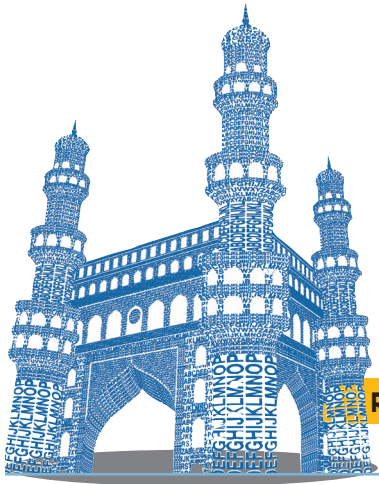




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MURTHY CALLS FOR AN “EXPLOITATION-FREE INDIA”

SPECIAL 02

Rao Hails Tougher Public Exams Act

SPECIAL 02



PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS AMENDMENT BILL-2026

New Delhi : The Central Government has released the draft of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026. The Bill is scheduled to be introduced in the Lok Sabha today

Key amendments proposed to strengthen action against question paper leaks and examination malpractice include:

- Jail term for general examination-related offences increased from 5 years to **10 years**.
- Fine of up to **₹50 lakh** for general offences.
- Organized gangs involved in paper leaks and examination fraud can be fined up to **₹10 crore**.
- Service providers conducting examinations may face a **₹5 crore** fine and be blacklisted for **8 years**.
- Investigation must be completed within **2 months** of registering a case.
- Special **Fast Track Courts** will be established for speedy trial of such cases.
- Trials must be completed and judgments delivered within **3 months** of filing the charge sheet.
- Appeals will be heard only by a Division Bench of two High Court judges, and appeals must be disposed of within **3 months**.

STRONGER LAWS. STRICTER ACTION. FAIR EXAMINATIONS. ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHEATING.

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM
Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has submitted his resignation to the Prime Minister. The letter he released today is addressed not to the party high command or the bureaucracy but to the young people of India. He cites the NEET UG

2026 paper leak, the subsequent cancellation and re-examination, the protests at Jantar Mantar led by the Cockroach Janta Party, and his declared wish that anti-national forces should not exploit the moment. The decision comes after weeks of sustained student pressure. The government acted on the leak. The minister has now

stepped down. The street has extracted a price.
A sitting Union Minister resigns under direct student pressure for the first time in this regime. The letter defends every official step taken after the May leak yet still ends with a resignation. Students at Jantar Mantar are celebrating.
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Gen Z in the Legislatures

Contest for State Assembly and Lok Sabha at 21 years of age
Contest for Legislative Council and Rajya Sabha at 25 years of age
CM A. Revanth Reddy participates in a candlelight rally protesting the alleged assault on students at Jantar Mantar



HYDERABAD, JULY 25

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said that the younger Gen Z generation should have representation in the country's highest legislative bodies—the State Assembly, Legislative Council, Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha. He announced that the Telan-

gana Legislative Assembly would pass a resolution on the matter and send it to the Central Government.
Questioning why Indian youth should not have similar opportunities as those in several developed countries, he said that many nations allow individuals to become Prime Ministers at the age of 21.

The Chief Minister participated in a candlelight rally organized by the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) from People's Plaza to Necklace Road on Saturday night. The rally demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Nandyal creates 3.3 tmc addl water storage under 'Catch the Rain'

Nandyal, July 25 (NSS): Andhra Pradesh's Nandyal district has significantly enhanced its water conservation infrastructure under the Centre's 'Catch the Rain' campaign. Under the campaign, 2,691 km of feeder and supply channels are desilted and restored, improving the conveyance of rainwater into tanks and reservoirs.
Officials said 2,103 water conservation works have been grounded across all 489 gram panchayats in the district, while 2,691 km of feeder channels have been restored and 251 minor irrigation tanks rejuvenated. The district has created an additional 3.3 TMC of water storage capacity through restoration and new conservation structures, strengthening groundwater recharge, irrigation and long-term water security through scientific planning and community participation.

Ponguleti launches Indiramma HELPLINE FOR CURE APPLICANTS

Hyderabad, July 25: To ensure that the public receives accurate information and to eliminate confusion or misconceptions regarding the Indiramma Housing programme in the Core Urban Region (CURE), Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy launched a dedicated call centre helpline at the Telangana Housing Board office in Hyderabad on Saturday.
The helpline will provide complete information on the application process, eligibility criteria, required documents, payments and allotment procedure.

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HAM ROAD WORKS TO GATHER PACE: SEETHAKKA

Hyderabad, July 25 (NSS): Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka said the Telangana government is accelerating the construction of rural roads on par with urban road standards by adopting the advanced Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM). Chairing a detailed review meeting at the Secretariat on Saturday with Panchayat Raj Special Chief Secretary Dana Kishore, Engineer-in-Chief Joga Reddy and Chief Engineers, the Minister reviewed the progress of rural HAM road projects across the State. Addressing the meeting, Seethakka said Chief Minister

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

New generation needs discussion, NOT ORDERS: MOHAN BHAGWAT

New Delhi, July 25: Amid the ongoing protests over the paper leaks and exam irregularities, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has said that the younger generation today seeks answers rather than unquestioning obedience, underscoring the importance of engaging with them through dialogue, affection and mutual understanding.
Addressing the concluding session of the Vishwa Man-

"WHEN WE WERE YOUNG, IT WAS AN ERA OF OBEDIENCE. THAT IS NOT THE CASE ANYMORE. THE NEW GENERATION ASKS QUESTIONS. WE HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASONING TO THEM. WE NEED TO GIVE THEM A LOT OF AFFECTION. WE NEED TO SPEND TIME WITH THEM,"

-BHAGWAT



galya Sabha's National Enlightenment Meeting on 'Contemporary Motherhood' at the Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi on Friday, Bhagwat said society must recognise the changing outlook of

young people and respond by communicating with them instead of expecting blind compliance.
Reflecting on the changing relationship between generations, the RSS chief said the

present generation prefers discussion and reason over unquestioned acceptance of instructions. "When we were young, it was an era of obedience. That is not the case anymore. The new generation asks questions. We have to explain the reasoning to them. We need to give them a lot of affection. We need to spend time with them," Bhagwat said. He further emphasised that meaningful conversations and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE YIELDED TO PUBLIC MOVEMENTS

Public movements have, on several occasions in the past, compelled the Central Government to respond to public demands.

	2011 JAN LOKPAL MOVEMENT Anna Hazare launched a nationwide anti-corruption movement demanding the Jan Lokpal Bill. He observed an indefinite hunger strike for 13 days at Ramliha Maidan. Following widespread public support, the Congress-led government agreed to the demand and initiated the process of bringing the Jan Lokpal Bill.
	2012 NIRBHAYA MOVEMENT After the 2012 Delhi gang rape, widely known as the Nirbhaya case, the country witnessed massive protests. In response to the nationwide outrage, the government introduced stronger criminal law reforms, commonly referred to as the Nirbhaya Law.
	2021 FARMERS' MOVEMENT In 2020, the Central Government enacted three controversial farm laws. Farmers across the country staged a historic protest that lasted for nearly a year. In November 2021, the Central Government repealed all three farm laws in response to the sustained agitation.
	2026 NEET PAPER LEAK MOVEMENT The movement led by the Cockroach Janata Party against the alleged NEET question paper leak has attracted nationwide attention. Protests were held at Jantar Mantar demanding transparency and accountability in the education system. According to the text, the Central Government yielded to the pressure and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned.

GOVERNMENT BENDS AFTER THIRTY SIX DAYS OF YOUTH FURY AS CJP FORCES RESIGNATION AND WINS COMPENSATION WITH FIR WITHDRAWAL



02

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

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

3 TIMES BETTER

GOVERNMENT BENDS AFTER THIRTY SIX DAYS OF YOUTH FURY AS CJP FORCES RESIGNATION

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The streets of the capital finally quietened today but the message that rang out from the Constitution Club remains loud and unmistakable. Power yields only when the young refuse to go home. Cockroach Janta Party spokespersons Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka walked into the third round of talks with Union Ministers Jitendra Singh and JP Nadda and walked out with a declaration that ends the nationwide agitation. Primary demands met. Agitation withdrawn. Students told to return home in peace.

This is no ordinary settlement. This is the hard truth of a government that first ignored the anger then tried to crush it and finally sat across the table because the pressure became impossible to manage. Dharmendra Pradhan has already stepped down from the Education Ministry. That single political demand which the CJP held as non negotiable for thirty six days has been fulfilled. The long standoff ends with the minister out of the chair.

Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka made the announcement jointly with the ministers. The Union government has agreed to provide financial compensation to the families of students who lost their lives in the aftermath of the

NEET paper leak row. The final figure remains under discussion but the assurance is clear. The maximum amount permitted under existing government rules will reach the affected families. No more empty promises. The Centre has also given its word that every police FIR and every criminal charge filed against student demonstrators during the twenty July crackdown will be waived. The cases that were used to intimidate will now be withdrawn.

The language used by the CJP leaders carried the weight of the entire movement. They told the protesting students at Jantar Mantar to return home peacefully. They declared that the primary demands had been met. They made it plain that the agitation stands withdrawn with immediate effect. The words were measured yet the victory they announced was anything but ordinary.

Strip away every polished layer that politics prefers and the raw sequence of events stands fully exposed. A youth movement that began with satire and masks turned into a sustained sit in that refused to disperse. Police action on twenty July only hardened the resolve. Hunger strikes and nationwide solidarity followed. Ministers who once spoke of maintaining law and order

found themselves forced into repeated rounds of dialogue. The first meetings produced little. The second meeting produced in principle acceptance of compensation and FIR withdrawal. The third meeting after the resignation of the Education Minister produced the final announcement.

