur and Medchal continue to offer relatively affordable housing options for middle-income families.

Hyderabad's real estate market has emerged as one of India's most resilient and promising property markets over the past decade. While many cities have experienced periods of sharp growth followed by slowdowns, Hyderabad has maintained a relatively stable trajectory driven by economic expansion, infrastructure development and sustained demand from homebuyers. In 2026, the market is no longer witnessing the extraordinary price surge seen after the COVID-19 pandemic, but it continues to grow at a healthy pace. Experts describe the current phase as one of consolidation, where demand remains strong but buyers are becoming more selective and informed.

of India's preferred destinations for Grade A office spaces due to its modern infrastructure, availability of skilled professionals and business-friendly environment. Strong commercial growth also supports residential demand because employees prefer living closer to their workplaces. Retail spaces, shopping malls, hotels, logistics parks and data centres are also witnessing steady expansion, contributing further to the overall strength of the real estate sector. The rental market has remained robust throughout 2026. Localities such asHITEC City, Madhapur, Gachibowli, Financial District and Kondapur continue to experience healthy rental demand from IT professionals, students and corporate executives. Rental values have

increased steadily over the past few years as more professionals relocate to Hyderabad for employment. Although rental yields are moderate compared to some international markets, investors continue to benefit from stable rental income combined with long-term capital appreciation. This makes Hyderabad an attractive destination for those seeking a balanced investment rather than quick speculative profits. One significant change in the market is the evolving behaviour of buyers. During the post-pandemic boom, many investors purchased properties expecting rapid appreciation within a short period. Today, buyers are much more cautious. They carefully evaluate a developer's reputation, project approvals, construction quality, delivery record and future infrastructure before making a purchase. Homebuyers are also paying greater attention to legal clearances and the availability of civic amenities. This shift towards informed decision-making has created a healthier and more sustainable market environment. Despite its strengths, Hyderabad's real estate sector faces certain challenges. Rising property prices have reduced affordability in prime locations, making it difficult for middle-income families to purchase homes in western Hyderabad. Construction costs have also increased because of higher prices of cement, steel, labour and land. These additional costs are ultimately reflected in property prices. Traffic congestion has become another concern, particularly along busy IT corridors during peak hours. Although new flyovers and road expansion projects are easing some of the pressure, transportation remains a challenge in rapidly growing areas. Higher home loan interest rates compared to the exceptionally low rates available a few years ago have also

influenced buyer sentiment. Some prospective buyers have postponed purchasing decisions due to increased borrowing costs. However, genuine end-user demand has remained resilient because employment opportunities continue to expand. Unlike speculative markets, Hyderabad's property sector is supported by long-term economic fundamentals rather than short-term investor enthusiasm. A common question among buyers is whether Hyderabad is witnessing a real estate bubble. Most market experts believe that the city is not currently experiencing a speculative bubble. Price appreciation has certainly been significant in several premium locations, but it has largely been supported by strong employment growth, infrastructure expansion, corporate investment and population growth. While some micro-markets may witness slower appreciation after rapid price increases, the overall market continues to remain fundamentally strong. Buyers should nevertheless avoid unrealistic expectations of doubling property values within a few years, as future growth is expected to be more moderate than during the post-pandemic period.

Looking ahead, Hyderabad's long-term outlook remains positive. Continued expansion of the IT industry, increasing investments by multinational companies, infrastructure improvements and rising migration are expected to support sustained demand for both residential and commercial properties. Emerging suburbs are likely to benefit from better connectivity, while established western corridors will continue attracting premium developments. As the city grows, balanced urban planning and timely infrastructure execution will become increasingly important in maintaining the momentum of the real estate sector.

In conclusion, Hyderabad's real estate market in 2026 presents a picture of stability, maturity and long-term potential. The period of extraordinary price escalation has given way to a more balanced market where quality, location and developer credibility matter more than speculation. Strong economic fundamentals, continuous employment generation and large-scale infrastructure investments provide confidence that Hyderabad will remain one of India's leading real estate destinations. For homebuyers seeking a permanent residence and investors focusing on long-term wealth creation, the city continues to offer attractive opportunities, provided investment decisions are based on careful research rather than short-term market excitement.