The hard truth is simple. The system that failed the students during the NEET process has now been forced to acknowledge the human cost. Families that lost their children will receive financial support under the maximum permissible rules. Young people who faced cases for raising their voice will have those cases closed. And the minister who headed the education ministry during the leak crisis is no longer in that post.

Yet the confrontation does not end with handshakes. The CJP has also placed a five point reform charter before the government. Both sides have agreed that further meetings will take place to discuss examination reforms. The youth leaders have made it clear that acceptance of the charter remains part of the understanding. The pressure that forced this resolution must now convert into lasting change in the way national examinations are conducted.

Saurav Das spoke of good faith and

timelines. Ashutosh Ranka asked every protester to leave the site peacefully. The ministers confirmed the compensation and the FIR waiver. The joint declaration leaves little room for ambiguity. The agitation that began over paper leaks and institutional failure has extracted political accountability, compensation for grieving families and legal relief for the demonstrators.

This is the theatrical moment the movement sought. A government that once appeared unmoved has now publicly conceded ground. The resignation has come. The cases will go. The money for the families is assured under rules. The students who held their ground for thirty six days have forced the system to respond.

The capital's protest site will empty. The young will return to their homes and their books. But the memory of this confrontation will remain. When institutions fail the only language that power understands is sustained collective pressure. Today that pressure produced results. The next test will be whether the promised reforms and the compensation actually reach those who waited for justice. The hard truth is that accountability arrived only after the streets refused to stay silent.

NARAYANA MURTHY CALLS FOR AN "EXPLOITATION-FREE INDIA"

Hyderabad, July 25: Veteran actor R. Narayana Murthy voiced concern over the country's current socio-political situation, alleging that constitutional rights are under threat and people from all sections are suffering due to Central government policies. A condolence meeting for Comrade Parakala Naganna, the State Honorary President of the Arunod-

aya Cultural Federation, was held at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram in Baghlingampally of the city. Actor R. Narayana Murthy, producer Thammareddy Bharadwaja, and Vimalakka attended the event as the chief guests and paid tribute by garlanding a portrait of Parakala Naganna.

On this occasion, Murthy urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to strive for

an "exploitation-free India". He praised Naganna's contribution to social awareness through revolutionary songs. Calling for carrying forward the spirit of Parakala Naganna, Narayana Murthy appealed to all Communist parties to stand united and wage joint struggles against the policies of the Central Government in defending people's rights.

Rao Hails Tougher Public Exams Act

HYDERABAD, JULY 25

Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao on Saturday welcomed the NDA government's move to further strengthen the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, saying the Centre is committed to protecting students' future and restoring the credibility of public examinations.

Addressing the media in Hyderabad after participating in Sant Ravidas Maharaj's birth anniversa-

ry celebrations, Rao said the proposed amendments would mandate a minimum 10-year prison term for those involved in exam paper leaks and other malpractices, while increasing the maximum fine from Rs.1 crore to Rs.15 crore.

The BJP leader said the Act covers examinations conducted by agencies such as UPSC, SSC, RRB IBPS, NTA and other Central Government recruitment bodies. Rao also highlighted reforms introduced in the National

Testing Agency (NTA) based on the recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Committee and said the fast-track courts are being established for the speedy disposal of paper leak cases.

Claiming that previous governments had failed to enact a stringent anti-paper leak law despite several such incidents, Rao thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking a historic step to safeguard students' interests and reinforce public confidence in the examination system.

Tummala urges swift installation of micro-irrigation systems

Hyderabad, July 25: In view of the prevailing El Niño conditions in the State, Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nagewara Rao urged micro-irrigation companies to expedite the installation of micro-irrigation systems to support farmers.

Addressing a review meeting with representatives of micro-irrigation companies at the Secretariat on Saturday, the Minister said that the responsibility of both the government and private companies increases during adverse climatic conditions. He stressed that as farmers are gradually shifting from conventional crops to crop diversification, it is the collective responsibility of the government and companies to ensure timely provision of micro-irrigation facilities.

The Minister pointed out that nearly 80% of farmers in Telangana are small and marginal farmers and that almost every farmer depends on borewells for irrigation. Around 30 lakh borewells are currently being used for cultivation across the State, he said.

Under the prevailing El Niño

conditions, efficient water management through drip irrigation can provide significant relief to farmers. Drip irrigation enables higher crop yields while using less water, less electricity and fewer pesticides, he said.

Tummala Nagewara Rao said the State government is giving top priority to expanding micro-irrigation coverage. For 2026-27, the government has set a target of bringing 2,38,750 acres under micro-irrigation, including 85,000 acres of oil palm and 1,53,750 acres of other crops. Although administrative approvals have been issued for 65,446 acres, drip irrigation systems have been installed in only 34,909 acres, leaving 30,537 acres of work pending, he said, expressing dissatisfaction over the slow pace of implementation. The Minister directed every micro-irrigation company to prepare a clear action plan to complete the pending works in the districts allotted to them. The companies were also instructed to immediately recruit the required manpower and accelerate the installation of drip irrigation systems for farmers.

New generation needs discussion...

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consensus-building are essential while engaging with young people.

"We need to communicate. Not dictation, but discussion. Not orders, but consensus," Bhagwat said.

Although Bhagwat did not make any direct reference to the ongoing protests at Jantar Mantar over the paper leak and examination-related irregularities, his remarks came at a time when demonstrations by students and political parties over the issue continue across the country, drawing attention

to the concerns and aspirations of the youth.

Meanwhile, talks are underway between the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), which initiated the protests, and the Centre. Later in the day, the third round of talks will be held between the CJP delegation and the government.

Earlier on Friday, Union Ministers J.P. Nadda and Jitendra Singh held the second round of talks with the CJP at the Constitution Club, where the government had told the CJP delegation that they would get back on their demands.

Ponguleti launches Indiramma HELPLINE FOR CURE APPLICANTS

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Speaking on the occasion, the Minister advised the people not to rely on middlemen and instead contact the official helpline at 040-24603572 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. for authentic information. He said assistance would be available in Telugu, Hindi, English and Urdu, adding that the government had established the special support system to ensure applicants receive accurate guidance.

The Minister said the government aims to construct one lakh houses in the CURE area. In the first phase, work has commenced on 7,680 houses across 16 Assembly constituencies. He clarified that the scheme is being implemented on a constituency basis, and applicants must apply only in the constituency to which they belong. Applications can be submitted through MeeSeva centres, the online portal and WhatsApp, and the people are urged not to believe misinformation or malicious propaganda, he said.

The scheme is intended for low-income families residing in the Hyderabad CURE area. To be eligible, the annual family income should not exceed ₹6 lakh. Only one application will be accepted



from each family, and only one flat will be allotted to each eligible family, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said.

The Minister said all applications would undergo digital scrutiny, followed by field-level verification and comprehensive validation. If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of available flats, allotments will be made through a transparent lottery system.

Applicants must have been residing within the CURE limits for at least 10 years. Neither the applicant nor any member of the family should own a house, flat or plot within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) or CURE limits. Only one applica-

tion and one flat will be permitted per family, he said.

The Minister said applicants need only provide their Aadhaar number while submitting the application. Caste certificates, income certificates and salary-related documents are not required to be uploaded at the time of application and can instead be submitted during the lottery and verification process, he said.

Applicants must pay an application fee of ₹10,000 through UPI or net banking only. If a house is not allotted, the amount will be refunded to the same bank account from which the payment was made, the Minister said.

HAM ROAD WORKS TO GATHER PACE: SEETHAKKA

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A. Revanth Reddy envisions providing every village with quality road connectivity.

Under the HAM model, the Panchayat Raj department is undertaking the construction and upgradation of 18,472 kilometres of roads covering 6,703 villages across Telangana.

In the first phase, the government is taking up the widening and reconstruction of 7,450 kilometres of roads in 2,678 villages. She said 90 per cent of the works in the first phase are focused on upgrading existing roads. In addition, 179 villages that have lacked proper

road connectivity for decades will receive 934 kilometres of new BT (bituminous) and CC (cement concrete) roads for the first time.

The Minister said Telangana's implementation of the HAM model has attracted nationwide attention, prompting the government to formulate comprehensive operational guidelines.

She expressed confidence that the required approvals from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would be received by next week and directed officials to complete all contract agreements by August 15.

Seethakka instructed contractors to begin work immediately af-

ter signing the agreements and said they should display the same enthusiasm in executing the projects as they did while securing the tenders. She urged contractors to treat the works as their own responsibility and ensure timely completion.

The Minister also directed that roads previously built as single-lane stretches should now be upgraded to high-quality standards capable of accommodating heavy vehicles. To avoid delays, Seethakka instructed officials to immediately issue a circular to District Collectors for expediting land acquisition and tree removal wherever required.

Gen Z in the Legislatures

➤FROM PAGE 1

alleged NEET question paper leak, compensation for the families of students who died by suicide, and protested against the alleged police lathi-charge on students at Jantar Mantar.

Addressing thousands of Gen Z participants, Revanth Reddy said that countries such as Singapore, the United Kingdom, and Germany allow people as young as 21 to become Prime Ministers, and India should also provide similar opportunities.

He recalled that during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister, the 61st Constitutional Amendment reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 years, enabling millions of young people to vote. He also noted that during P. V. Narasimha Rao's tenure, the minimum age to contest local body elections for positions such as Mayor and Zilla Parishad Chairperson was reduced from 25 to 21 years.

According to the Chief Minister, these Congress-led reforms enabled young people to vote at 18 and contest local body elections at 21. He cited the example of a 21-year-old woman becoming the Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram as a result of those reforms.

He pointed out that although Gen Z makes up nearly 30% of the population, its representation in the 543-member Lok Sabha is less than 1%, which he described as unfair.

Revanth Reddy asked the gathering whether they were prepared to contest Assembly and Lok Sabha elections at the age of 21, to which the crowd responded enthusiastically.

Proposal to Reduce the Minimum Age

The Chief Minister said that if Gen Z's issues are to be resolved, young people must also be represented in legislatures. Therefore, the Telangana Government will demand:

21 years as the minimum age to contest Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

25 years as the minimum age to contest Legislative Council and Rajya Sabha elections.

He announced that in the first week of August, the Telangana Assembly and Legislative Council would hold special sessions to pass a resolution recommending these changes and forward it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central Government.

Young Talent Deserves Opportunities

Revanth Reddy also noted that candidates can already join the Indian Civil Services at the age of 21. He cited examples such as Sri Lakshmi, Ananya from Mahabubnagar district, and the current DGP C. V. Anand, who qualified for the civil services at a young age.

He said that instead of merely protesting from Jantar Mantar to Parliament, young people should have the opportunity to enter Parliament directly through elections ("Sadak Se Sansad" – From the Streets to Parliament). If 21-year-olds are allowed to contest Lok Sabha elections, Gen Z will be able to raise its own voice in Parliament.

Promise on Education Ministry

The Chief Minister stated that if a government led by Rahul Gandhi comes to power at the Centre, the Education Ministry would be entrusted to a Gen Z leader. He added that he would persuade Rahul Gandhi and leaders of the INDIA alliance to support this idea.

He argued that important portfolios such as Education and Information Technology should be handled by young people rather than individuals in their 60s, 70s, or 90s, because young people best understand their own needs.

Praise for Gen Z's Movement

Revanth Reddy praised the determination of Gen Z and said that the Congress Party did not intend to claim credit for the movement's achievements. He remarked that the youth's struggle compelled Prime Minister Narendra Modi to secure the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan.

However, he said the struggle was not over. He demanded compensation for the families of students affected by the examination paper leak and warned that if cases filed against protesting students were not withdrawn by Monday, the Congress Party, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, would raise the issue in Parliament. The rally was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers D. Sridhar Babu, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Ponnann Prabhakar, Seethakka, and several Members of Parliament, MLAs, MLCs, and other Congress leaders.

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The political system has been forced to acknowledge the force of organised youth anger.

THE LETTER THAT CHANGED THE EQUATION

Dharmendra Pradhan opens by speaking to "my young friends." He reminds them of four decades spent with students and teachers. He declares that a strong and inclusive education system is the foundation of a strong nation. He thanks the Prime Minister for the chance to serve under his leadership.

Then he turns to the crisis.

Irregularities surfaced in the NEET UG examination held on 3 May 2026. The government handed the investigation to the CBI, cancelled the examination and fixed a fresh date. From next year the test will move to com-

PRADHAN QUILTS

puter-based mode. The re-examination on 21 June was conducted successfully. Results declared on 16 July were described as satisfactory. Many meritorious students from modest backgrounds made it through.

Pradhan insists he accepted responsibility from the first day. He states he was determined that no deserving student would lose future prospects because of the examination mafia and that no student would suffer injustice. Yet he notes that certain individuals in positions of responsibility tried to mislead students and create obstruction. Thus, he says, caused him deep distress.

The last ten days of protests

at Jantar Mantar and across the country have left him saddened. He declares this is not a matter of personal prestige. India's youth power is the real strength of the nation. He will not allow that strength to be trapped in a web of confusion. Anti-national forces must not benefit from the present situation. National unity must remain intact. No student's future should get entangled in legal complications. Children must return to their studies and careers.

Keeping all these considerations in mind, he has submitted his resignation to the Honourable Prime Minister.

He ends with gratitude to the Prime Minister, colleagues and

officials, and a pledge that service to the nation remains his highest priority. With the blessings of Lord Jagannath he will continue working for Mother India, the people of Odisha and the aspirations of the country's youth.

THE HARD TRUTH THE LETTER CANNOT HIDE

The minister has defended the government's response at every stage. The CBI probe, the cancellation, the re-examination, the decision to shift to computer-based testing. All of it is placed on record as prompt and responsible action.

Yet the letter still ends with a resignation. That single fact carries more weight than every defensive paragraph that precedes it.

Students stayed on the streets for weeks. They refused to disperse. They made the minister's resignation a non-negotiable demand. The Cockroach Janta Party turned an online complaint into a physical presence at Jantar Mantar that the system could no longer ignore. When peaceful protest met force earlier this week, public anger only hardened. The government eventually calculated that the cost of holding the line had become higher than the cost of letting one minister go.

Pradhan's letter tries to frame the exit as a protective act for students and national unity. The timing tells a different story. The resignation arrives after sustained pressure, after talks that had deadlocked on this

very demand, and after the protest had drawn support far beyond its original core. The street forced the hand. The letter is the formal acknowledgement of that force.

WHAT THIS MOMENT ACTUALLY SIGNALS

For years the examination system has been treated as an administrative problem that can be managed with committees, inquiries and technical fixes. The NEET episode of 2026 has shown that when the scale of irregularity meets organised youth anger, management is no longer enough. Accountability becomes political. A minister has paid that price.

The letter carefully avoids any admission of personal administrative failure. It places the blame on the examination mafia and on those who allegedly misled students. It repeatedly returns to the theme of protecting the future of the young. Yet the resignation it-

self is the clearest signal that the political system recognised the depth of the unrest.

Students at Jantar Mantar are celebrating. They see a concrete result after weeks of heat, force and uncertainty. Whether this resignation leads to deeper reforms in the conduct of public examinations, stricter action against the networks that leak papers, or merely a temporary cooling of the temperature remains the next test. The minister is gone. The demand for a cleaner, more trustworthy examination system remains.

Dharmendra Pradhan has chosen to step aside. The young people who stayed on the street forced that choice into the open.

The letter records the government's defence. The resignation records the power of sustained student pressure. That is the hard equation of this Saturday.



SHORT
TAKES

IVF process challenges infertility problem - Leading IVF doctors Dr. Bangari Rajani Priyadarshini, Dr. Anamalla Sridevi



KARIMNAGAR: Renowned IVF doctors Dr. Bangari Rajani Priyadarshini of Renee Hospital and Dr. Anamalla Sridevi Naresh of Rohan Hospital said that IVF is a wonderful boon for couples suffering from infertility problems. Speaking as chief guests at the World IVF Day celebrations organized by the Satavahana Lions Club today, they said that it is a good development that modern hospitals providing IVF treatment are available in every town today. Program coordinator Lion Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy said that the first test tube baby was born about 48 years ago, and it is heartening to see that with the scientific and technological changes in the medical field since then, it is common to have children through IVF. Dr. Bangari Rajani Priyadarshini and Dr. Anamalla Sridevi were felicitated by the organizers of the Satavahana Lions Club in this program. Lion Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, President Marripalli Mahender, Secretary Nalla Venugopal, Vice Presidents Dr. V Srinivas, Lion Kota Satyam, Lion Mekala Arvind Kumar and others participated in this program and felicitated the doctors and conveyed their best wishes.

Release of “Last Warning” and “Aakhari Heccharika” Books to Create Awareness on Liver Diseases

■ Books authored by renowned hepatologist Dr. K. S. Somashekar Rao unveiled by former Supreme Court Judge Justice Jasti Chelameswar and Lok Sabha Member Dr. Shabari Baireddy

HYDERABAD

With the objective of creating greater public awareness about liver diseases, the books “Last Warning” (English) and “Aakhari Heccharika” (Telugu), authored by renowned hepatologist Dr. K. S. Somashekar Rao, were formally launched on Saturday (July 25, 2026) at Yashoda Hospitals, Hitec City.

The books were unveiled by former Supreme Court Judge of India Justice Jasti Chelameswar and Lok Sabha Member Dr. Shabari Baireddy as chief guests, along with Yashoda Hospitals Managing Director Dr. G. S. Rao. The event was attended by prominent doctors, healthcare experts, academicians, public representatives, social workers, media personnel, and several other invitees.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted that liver diseases are increasing steadily in India and have become one of the major causes of illness and premature deaths. They noted that conditions such as fatty liver disease, viral hepatitis, alcohol-related liver diseases, and liver cirrhosis are rising at an alarming rate. However, many of these diseases can be prevented through proper awareness, a healthy lifestyle, and early detection.

They stated that Dr. K. S. Somashekar Rao wrote these books with the aim of spreading awareness about liver health. The books have been designed in simple language so that even



people without medical knowledge can easily understand important aspects of liver care.

Each book contains six chapters, with every chapter beginning with a real-life incident (case study). This approach helps readers understand health issues more easily and learn the importance of early identification of diseases, timely consultation with doctors, and adopting healthier lifestyle practices.

The books provide comprehensive information on commonly occurring liver diseases, warning signs that should not be ignored, risk factors, common misconceptions, preventive measures, healthy dietary habits, the importance of vaccinations, proper use of medicines, and lifestyle changes that help protect the liver.