CRICKET

Joe Root set for England Test captaincy return after Stokes' retirement: Report



LONDON: Joe Root is expected to return as England's Test captain, with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) close to naming him as Ben Stokes' successor following the latter's retirement from international cricket. Root, who captained England in the longest format before handing over the role to Stokes in 2022, is now set for a second stint in charge. His appointment would mark the end of the ECB's search for a new Test captain ahead of England's three-match home series against Pakistan, beginning next month. According to The Athletic, Root is likely to remain captain until next summer's Ashes series against Australia. The move would also allow current Test vice-captain Harry Brook to concentrate on leading England's white-ball teams instead of taking on responsibility across all three formats.

CWG 2026

Neeraj Chopra set for late-night arrival in Glasgow



GLASGOW: Two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra is set to arrive in Glasgow late on Friday night ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Games, sources told IANS, with India's biggest sporting star preparing to spearhead the country's athletics campaign. The athlete who won the 2018 Commonwealth Games is returning to the event after having been unable to take part in the 2022 Birmingham Games because of an injury and will be trying to regain the men's javelin title, which is currently held by Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan, the reigning Olympic and Commonwealth Games champion. After having a mixed year in 2025, Neeraj heads to Glasgow.

Review Meeting on Hosting Khelo India Youth Games-2026

HYDERABAD

A comprehensive review meeting was held on Friday by Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary (Sports), to assess the preparations required for the successful hosting of the Khelo India Youth Games-2026 in Telangana. During the meeting, officials held detailed discussions on various key aspects, including the organization of the competitions, readiness of sports infrastructure, coordination among different government departments, transportation, accommodation, logistics, and other operational arrangements. Jayesh Ranjan emphasized that all departments should work in close coordination to ensure the successful conduct of the Khelo India Youth Games. Speaking on the occasion, Mayank Srivastava, IPS, Deputy Director General of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), said that the Central Government launched the Khelo India programme with the objective of reviving India's sporting cul-



ture from the grassroots level, strengthening the ecosystem for all sports, and transforming India into a global sporting powerhouse. Dr. Soni Bala Devi, IFS, Managing Director of the Sports Authority of Telangana, stated that the Authority would make every effort to organize the Khelo India Youth Games-2026 in accordance with the guidelines and standards prescribed under the Khelo India programme. The meeting was attended by SAI officials Amar Jyoti, Madhu Harsh, Gopal Kandpal, and Mohit, along with Dr. Ravi Teja, Ravinder, Srinivas, Suresh Kaleru, and other senior officials from the Sports Authority of Telangana.

GLASGOW

World records tumbled as Fola-shade Oluwafemiayo won Nigeria's second Para Powerlifting gold of the day, in the Heavyweight division, with three world records set in the event. Oluwafemiayo twice broke the world record in the +86kg category, lifting a best of 175kg. Silver medallist Rita Ferdinand, also of Nigeria, managed a world-record 158kg in the +79kg category. Fellow Nigerian Rita Ferdinand took the silver medal while Hani Watson of Australia finished with the bronze medal. Earlier, Nigeria surged to the top of the medal table after a stellar performance in the first two sessions on the first day of competitions at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow on Friday. Nigeria dominated the Para Powerlifting competitions, with Esther Nworgu and Esther Oyema winning gold and silver, respectively, in the Women's Lightweight. At the same time, Roland Ezuruike took silver earlier in the day in the Men's Lightweight event. Nigeria lead the

medal table with one gold and two silver medals, with England second with two medals -- one gold and one bronze. Malaysia are third with one bronze. England's Mark Swan won the first gold medal of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games in the most dramatic of circumstances on Friday in the Men's Lightweight category of Para Powerlifting. Swan lifted more than three times his body weight to post 222kg on his second attempt, and was tied for gold with Nigerian veteran Roland Ezuruike on 153.9 points going into the final round. Malaysia's Bonnie Bunyau Gustin - the two-time Paralympic champion and world record holder at up to 72kg - was only 0.4 points behind in third but could not produce the goods on his final lift, relinquishing the title he won in Birmingham four years ago. Ezuruike then fouled his final lift before Swan failed in a Games Record attempt at 232kg, to leave the second round scores unchanged. The Men's Lightweight category pulled in athletes with a body