On the occasion, Dr. K. S. Somashekar Rao said

“The liver is an organ that works silently. Many liver diseases do not

show symptoms until they reach an advanced stage. Through these books, my aim is to create awareness among every family about the early warning signs of liver diseases, encourage healthy habits, and prevent avoidable liver-related illnesses. Creating awareness before the disease occurs is the best form of treatment.”

As a special highlight of the programme, several ‘Liver Health Ambassadors’ who had received treatment from Dr. Somashekar Rao were presented with the first copies of the books by the chief guests. Dr. Somashekar Rao stated that he was dedicating these books to every patient who has fought liver diseases and their families.

He also specially honoured Mr. Vivekanand Mishra, who inspired him during the writing of these books, and expressed his gratitude for his encouragement and support.

By releasing the books simultaneously in English and Telugu, the

author expressed his commitment to ensuring that liver health awareness reaches people across all sections of society. Many attendees observed that the launch marks an important milestone in promoting awareness about prevention, early detection, and healthy lifestyle practices related to liver diseases.

About the Author

Dr. K. S. Somashekar Rao is a senior hepatologist and gastroenterologist based in Hyderabad. With extensive experience in the diagnosis and treatment of liver diseases, he has been actively working not only in patient care but also in creating public health awareness. Through the ‘Save the Liver Foundation’ established by him, Dr. Somashekar Rao conducts programmes focused on liver disease prevention, early detection, free health camps, and public health awareness initiatives, providing valuable service to society.



Today's Students Are Tomorrow's National and International Sportspersons, says Rajender Rao

KARIMNAGAR

District Kabaddi Association Chairman Velichala Rajender Rao said that today's students are the future national and international sportspersons and described kabaddi as a symbol of India's rich sporting culture. He also announced a cash prize of ₹1 lakh for the winners and runners-up of the tournament to encourage young talent.

Rajender Rao inaugurated the CBSE Cluster-VII Boys & Girls Kabaddi Tournament-2026 at Vivekananda Residential School, Karimnagar, on Saturday. The three-day tournament has attracted 160 teams and around 1,400 students from CBSE schools across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the gathering,

he said kabaddi promotes discipline, confidence, teamwork and leadership qualities.

He urged students to pursue excellence in both academics and sports, adding that the players competing today could become tomorrow's national and international champions.

CBSE Hyderabad Regional Officer Jangam Sunil Kumar encouraged students to actively participate in sports alongside academics, while District Kabaddi Association President Dr. Chennadi Amit Kumar stressed the importance of dedication, discipline and continuous practice for achieving success.

The tournament will continue until July 27, with enthusiastic participation from students across both states.

Govt issues order inducting Minister Adluri into key policy panels

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has inducted Adluri Lakshman Kumar, Minister for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare, into two high-level state committees.

The inclusion was formally notified via Government Order G.O.Rt. No. 1077, issued by the General Administration (Cabinet) Department on July 23, 2026, in continuation of earlier directives.

Minister Laxman Kumar has been named to the high-level committee tasked with reviewing the landmark August 1, 2024 judgment delivered by a seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India regarding sub-classification within SC and ST reservation categories. The panel is mandated to evaluate the legal, constitutional,



and administrative ramifications of the verdict and advise the government on appropriate policy action.

Additionally, the Minister has been appointed to the Cabinet Sub-Committee reviewing the proposed Rohith Vemula Telangana Bill, 2026, which aims to prevent identity-based discrimination in higher education institutions across the state.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reaffirmed the State government's steadfast

commitment to protecting the rights of historically disadvantaged communities, ensuring equal opportunities and upholding the constitutional ideals of justice, equality and dignity.

He observed that the committee examining the issue of SC sub-classification would take into consideration the views of all stakeholders before making constitutionally sound and legally sustainable recommendations to the Government.

The Minister further stated that the government is committed to shaping the Rohith Vemula Telangana Bill into a progressive and exemplary piece of legislation that guarantees a discrimination-free academic environment and provides effective legal safeguards for students pursuing higher education.

HOUSE OF MASABA



New Delhi: Models walk the ramp showcasing creations by House of Masaba during the India Couture Week 2026 in New Delhi on Saturday.

BRS alleges Cong-BJP nexus to target KTR

HYDERABAD

BRS leader Manne Krishnak alleged that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar were jointly targeting BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) to divert attention from the NEET paper leak issue. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan here on Saturday, Krishnak claimed KTR was being attacked for supporting protesting youth and accused the BJP and Congress of spreading false allegations. He also rejected claims linking KTR to Globarini, asserting the company had business associations during the erstwhile Congress regime. When the Congress government organized an Information and Technology Summit in the year 2012 with N Kiran Kumar Reddy serving as Chief Minister.

Ashadha Tholi Ekadashi Celebrations at Sri Jangal Vithoba Temple, Hyderabad



HYDERABAD

On the occasion of Ashadha Tholi Ekadashi on 25 July 2026, Panchamruta Abhishekam and Harathi were offered to Lord Vithaleshwara at the Sri Jangal Vithoba Temple in Gowliguda, Hyderabad. This was followed by devotional bhajan programs. The religious ceremonies were conducted under the leadership of the temple chairman and former BJP corporator Shankar Yadav. The rituals were performed by Brahma Shri Govind Maharaj, Sai Nath Sharma, and other Vedic scholars.

BJP National Council Member Geetha Murthy attended the event as the chief guest. She was felicitated with a shawl

and prasadam by the temple's Organising Secretary Katta Ramesh Mudiraj and President Kishan Yadav.

BJP leaders Nayini Raji Reddy, Vasanthha, and several others participated in the event. A large number of devotees attended the celebrations.

Rukmini Panduranga Kalyanam at Suvarna Bharathi Goshala, LB Nagar

On 25 July 2026, the Rukmini Panduranga Kalyanam was celebrated with great devotion at Suvarna Bharathi Goshala in LB Nagar on the occasion of Ashadha Tholi Ekadashi.

The event was organised under the leadership of Brahma Shri Srinivasa Bangarayya Sharma, Founder-President of the



Tatvam Charitable Trust. Eminent Vedic scholars Shri Nori Narayana Murthy and Brahma Shri Shalaka Raghunath Sharma delivered religious discourses during the celebrations.

BJP National Council Member Smt. Geetha Murthy attended the festival as a special guest. Prominent social worker Ramesh Gupta, Satish, Raji Reddy, Vasanthha, Srikanth, and many devotees participated in the Kalyanam.

After the ceremony, breakfast was served to the devotees by the organisers. Ashadha Tholi Ekadashi Celebrations at Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Hari Hara Kshetram, Shamirpet.

On 25 July 2026, special Ashadha Tholi Ekadashi prayers

were conducted at Rama Sahitha Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Hari Hara Kshetram in Aliyabad, Shamirpet.

Under the leadership of temple chairman Palle Ramulu Goud and the guidance of Brahma Shri Tigulla Srinivasa Sharma, special rituals including Laksha Pushpalankarana (decoration with one lakh flowers) and Vratam were performed.

On this occasion, BJP National Council Member Geetha Murthy participated in the celebrations and was felicitated by the temple committee.

BJP leaders from Neredmet, including Nayini Raji Reddy, Vasanthha, CA Sharma, and others, also took part in the Ashadha Tholi Ekadashi celebrations.

Governor assures action on teachers' pending issues: MLC Komaraiah

HYDERABAD

Teacher MLC Malka Komaraiah on Saturday met Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan and submitted a memorandum highlighting key issues affecting the teachers, employees and the education sector.

The MLC, in his memorandum, urged for immediate clearance of pending E-Kubera bills, implementation of a 51% PRC fitment, release of six pending DA installments, timely retirement benefits and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for eligible employees, including DSC-2003 teachers. Komaraiah also sought withdrawal of the state's special leave petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court on the OPS issue and constitution of a high-level committee to address teachers' concerns.

Further, he demanded that the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) must be restored for all eligible employees, replacing the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and added that a high-level committee should be constituted to address the service, financial and administrative issues faced by the teachers in residential, ashram and aided schools.

SET constituted to probe Dharani Portal

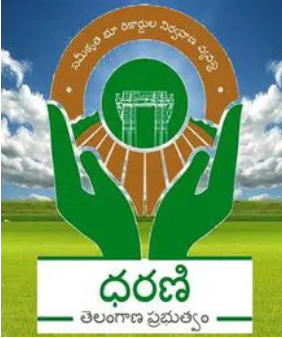
■ Panel to examine tender process, portal design, data security and alleged irregularities

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has constituted a Special Enquiry Team (SET) to conduct a comprehensive probe into the functioning of the Dharani Portal, including its tender process, vendor selection, technical architecture, data security and alleged irregularities.

The government issued G.O. Ms. No. 173 through the Revenue (Land Administration-I) Department on Friday, directing the panel to investigate the portal's implementation from its inception and identify those responsible for any lapses.

The seven-member SET will be headed by CID Director General Charu Sinha (IPS). Other members include Sindhu Sharma, SP, Counter Intelligence; Anudeep Durishetty, Joint Secretary, IT Department; Harshavardhan, SP, TGCSB; Manda Makarand, Project Officer, ITDA Utnoor; a technical expert nominated by the National Informatics



Centre (NIC); and Apoorv Chauhan, Project Director, CMRO, who will serve as the convenor.

According to the government order, the inquiry will examine whether the Dharani tender process was transparent and legally compliant, whether the contract was awarded to a company facing legal disputes or insolvency proceedings, and whether there were changes in the ownership of the vendor company, including the involvement of foreign entities or links to tax havens.

The panel will also investigate whether the security of citizens' personal information and land records was compromised, and whether flaws in the portal enabled unauthorised approvals, registrations without proper payments,

unauthorised access, or transactions carried out at unusual hours.

The SET will further examine technical shortcomings, including the absence of system logs, failure to record applicants' IP addresses and the inability to link transaction IDs with Aadhaar-based transactions. It will also assess whether any individual or organisation exploited weaknesses in the portal, resulting in losses to the government.

The government has authorised the inquiry team to identify those responsible for any irregularities and recommend appropriate action, including referring cases to specialised investigative agencies wherever necessary. The SET has also been empowered to seek assistance from forensic and technical experts.

The government directed the Special Enquiry Team to submit its report at the earliest and permitted it to file interim reports, particularly on issues relating to data security. All government departments, Telangana Technology Services (TGTS) and other concerned agencies have been instructed to extend full cooperation to the inquiry.

Your Health... Your Responsibility

KURNOOL DISTRICT/ALUR, JULY 25:

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced that the Sanjeevani healthcare scheme is being introduced to safeguard public health and will be implemented across Andhra Pradesh from August. He urged citizens to make full use of the scheme, emphasizing that “your health is in your hands.”

The Chief Minister participated in the Sanjeevani program held in Aspari in the Alur constituency of Kurnool district. He explained the features of the project, which integrates technology into public healthcare across the state.

He said that with families spending a large share of their income on education and healthcare, the government designed the Sanjeevani project to take responsibility for citizens' health. Under the scheme, every individual will receive a digital health profile, and every family member will be issued an ABHA Health ID. Health records from primary health centres up to the state level will be integrated into a single digital platform.

Predictive, Preventive, and Curative: The Sanjeevani Model

The Chief Minister said that Sanjeevani is not just about treating illnesses after they occur, but also about identifying diseases early, taking preventive measures, and providing effective treatment when needed. He noted that reports indicate around 8 million people in the state suffer from serious diseases, and the project aims to reduce this burden.

The scheme will integrate:

- Non-communicable disease management

Make the best use of Sanjeevani.

Sanjeevani to be launched across the state from August with the goal of protecting public health. Public health, public welfare, and development are the coalition government's responsibility.

“The Axe Party leaders are hypocrites—they did not provide irrigation to even a single acre or bring a single industry.”

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the Sanjeevani public meeting in Aspari.

- Maternal and child healthcare
 - Child health screenings
 - 108 emergency ambulance services
 - 104 mobile medical units
 - e-Aushadhi (medicine supply)
 - Laboratory services
- Future enhancements will include:**
- AI-based medical assistance
 - Telemedicine
 - Remote healthcare
 - Predictive analytics
 - Digital nerve centres

Through the Sanjeevani Citizen Wellness App, people will be able to book doctor appointments and access their health records anytime.

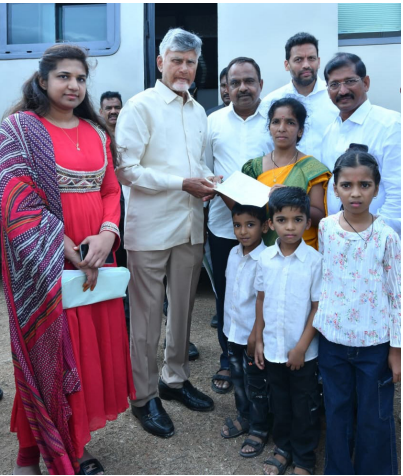
The Chief Minister stressed that government programs alone cannot ensure public health; people must also adopt healthy lifestyles through nutritious food, yoga, meditation, exercise, and healthy habits. He said the government's goal is to build healthy families, healthy villages, and a healthy Andhra Pradesh.

Government Support from Welfare to Solar Power

The Chief Minister said the government is giving equal importance to welfare alongside healthcare.

He highlighted that:

- Monthly pensions are being distributed on the first day of every month.
- Farmers are receiving ₹20,000 assistance under



the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme.

- Students are being supported through the Thalliki Vandanam scheme.
- Women's empowerment is being promoted through Stree Shakti.
- LPG subsidies are being provided under Deepam 2.0.
- Rooftop solar power initiatives are being implemented for households.

He criticized the previous government for creating confusion in land records and said that all land records are now being secured using blockchain technology through a resurvey. New land ownership passbooks are being issued on the 9th of every month, and the resurvey is expected to be completed by March next year.

He also announced efforts to begin production at the



Kadapa Steel Plant by 2028. Companies such as Hero Motors, LG, and Dalmia are investing in Andhra Pradesh, and with investments worth ₹1 lakh crore, the government aims to develop Rayalaseema into a horticulture and industrial hub. He welcomed the Centre's support for the Kurnool-Ballari railway line.

Vedavathi Lift Irrigation Project Will Be Completed
Referring to reduced rainfall due to the El Niño effect, the Chief Minister advised farmers to use water carefully.

He said:

- The Jala Dhara program is being implemented to improve groundwater levels.
- The Vedavathi Project will be completed to provide irrigation to the region.
- An irrigation calendar has been prepared to complete 36 irrigation projects across the state within three years.

jeevani public meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the performance of the district administration from the same stage and congratulated officials for their good work. He said the coalition government is committed to providing good governance and that effective work at every level is essential for benefiting the people. He mentioned that he has similarly reviewed officials' performance in around 50 public meetings so far. The Chief Minister also posed for a group photograph with Kurnool district officials and presented a ₹197 crore cheque to women belonging to self-help groups in the district. When some attendees attempted to hand over petitions during his speech, he assured them he would receive them after the meeting. He remarked that he meets people directly and, unlike the previous government, does not travel behind curtains or cut down trees to hold public meetings. He said a Chief Minister is not just someone who sits in the Secretariat but should be a common man among the people. That is why, he said, he meets the public every month, understands their problems, and formulates public policies to address them. The meeting was attended by Ministers Satyakumar Yadav, Nimmala Ramanaidu, T. G. Bharat, public representatives from Kurnool district, leaders of coalition parties, and district officials.

● The Vedavathi Lift Irrigation Scheme in Kurnool district will be completed at a cost of ₹1,768 crore.

He criticized the previous government, alleging that it did not spend on irrigation projects, complete any new projects, provide irrigation to additional farmland, or generate employment. He also accused it of removing drip irrigation subsidies while now speaking about Rayalaseema's development. He further said that the previous rulers opposed the Anna Canteens initiative that provides affordable meals to the poor and accused them of damaging every institution in the state. The Chief Minister urged people not to trust what he called the “Axe Party” and its “deceptive politics.”

“No Curtains, No Cutting Down Trees”

After addressing the San-

YSR Congress reiterates demand for CBI probe into DSC irregularities

AMARAVATI, JULY 24



YSR Congress Party has reiterated its demand for a probe by the CBI into alleged irregularities in the Mega District Selection Committee (DSC) exam and recruitment of teachers. The opposition party has called for protests across Andhra Pradesh on July 28 to press for a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). YSRCP General Secretary Jupudi Prabhakar said on Friday that the party will stand by students and youth who are betrayed by the coalition government.

He told media persons at the party's central office at Tadepalli that while the Centre has yielded to the protests by students and civil societies on NEET irregularities, the coalition government has shown no concern and failed to answer the pointed questions raised by former Chief Minister and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

“We will protest statewide on behalf of students and youth seeking a CBI probe into the irregularities in the DSC process from notification to recruitment level as was exposed by us at various levels,” he said.

The YSRCP leader stated that the GOs issued to accommodate the favoured few before the exams and

cancelling them after the recruitment show the element of scam in the DSC. Prabhakar said they time and again raised it, but the State government did not respond, nor did it address the issue. Students are bearing the brunt with the fees reimbursement dues not being cleared, and even the Taliki Vandanam scheme has been shoddy, with the number of beneficiaries being drastically cut and the promised amount not being given, he said. “We demand that the full data of Taliki Vandanam be made public on the amount released and the number of beneficiaries, and the comparison with the previous scheme will give a full picture.” He also alleged that the State government has been silent on custodial deaths and atrocities on Dalits and weaker sections. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been continuously raising the issue. YSRCP will stand by the students, youth and other sections and will be the voice of the people, he added.

Students more important than any position for BJP workers: Amit Shah on Pradhan exit

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation reflects the Bharatiya Janata Party's commitment to placing the interests of the nation, students, and youth above political office.



In a post on social media, Shah said, “For BJP workers, the country, our youth, and students are far more important than any position. Today, the resignation of Union Education Minister Shri @dpradhanbjp ji from his post exemplifies this very principle.”

Pradhan resigned as Union Education Minister on Saturday amid nationwide student protests over the alleged NEET paper leak. He said the decision was aimed at safeguarding students' futures and preventing what he described as “anti-national forces” from exploiting the large-scale youth protests at Delhi's Jantar Mantar.

Shah said the Narendra Modi-led government respects the concerns of the country's youth and remains committed to introducing stringent reforms to prevent examination paper leaks.

“The Modi government respects the sentiments of the country's youth and is

committed to implementing the necessary reforms against paper leaks. The decisions taken by Modi ji to ensure strict punishment for those guilty of paper leaks are commendable,” Shah said. He added that he was confident the government's measures would ensure justice for students who had successfully cleared the NEET examination. Highlighting Pradhan's tenure as Education Minister, Shah credited him with driving key reforms, including the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), expanding examinations in regional languages, strengthening PM SHRI Schools, promoting digital education, advancing skill development, and improving industry-academia collaboration. He also praised Pradhan's efforts to make the examination system more inclusive and student-centric. “His tenure is a testament to his dedication to the resolve of making India a developed nation,” Shah said.