weight up to and including 72kg. Medals were decided by a coefficient formula to rank lifts fairly against the athletes' body weights. Lifters were roared on by an enthusiastic crowd who had themselves been energised by Scottish actor Sam Heughan hitting the venue DJ decks during the build-up. "The whole atmosphere here, the crowd, that was crazy," Australia's Daniel Bos said after finishing ninth. "That gave me a

massive adrenaline rush. It's really surreal because you have these little moments on stage where I'm like, 'Whoa, this is it'. It's really cool. I've never experienced anything like this."

Australia grabs three gold medals to lead charge

Powerhouse Australia started the Commonwealth Games swimming and para-swimming competitions with three gold medals,

one of them in para-swimming, on the second day of competitions at Glasgow on Friday. Lani Pallister, Jenna Forrester and Jenna Jones won gold medals for Australia while South Africa and hosts Scotland bagged a gold medal each in the pool. Pallister picked up the first gold medal in the pool at Glasgow 2026 by dominating the field in the Women's 400m Freestyle Final. Erika Fairweather of New Zealand won the silver while Pallister's Australian compatriot Jenna Forrester claimed the bronze medal. Continuing a family legacy, Pallister joined her mum, Janelle, and godmother Dawn Fraser in becoming a Commonwealth champion. "The title is really exciting; it's obviously going through the legacy with my mum and Dawn," Pallister said. "Having my first one on the board, I'm stoked with it, and to have the first event of the meet go to Australia is awesome!" "Erika (Fairweather, silver) and I have been racing each other for seven years, and it's always fun, and I knew she would push me hard. It's a great start to the

ATP Tour: Van Assche stuns Rublev for landmark win, SF berth in Estoril



ESTORIL (PORTUGAL)

Luca Van Assche kept his nerve and refused to be overpowered as he progressed to the semifinals of the Estoril Open ATP Tour 250 event, turning the tables on top seed and World No. 14 Andrey Rublev with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory for the biggest win of his career on Friday. Rublev arrived in Portugal riding a five-match winning streak after lifting the title in Bastad on Sunday, but Van Assche matched and surpassed his opponent's firepower to complete a remarkable two-hour, 15-minute comeback. The 22-year-old French-

man, who is into his first ATP Tour semi-final after falling in his previous three tour-level quarter-finals, will next face countryman Hugo Gaston at the clay-court ATP 250 event. "I'm very, very happy about the win today. It's the best win of my career so far," Van Assche, the No. 78 player in the ATP Rankings, said. "It means a lot to me. It was a tough match. I'm happy with the level I played. I love Portugal. I've played well here during my career so far. It's a place that I love, and to be in the semifinals, it's a great step in my career." Rublev saved all five break points he faced in the opening

set, according to ATP Stats, but could not hold off Van Assche's relentless surge after the opener. The Frenchman raised his level as the match wore on, repeatedly coming out on top in extended forehand-to-forehand exchanges to level their ATP head-to-head series at 1-1. Gaston kicked off Friday's action in Portugal by ending the dream run of local wild card Tiago Torres, the Frenchman repeatedly used his trademark drop shot to draw Torres forward before sealing a 6-3, 6-4 victory and advancing to his fourth ATP Tour semi-final, and first since 2024. "There is no secret," Gas-

East Bengal face Mohun Bagan SG as oldest rivalry opens the 135th edition of the oldest trophy