Karnataka Cabinet Expansion Likely Next Week

CHITRADURGA, (KARNATAKA) JULY 25

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Saturday that the state Cabinet is likely to be expanded next week and called upon all Ministers to work collectively to address the drought situation across the state. Speaking at the Bengaluru Regional Division-level Development progress review meeting held in Chitradurga, Shivakumar stressed the need for a united approach to governance and urged Ministers to prioritise drought management and public welfare. “The Cabinet may be expanded next week. Once that happens, all Ministers must join hands and work together. We must collectively assess the drought situation across the state and ensure that farmers in villages do not suffer. This is our responsibility,” the Chief Minister said.

Earlier on Saturday, Shivakumar visited agricultural fields at Vaddikere village in Hiriyur taluk of Chitradurga district to assess the impact of drought on farmers. Officials briefed him on the prevailing conditions. Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre and MLA T. Raghunurthy accompanied him during the visit. Emphasising administrative reforms, Shivakumar said the state government was working to give governance a new direction and called upon legislators and officials to function as “Team Karnataka”.

P M TO INAUGURATE ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON AUGUST 1.

VIJAYAWADA, JULY 25

Week-long celebrations under 'Uttarandhra Kalalaku Rekkalu' theme from July 25 to August 1 across six districts; Digital countdown screens set up at key centers

Fulfilling the long-cherished dreams and aspirations of the people of North Andhra, the newly constructed Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district will be grandly inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on August 1, 2026.

Announcing the historic milestone, Director of Information and Public Relations (I&PR) K.S. Viswanathan stated that a week-long promotional campaign titled “Uttarandhra Kalalaku Rekkalu” (Wings to the Dreams of North Andhra) is being organized from today, July 25, through August 1. Spearheaded by the I&PR Department in close coordination with district administrations, these extensive events will span six districts—Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Parvathipuram Manyam, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Anakapalli, and Visakhapatnam—to

highlight the airport's pivotal role in accelerating holistic development, tourism, and industrial growth. As part of the campaign, digital countdown screens have been installed at major public hubs across all district headquarters to stream the countdown live to the public. To engage youth, quiz, painting, and essay-writing competitions centered on the theme “My District Takes Off” are being organized for students, with winners securing VIP seating at the main inaugural ceremony on August 1. Special prayers and rituals will also be offered at prominent temples across North Andhra for the smooth launch and future prosperity of the region. Highlighting the airport's impact on tribal empowerment, the Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) is organizing branding displays



and exhibitions for local organic products like Araku Coffee and Araku Turmeric, with exclusive tribal produce set to be presented to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Public representatives and officials are conducting awareness seminars at key destinations to educate locals on expanding tourism prospects and homestay registrations. Additionally, SERP and MEPMA will host a massive women's Ran-

goli competition on July 30 themed around the Bhogapuram airport project, alongside themed cricket and beach volleyball tournaments. Folk performances and cultural shows will pay rich tribute to revolutionary hero Alluri Sitarama Raju at major centers and his birthplace, Pandrangi village. District Collectors have been instructed to coordinate across departments to execute a dedicated day-wise schedule. The campaign commences on July 25 in Vizianagaram with the official launch and Pledge Wall unveiling, followed by an industrial conference on July 26 in Srikakulam focusing on generating 45,000 jobs around JSW/Puidi Bhimavaram alongside an Arasavalli Temple promotional drive. Events continue in Parvathipuram Manyam on July 28 with an Araku

Turmeric Kiosk launch and MSME Parks Expo, a Coffee Farmers' Conference in Alluri Sitarama Raju district on July 29, an NRI and Industrialists Meet in Anakapalli on July 30, and an IT Career Expo in Visakhapatnam on July 31.

On the eve of the inauguration (July 31), Visakhapatnam's RK Beach Road will host a 5K/10K Marathon Run, Cyclothon, and Flash Mobs, culminating in a grand night drone show depicting the new airport, while all government offices across North Andhra will be illuminated with festive lights. Director K.S. Viswanathan appealed to corporate investors to share their wishes on social media and urged citizens across the region to participate actively in large numbers to make this milestone event a resounding success.

29 students injured as school bus overturns into water-filled ditch in Bihar

A private school bus overturned into a water-filled ditch in Rohtas, injuring 29 students and its driver. The crash has renewed scrutiny of school bus fitness and prompted demands for strict action.



At least 29 students and the driver of a private school bus were injured after the vehicle lost control and overturned into a water-filled roadside ditch in Bihar's Rohtas district on Saturday, triggering panic among parents and raising fresh concerns over the safety of school transport.

The accident took place in the Kochas police station area on the link road connecting

Siwan and Jalalpur villages. The bus, belonging to a private school identified as DPS School in Jalalpur, was carrying students when it suddenly went out of control and overturned beside the road, according to local residents.

Eyewitnesses said the bus veered off the road before falling into the water-filled

ditch. Moments after the accident, local villagers rushed to the spot and launched rescue efforts, helping children trapped inside the overturned vehicle to safety. The injured students and the bus driver were taken to a nearby hospital for first aid. While 29 children sustained injuries, no student was reported to

be critically injured. Several parents later shifted their children to private hospitals for further medical examination and treatment. The incident sparked anger among local residents, who alleged that the school had been operating old and unfit buses for a long time, putting the lives of students at risk. They claimed that little attention had been paid to the technical condition and fitness of the school's fleet despite repeated concerns. Residents demanded strict action against the school management and called on the district administration to conduct a comprehensive inspection of all school buses operating in the area. They urged authorities to ensure that only roadwor-

thy vehicles are permitted to transport students. Police reached the accident site soon after receiving information about the incident and began an investigation into the circumstances leading to the crash. Administrative officials have also launched a probe to determine the exact cause of the accident and whether any negligence was involved.

The mishap has once again brought the spotlight on the safety standards of school transport vehicles and the enforcement of fitness norms. Parents have urged the administration to carry out regular inspections of school buses and ensure that safety regulations are strictly followed to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Kerala: Priyanka Gandhi visits Wayanad landslide site

KALPETTA, JULY 25

Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday visited the Kalladi landslide site for the first time, 18 days after the tragedy that claimed eight lives, even as questions had been raised locally over the delay in the constituency MP reaching the disaster-hit area. During the visit, Priyanka inspected the landslide-hit tunnel construction site, interacted with affected families, officials and the construction agency, and later visited the injured undergoing treatment at Meppadi WIMS Hospital. She assured those who lost their homes and family members

that the government would provide all necessary assistance. The visit came amid murmurs in Wayanad over the absence of the MP during the crucial days immediately after the July landslide, when rescue operations were underway, and eight people had lost their lives. While Congress leaders maintained that she was monitoring the situation, Saturday marked her first visit to the disaster site. Addressing a function organised by the district administration to honour those who led the rescue and relief operations, Priyanka praised the people of Wayanad for standing united whenever the district had faced a natural disaster.

EDITORIAL

Restoring Trust in India's Public Examinations

Public examinations are more than just tests of academic knowledge—they are gateways to higher education, careers, and opportunities that shape the future of millions of young people. Every year, students invest months and often years of hard work preparing for competitive examinations with the hope that merit and dedication will determine their success. This makes the credibility of the examination system one of the most important pillars of the country's education framework.

India conducts some of the world's largest public examinations, involving millions of candidates across diverse regions and languages. Managing such large-scale assessments is a complex task that requires careful planning, robust security, technological support, and seamless coordination among multiple agencies. Over the years, examination authorities have introduced several reforms, including digital registration, biometric verification, encrypted question paper delivery, and computer-based testing, to improve transparency and efficiency.

Maintaining public confidence in these examinations is essential because trust is the foundation of any fair evaluation system. Students and parents expect that every candidate receives an equal opportunity to compete based on knowledge and ability. When examinations are conducted smoothly and transparently, they reinforce the belief that hard work and perseverance are rewarded fairly. This confidence motivates students to pursue excellence and strengthens the integrity of educational institutions.

Technology has emerged as a powerful ally in enhancing examination security. Artificial intelligence, advanced surveillance systems, encrypted digital communication, data analytics, and secure online monitoring can help identify irregularities and strengthen the overall examination process. At the same time, technology must be supported by well-trained personnel, clear operational guidelines, and continuous evaluation to ensure that every stage—from question paper preparation to result declaration—is handled with the highest standards of accountability.

Equally important is the need for continuous institutional improvement. Examination agencies should regularly review their procedures, adopt international best practices, and invest in modern infrastructure. Independent audits, periodic security assessments, and transparent reporting mechanisms can help identify areas that require attention. Such measures not only improve operational efficiency but also reassure students and parents that the system is constantly evolving to meet new challenges.

Teachers, schools, coaching institutions, and families also have a vital role in promoting a culture of honesty and ethical learning. Academic success should be built on discipline, curiosity, and genuine understanding rather than shortcuts. Encouraging integrity from an early age helps create responsible citizens who value fairness in education and beyond. Educational institutions can reinforce these values by emphasizing ethics alongside academic achievement.

Communication is another important aspect of building confidence. Timely updates, clear instructions, responsive grievance redressal systems, and transparent dissemination of information reduce uncertainty among candidates. When students know that their concerns will be heard and addressed promptly, they are more likely to retain confidence in the examination process.