KOLKATA

Another chapter will be added to the oldest rivalry when East Bengal FC take on Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the Kolkata Derby on Saturday as the two Kolkata giants open the 135th Durand Cup at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan. Asia's oldest football tournament could not have picked a bigger fixture to mark the occasion, handing its very first whistle of the season to the rivalry that defines Indian club football. The Mariners will walk into the tournament as the most decorated club, with 17 Durand Cup titles -- a tally unmatched in the history of the event. The Red and Gold Brigade trail by the width of a single trophy, 16 to their name, close enough that every fresh meeting between the two feels like a chance to close the gap or stretch it. The two sides have met more than 20 times in the tournament, East Bengal holding a narrow edge, and contested a dozen Durand Cup finals between them, the most recent in 2004, with East Bengal winning six to Mohun Bagan's four and two shared. It was in this very fixture, in 2023, that the record champions finally broke a 23-year wait for the trophy, beating their old rivals 1-0 in the final to claim that 17th title. Few rivalries anywhere carry quite



this kind of built-in tension. But history is not the only current running through this rivalry. The defending ISL champions arrive having ended a long wait for a national league crown last season, and that success travels with them into the Durand Cup like a favourable wind. There is a settled belief about a squad that has recently tasted the biggest prize in Indian club football, and the Red and Gold faithful will fill the stands sensing that this is a team no longer just competing with their oldest rivals, but genuinely built to beat them. Midfielder Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, part of that title-winning group, put it plainly when asked about the mood in camp under new head coach

Antonio Lopez Habas and said, "We are getting together as a family, and at the end of last season we achieved our objective. I'm really looking forward to this new season, to achieve the same objective with more determination," he said. "With the coach, and the trophies he has won, it will be a pleasure for me to play under him, for East Bengal. Obviously, for me, we are the favourite team." Both benches, however, will have unfamiliar figures pacing them. Mohun Bagan Super Giant begin life under Panagiotis Dilmeris, the Greek coach who spent two seasons quietly excellent at Punjab FC before the Mariners came calling, and who now inherits a squad several notches richer

than the one he left behind, headlined by the arrival of Miguel Figueira Damasceno. Speaking to the media ahead of his first game in the dugout, Dilmeris made no attempt to play down the scale of what awaits him and said, "Starting with a derby against East Bengal is something that makes me feel excited, because this is the reason why football exists," he said. "Joining a club like Mohun Bagan, with this fan base, the owner, the history and huge expectations, creates for me not anxiety but big motivation." Figueira's signing carries its own quiet poetry. Barely a year after arriving in Indian football, the Brazilian midfielder was named the ISL's best player and walked away with the Golden Ball, a central figure in East Bengal's title triumph. Now he wears green and maroon, and should he take the field on Saturday, it may well be his first taste of just how personal this fixture can feel from the other side of the divide. The reinforcements up front have arrived too. Dejan Drazic, the Serbian forward brought in to sharpen a cutting edge that occasionally deserted the Kolkata giants last season, landed in the city only days ago and has already been given a proper introduction to what he has signed up for, saying, "For every player, foreigner or Indian, it is amazing to play a game like a derby in Kolkata," he said.

China Open: Local men's singles challenge ends as Shi, Li crash out

CHANGZHOU

China suffered a double blow in men's singles at the 2026 China Open in Changzhou on Friday as Shi Yiqi and Weng Hongyang both crashed out in the quarterfinals, leaving the host nation without a representative in the last four. World No. 1 Shi Yiqi fought hard for 61 minutes against Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien-chen, but could not lock down the key points late on. The home favourite lost the three-game clash 21-14, 12-21, 21-15. Weng also had no luck in his quarterfinals tie against Lin Chun-Yi from Chinese Taipei, losing a narrow opening game 27-25 and slipping to a 21-14 defeat in the second, reports Xinhua. All four Chinese men's singles players have now exited from the competition, with Lu Guangzu and Li Shifeng eliminated in earlier rounds. Chou will meet his teammate Lin in the semifinals, while the other clash pits Canada's Victor Lai against France's Toma Junior Popov. In women's singles, China's second seed Wang Zhiyi secured a smooth semifinal spot.