India's aspiration to become a global knowledge and innovation hub depends significantly on the strength of its education system. A credible examination framework ensures that talent is identified fairly and that deserving students receive opportunities based on merit. As the country continues to modernize its educational institutions and embrace technological advancements, strengthening examination systems must remain a national priority.

Restoring and preserving trust in public examinations is not the responsibility of one institution alone. It requires the combined efforts of governments, examination authorities, educators, technology experts, schools, parents, and students. By fostering transparency, accountability, innovation, and ethical values, India can continue to build an examination system that inspires confidence and reflects the aspirations of a nation committed to educational excellence.



PALLERUKAYALU – A LIFE STORY
BLOSSOMING ALONG A THORNY PATH

A Review of Dr. B. V. N. Swamy's
Autobiographical Novel

In every language, certain autobiographical novels transcend the boundaries of personal memoir and emerge as enduring social documents. They preserve not only the journey of an individual but also the history of a generation, the ethos of a society and the timeless values that shape human life. Pallerukayalu, authored by the distinguished Telugu writer Dr. B. V. N. Swamy, is one such significant contribution to contemporary Telugu literature.

Dr. B. V. N. Swamy is a respected literary figure who has authored thirteen books, edited several anthologies, and received numerous prestigious literary honours. Holding Master's degrees in Telugu and History and a Ph.D., he currently resides in Karimnagar, continuing his literary pursuits with remarkable humility, scholarly dedication and unwavering commitment to the enrichment of Telugu literature.

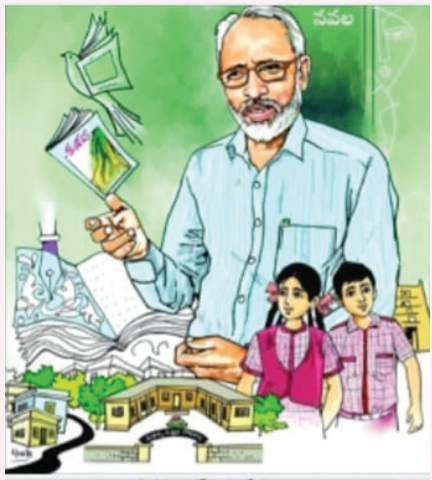
Published by Palapitta Books, Hyderabad, and beautifully printed by Karshak Printers, Hyderabad, this 127-page autobiographical novel is a fine example of quality publishing. Its elegant presentation complements the literary richness contained within its pages.

The title, Pallerukayalu, is profoundly symbolic. Like the resilient Palleru plant that survives and flourishes amidst thorns and adversity, the author's life unfolds through struggle, perseverance, hope, and unwavering determination. Rather than glorifying personal achievements, Dr. Swamy presents his experiences with honesty, humility, and emotional restraint. Consequently, readers do not merely read a life story; they walk alongside the author through every triumph and trial.

Education forms one of the novel's strongest thematic pillars. Through vivid portrayals of rural schooling, the hardships of student life, the responsibilities of a teacher and the evolution of the educational system, the author demonstrates that education is not merely a pathway to employment but the very foundation of character, wisdom, and responsible citizenship.

Equally captivating is the novel's authentic portrayal of rural Telangana. Its villages, landscapes, customs, traditions, family bonds, and linguistic richness are rendered with remarkable realism. The natural use of the Telangana dialect lends warmth and credibility to the narrative, transforming the novel into a living record of a society in transition.

The narrative structure deserves particular appreciation. Though presented chronologically, the work rises above the limitations of a conventional autobiography. Personal memories seamlessly merge with collective social experiences, making



the novel not simply the life story of one individual but a literary document reflecting the aspirations, struggles and transformations of an entire generation. Throughout the narrative, the reader encounters the perceptive mind of a teacher, the insight of a scholar, the sensitivity of a creative writer, and the conscience of a thoughtful social observer.

Dr. Swamy's language is graceful in its simplicity. Free from unnecessary ornamentation, it derives its strength from clarity, sincerity, and emotional depth. The natural dialogues, reflective passages and understated style sustain the reader's interest while lending the work lasting literary elegance.

The significance of Pallerukayalu extends well beyond its general readership. Its literary depth, cultural relevance, and social insight have attracted academic attention, and the novel has become a subject of M.Phil. and Ph.D. research in universities. Such scholarly engagement is a testament to its enduring value and its important place in contemporary Telugu literature.

Ultimately, Pallerukayalu is far more than the autobiography of an individual. It is a celebration of resilience, education, rural life, human relationships, and the enduring cultural spirit of Telangana. It reminds readers that adversity is often life's greatest teacher and that perseverance transforms ordinary lives into extraordinary journeys. Rich in human values, literary merit and social relevance, this novel deserves the attention of students, teachers, researchers, literary scholars, and every discerning reader.

Pallerukayalu is not merely a book to be read it is a work to be studied, cherished, and preserved. It stands as a meaningful contribution to modern Telugu literature and unquestionably deserves a place in every serious reader's personal library.

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



OPINION

Economic Highlights

Prosperity Paradox, 6th Largest STILL LOWER MIDDLE INCOME!

The World Bank classifies India as a lower-middle-income (LMI) economy rather than a “weak country”, a status it has maintained since 2009. In other words, the WB has not revised India's actual socio-economic status for the last 17 years.

This has caused a dichotomy. In the perception of WB, the LMI classification is based on India's Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, “which reflects the average income earned per person.”. While the World Bank regularly monitors India's economic performance and highlights challenges like sluggish private investment and labour market issues, it also frequently projects India to be one of the fastest-growing major economies globally, pegging its real GDP growth around 6.5 per cent. However, the income at the per person level has not gone up a bit.

Russia classified as a high-income, upper-middle-sized nation with a nominal GDP scaling around \$2.0 to \$2.6 trillion has a nominal GDP per capita of roughly \$17,500–\$18,500.

The WB determines country classifications using economic brackets based on GNI per capita: Low-income: \$1,145 or less, Lower-middle-income: \$1,146 to \$4,515, Upper-middle-income: \$4,516 to \$14,005; High-income: \$14,006 or more.

When assessing India's economic vulnerabilities or potential, the WB generally evaluates specific sectors like structural employment, domestic demand deceleration, and fiscal deficits rather than labelling the entire country as “weak”. It means despite its LMI status continuing, overall, the aggregates have improved but on the basis of per capita income, the status stagnates.

What it does not explain is how the government's growing reliance on low-paid contractual employment across sectors may have contributed to India's continued LMI status, even as the economy, at around \$4.15 trillion in 2026, ranks as the world's sixth largest, according to the IMF World Economic Outlook.

The WB's evaluations of the Indian economy highlight several fundamental challenges starting with Low Labour Force Participation, Lagging Structural Transformation, Regional Inequality, Private Investment, Credit Constraints and global headwinds.

India's overall labour force participation rate stands at roughly 56.4 per cent, which falls well behind regional peers like



Vietnam (73 per cent) and the Philippines (60 per cent). Simply termed it means that the country could not result in better jobs. It also reflects on the country's change of various labour codes.

These policies have favoured employers by suppressing wages despite rising living costs. They have also affected India's international standing on labour and income indicators. It is time to revisit labour reforms of the past two decades that expanded low-paid contractual employment and weakened job security across sectors, even as overall employment has declined. Global benchmarks judge countries not merely by GDP, but by wages, working conditions, labour participation and social welfare.

India spends about 7 per cent of its GDP on welfare, with state governments bearing nearly 90 per cent of the implementation costs, while the Union government's direct contribution is below 2 per cent of GDP. Welfare spending covers food security, rural housing, drinking water, health and cash transfers. Social sector expenditure has grown steadily in recent years, but several ministries continue to face fund utilisation gaps, highlighting the need for more efficient allocation of public resources. This also affects the standings internationally.

About 45 per cent of India's workforce is employed in agriculture, which requires a difficult shift toward higher-productivity. Disparities persist across Indian

states. While wealthier states must focus on deeper global value chain integration, less developed states urgently need improvements in basic public infrastructure, health, and education.

Recruitment freezes or improper employments have neither helped the country's standings nor the social conditions leading to continue with low-paid employments across the sectors either in the government or on the private sector.

The international system evaluations are not depended on macro tag like world standing in economy but actually the micro systems that improved in the case of Vietnam but not India.

Boosting the long-term investment rate from the current 33.5 per cent of GDP up to 40 per cent is fundamental to achieving high-income status. This requires removing constraints that block formal credit for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). It's no secret that India's MSME sector gasps. This again means compromising on several parameters.

It leads to the global headwinds. The economy remains vulnerable to external shocks, such as supply chain disruptions and volatile energy prices driven by geopolitical conflicts. The recent US-Iran war exemplifies the best. It also exposes that there are policy inadequacies that country has not been able to correct. In fact, Pakistan having the same LMI label is criticised for the fundamental failures.

India may take postures but in actual terms it has not been able to better its either functioning or the economic and social conditions of its people. The businesses appear pampered, as they have high profit percentages but their profits have not helped the country. High poverty impacts the IMF standings and abysmal socio-economic conditions.

The country takes pride in the WB's current India portfolio. It comprises about 79 operational WB commitments totalling roughly \$20 billion and massive International Financial Corporation backing. But are these funds properly utilised?

This impacts the overall performance. The large sum pours in, but it does not give the benefit to the country for the purpose it's given. That would be possible if the overall system corrects and the larger number of people actually benefit. The system derails with policy formulations or may be even misinterpretation of privatisation. It has become synonymous with profit. There has to be certain standards in profits as well. It means sharing the good and creating an equitable system.