Rashmika Almost Locked For Charan-Sukumar next



heroine only. Buzz is coming out that already Sukumar spoke to Rashmika Mandanna to play the lead in Ram Charan's film, and the talks are almost over. As Sukumar pushed Rashmika to national fame with the Pushpa series, surely she would be glad to come on board almost immediately. Even Charan and Rashmika pairing will be fresh and exciting too. On the other hand, a music composer is yet to be locked for the project as Devi Sri Prasad is busy with lots of work, and Charan-Sukumar are trying to get either Sashwat Sachdev or Sai Abhyankar aboard.

Though it will be two months in a week or so since Peddi hit cinemas, Mega Power-star Ram Charan is yet to announce his next project. It's known that creative director Sukumar, who has delivered the popular Pushpa franchise, is now getting ready to direct Charan in his next. Here is another interesting update from the same. As per reports earlier, the likes of Janhvi Kapoor and Kiara Advani are considered to play leading lady roles opposite Charan in this Sukumar starrer. However, both heroines have earlier teamed up with him, and they haven't received enough praise, but instead won lots of criticism for their roles. Now, it's coming out that Sukumar doesn't want to cast anyone from Bollywood or any new girl, but his proven old

Nara Rohith's Kapaali: Intriguing and Engrossing

Nara Rohith is all set to thrill the audience with a psychological horror set against Police backdrop, Kapaali. Directed by Ram Ganni, the movie makers have announced the movie with a creative and different poster on the occasion of the actor's birthday. It is a bold new attempt that explores thrilling and unseen elements on the screen. The poster looks highly intriguing and mysterious. Designed in a dramatic sketch style, it shows the actor looking upwards with blank, intense eyes and a unique crown made of bare branches. It also features a woman with glowing red eyes, police officers, and a police van standing on a fiery mystic circle surrounded by strange floating symbols. With Hansika Motwani cast in a prominent roles, the movie promises to be fresh, unique and completely different for Telugu audiences. Nara Rohith has always been a symbol for creative and unique concepts, makers promise Kapaali to be another value addition to his resume. The movie is produced by Kalyana Chakravarthy Manthina and Bhanu Kiran Pratapa with Vijay Krishna Lingamaneni presenting it on a prestigious scale.



Angelina's Heart Stays With Cambodia

Global star and humanitarian Angelina Jolie has marked the first anniversary of the Cambodia border conflict, saying the country, where her son Maddox was born, continues to hold a special place in her heart. The Oscar-winning star penned a note on Instagram, where she spoke about how nearly 30,000 people remain internally displaced. "One year ago, conflict broke out along Cambodia's border, upending the safety and stability of so many. Now, nearly 30,000 people remain internally displaced and unable to return home," she wrote. Angelina shared that the place is her son Maddox's birth country "Cambodia has always been a special country for me and my family. This is my son's country of birth, our home is here, and for over 20 years, we've worked with a fully locally-led team on conservation and community development. The Maddox Foundation is headquartered on the same border where the recent conflict took

place," she added. "I have had the honor of becoming close friends with my neighbors and the Foundation team as we demined and developed the area together. When the fighting broke out last year, we had to evacuate our staff and their families — a painful reminder of just how quickly conflict can return." Jotting down points about why she loves Cambodia, Angelina wrote: "I love this country and its resilient, warm people. While we're grateful to have resumed our work protecting the land and supporting the community's health and livelihoods, my heart is with everyone still waiting to come home." Angelina is the recipient of numerous accolades, including an Academy Award, a Tony Award and three Golden Globe Awards. She is known for her humanitarian efforts. The causes she promotes include conservation, education, and women's rights. She has been noted for her advocacy on behalf of refugees as a Special Envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She has undertaken field missions to refugee camps and war zones worldwide.

Allu Arjun Not Entering Politics, Manager Dismisses Rumours

Speculation about Allu Arjun entering politics has been firmly denied by his manager Sharath Chandra Naidu, who called the reports "completely false" and baseless. peaking in a recent interview, Sharath clarified that the rumours were fueled by social media and have no truth whatsoever. The speculation had gained traction due to Allu Arjun's father-in-law, Chandrasekhar Reddy, being a senior Congress leader. Sharath questioned why the actor would consider politics at a time when he is one of India's busiest stars. He said Allu Arjun is currently focused entirely on his film career and has a lineup of major pan-India projects that will keep him occupied for the next decade. He also dismissed claims that the actor would enter politics through his family connections, describing them as nothing more than media speculation. With this clarification, the ongoing buzz about Allu Arjun's political debut has, for now, been put to rest, as the actor remains fully committed to his upcoming films.



'Hey Chikitha' Team Seeks Audience Support Ahead of July 24 Release

The makers of 'Hey Chikitha' held a grand pre-release event ahead of the film's theatrical release on July 24, with several film personalities extending their best wishes to the team. Produced by N. Ashok RNS and Garudavega Anji under the Amara-vathi Movie Makers and Sundarakanda Motion Pictures banners, the film is directed by Dhanraj Lekkala and stars Abhinav Manikanta, Divija Prabhakar, Tanmay Khushi, Devi Prasad, and ETV Prabhakar. Veteran producer Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao praised the team's efforts and said he hopes everyone associated with the film earns a good name. He emphasized that the success of a small film brings unmatched satisfaction and urged the media to continue supporting such projects. Comedian Ali wished the film the same success as the iconic 'Hey Chikitha' song from Badri, adding that if a film has strong content, audiences will embrace it wholeheartedly. He noted that the movie carries an important message about



farmers and youth. Director Dhanraj Lekkala described the film as his dream debut, saying it was made with a heartfelt message while balancing entertainment and emotions. The cast and crew also expressed confidence that audiences would connect with the film's story, music, and performances. Set against the backdrop of rural life and carrying the tagline "Raite Raju" (Farmer is King), Hey Chikitha aims to deliver a blend of comedy, emotion, and a socially relevant message when it hits theatres on July 24.

Varun Tej's KK Prebiz Starts On A Bang



Everything seems to be falling into place for Mega Prince Varun Tej's Korean Kanakaraju ahead of its theatrical release. The horror-comedy entertainer is witnessing excellent traction, with its growing popularity reflecting in its business prospects as well. The film has started its pre-release business on bang. It has recovered 26 crore through non-theatrical rights alone, covering a substantial part of its overall 38 crore production cost even before ticket sales begin. This gives the project a significant advantage as it heads towards release. One of the biggest strengths of the film has been its promotional material. The teaser struck the right chord by showcasing a fun-filled entertainer packed with humour and supernatural elements. The songs further amplified the excitement, helping the film build consistent buzz. The encouraging response has also boosted confidence among distributors, who are said to be offering premium prices for the theatrical rights. Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi and produced by UV Creations, in association with First Frame Entertainment, the film is slated for release on August 7th.

Can Venky Win Telugu Families With a Tamil Flavour?



All eyes are on Suriya's next, Vishwanath & Sons. Starring Mamitha Bajju as the female lead, the family drama is directed by Venky Atluri and produced by Naga Vamsi. However, Venky has clarified that it is neither a Telugu film nor a bilingual. He made it clear that the film was shot entirely in Tamil, and that the Telugu version will only be a dubbed release. Since both the director and producer are Telugu, many expected the film to be a Telugu-Tamil bilingual. Many in T-town, along with Suriya's Telugu fans, assumed it would be shot simultaneously in both languages. Hence, Venky's clarification has come as a surprise. According to the director, the story's original language and the lead actors' comfort were the main reasons behind the decision. This is unlike Venky Atluri's previous film, Sir / Vaathi, which was simultaneously shot as a Telugu-Tamil bilingual. In contrast, Vishwanath & Sons is purely a Tamil film. Even Suriya's last release, Veerabhadru (Karuppu in Tamil), was a Tamil film, but it worked well in Telugu because it was a mass entertainer. However, Vishwanath & Sons is a class-oriented film. Family audiences in Telugu states are more likely to connect with it if it carries a stronger Telugu flavour. In that context, Venky's statement could raise concerns about the film's appeal among Telugu family audiences. GV Prakash has composed the music for the film. Vishwanath & Sons is all set to hit theatres on August 14, 2026. In Tamil, it will clash with Nayanthara's Hi at the box office.