It is not becoming equitable causing many disbalances that do not give the country a standing that it needs to establish. The WB aims at boosting private sector-led job creation and economic growth. The programmes seek to create employment annually. It backs reforms in tax simplification, labour laws, ease of doing business, trade and investment, entrepreneurship, and capital mobilisation, while reducing compliance burdens and improving policy predictability to strengthen economic resilience and investor confidence. Mostly these could not happen to the desirable extent, leading to lop sided developments.

The WB prescriptions need review and ways to strengthen the system have to be evolved for ensuring change during the next decade or earlier.



SHIVAJI SARKAR

Special on the 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas (July 26)

THE GOLDEN CHAPTER OF INDIA'S VICTORY
WRITTEN ON THE HIMALAYAN PEAKS



The country today is celebrating the 27th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. On July 26, 1999, the Indian Army soundly defeated the Pakistani army in the Kargil War. The war between India and Pakistan in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir lasted for 60 days and ended on July 26, 1999, after a crushing defeat for the Pakistani army. Remembering India's victory over Pakistan, July 26 is celebrated as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas'. Under 'Operation Vijay', launched to capture the peaks of Kargil by killing or chasing away Pakistani soldiers and mercenary terrorists, our brave soldiers crossed all obstacles, drove them out of Kargil, and unfurled the flag of victory on the inaccessible peaks. However, the country had to pay a very heavy price for this. In fact, hundreds of Indian Army soldiers were martyred in securing victory for India in that war. Not only were 527 Indian Army soldiers martyred in the Kargil War, but 453 civilians were also killed during the two-month-long war. This is why, after that victory of the Indian Army, the government decided to celebrate July 26 every year as Kargil Vijay Diwas, honoring the valor of the Indian armed forces. In the true sense, Kargil Vijay Diwas is a day to remember the courage and sacrifices of Indian soldiers and to pay tribute to their martyrdom. The day of July 26 is specifically dedicated to these brave sons of the soil. This day is observed to ensure that the stories of the bravery and valor of these heroes of the Kargil War reach every single citizen of the country.

The Kargil War was the first direct military conflict between India and Pakistan since the 1971 war. The Kargil War was the direct result of the infiltration of Pakistani soldiers and Kashmiri terrorists into Indian territory. In that fierce war, air power, artillery, and infantry operations were extensively utilized. A key feature of the war was that it was fought at extremely high altitudes, with some military posts located at heights exceeding 18,000 feet. Under such conditions, the battle was immensely challenging for the Indian soldiers. Yet, for the honor and pride of the nation, our bravehearts sacrificed their lives to not only put Pakistan in its place but also to eliminate more than 700 Pakistani soldiers. The Indian Air Force played a crucial role during the war by conducting significant airstrikes to dislodge the enemy from strategic locations. During the war, the Indian Army reclaimed strategic peaks including Tololing, Tiger Hill, and Point 4875.

The Kargil War began on May 26, 1999, with airstrikes by the Indian Air Force. In fact, on May 3, 1999, the Indian Army was alerted about Pakistani soldiers and terrorists by local shepherds in Kargil.

Just two days later, on May 5, 1999, Pakistani troops killed at least 5 Indian Army soldiers. Following this, on May 10, 1999, the Indian Army launched 'Operation Vijay'. During that period, the Pakistani army targeted the ammunition depot of the Indian Army in Kargil. On May 26, the Indian military carried out airstrikes on Pakistani troops. On May 27, an IAF MiG-27 crashed, killing four crew members, while the pilot who ejected was captured as a prisoner of war by Pakistani soldiers. Then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced on May 31, 1999, that a war-like situation existed in Kargil, after which countries including the United States and France held Pakistan responsible for the military actions against India the very next day. On June 5, 1999, the Indian Army released crucial documents that exposed Pakistan's actions to the world.

On June 9, 1999, the Indian Army captured two important positions in the Batalik sector of Kargil. The following day, Pakistan returned the mutilated bodies of 6 soldiers of the Jat Regiment to India. On June 13, 1999, turning the tide of the war, India captured the critical Tololing Peak, and Prime Minister Vajpayee visited Kargil. On June 15, 1999, US President Bill Clinton urged Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to withdraw Pakistani troops, but Pakistan turned a deaf ear to the appeal. After 11 hours of fierce conflict, the Indian Army recaptured Point 5060 and Point 5100 near Tiger Hill on June 20, 1999. US President Bill Clinton met Nawaz Sharif on July 5, 1999, after which Pakistan announced the withdrawal of its troops from Kargil. On July 11, 1999, Pakistani soldiers began retreating, and the Indian Army captured major peaks in Batalik. The Indian Army announced the success of 'Operation Vijay' on July 14, 1999, and on July 26, 1999, after the martyrdom of 527 brave soldiers, the Kargil War came to an end.

During that fierce war fought at extreme altitudes, several military officers became national heroes for their bravery and heroic actions. Prominent among them were Captain Vikram Batra of 13 JAK Rifles, Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav of 18 Grenadiers, Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles, Lieutenant Balwan Singh of 18 Grenadiers, ASC, and Captain N Kenguruse of 2 RAJ RIF. During the war, many heroes of the Indian Army sacrificed their lives so that the entire nation could sleep in peace. For their gallantry and valor in the Kargil War, Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav and Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey were awarded the Param Vir Chakra, while Lieutenant Balwan Singh was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra. Captain N Kenguruse was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, and Captain Vikram Batra was posthumously honored with the Param Vir Chakra for his martyrdom. Captain Vikram Batra's famous words during the Kargil War, “Yeh Dil Maange More,” still echo in the ears of the people today. The stories of bravery, courage, and passion of these heroic figures of the Kargil War continue to fill the heart and mind of every citizen with patriotic zeal.



YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL

senior journalist



OPPOSITION ERUPTS AS EDUCATION MINISTER FALLS: STUDENTS FORCE THE BOW

BY C SUBRAHMANYAM

The 25th of July 2026 will be remembered as the day the street forced the system to blink. Dharmendra Pradhan is out. The resignation is not a voluntary exit. It is the direct result of sustained student pressure over examination integrity and the handling of protests. The opposition has seized the moment with theatrical force.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra stood before the cameras and declared the day the people began claiming their country back. She said the students cared for neither party nor political calculation. They stood for what they believed was right and fought for it. This is their victory. I give them my compliments. The words carry the weight of a senior leader recognising that the initiative has shifted from the party of-

fices to the young faces on the ground.

Rahul Gandhi went further. He listed the unfinished business in clear terms. Anybody who raised a finger on our students, beaten them, shot at them, all have to be punished. And the final demand that the Prime Minister of India has to apologise to the students who were brutalised and attacked. The Leader of Opposition has converted the resignation into a continuing charge sheet. The apology demand places the responsibility at the highest level and refuses to treat the minister's exit as the end of the story.

Arvind Kejriwal described the episode as the government's ego forced to bow before the people. He called it a very big victory for the entire democracy. The language is deliberate. It frames the outcome not as a ministerial reshuffle but as a public asser-



tion of power over institutional arrogance.

Akhilesh Yadav repeated the same theme. The government had to bow down. The Samajwadi Party leader presented the development as proof that sustained pressure from below can still compel the executive to retreat.

Manoj Jha of the RJD focused on the generation that

made it happen. GenZ has bridged the gap between reel and real. He warned that arrogance remains the biggest enemy of any government. The observation cuts through the usual political noise. The students used every platform available to them and convert online outrage into offline consequence.

Priyanka Chaturvedi of Shiv Sena UBT was blunt.

Those children have fought and done it. The statement strips away adult intermediaries and places credit squarely with the young protesters who refused to disperse.

John Brittas of the CPI M summarised the larger claim. It is a victory of democracy, people's struggle, resistance and resilience. The left leader located the resignation inside a longer tradition of popular assertion against state power.

The collective message is consistent across party lines. The resignation is accepted as a partial success. The demand for accountability against those who used force on students remains open. The demand for a public apology from the Prime Minister remains open. The opposition has decided that one minister's exit is not sufficient closure. The hard truth is simple. Ex-

amination paper leaks and the subsequent handling of student protests created a crisis of trust that no amount of official clarification could contain. The young generation refused to accept business as usual. They sustained the pressure until the political cost became higher than the cost of removal. The system blinked. Whether this moment produces lasting reform in the examination architecture or simply becomes another temporary adjustment will depend on what follows. The opposition has already signalled that it intends to keep the pressure alive. The students have demonstrated that they can force outcomes. The government now faces the harder test of restoring credibility in the very institutions that prepare the country's future. The street has spoken. The resignation is the first answer. The remaining questions still hang in the air.

Kargil Diwas: Saga of 27 years of valour, victory and transformed Indian Military

NEW DELHI, JULY 25

India observed the 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July 2026 with gratitude and national pride, commemorating the historic victory of 1999 when Indian soldiers reclaimed the snow-covered heights of Kargil. The conflict, which began in May 1999 after Pakistani forces infiltrated across the Line of Control and occupied commanding heights, aimed to sever the link between Kashmir and Ladakh and isolate troops on the Siachen Glacier. India responded with Operation Vijay, supported by the Indian Air Force's Operation "Safed Sagar" and full naval deployment, following a clear strategy of contain, evict and deny, without crossing the LoC. Key battles defined the campaign. Tololing and Point 4590 were recaptured on 13 June 1999. Tiger Hill fell on 4 July after a daring assault. Fierce fighting also secured Point 4875, Batalik, Mushkoh Valley and

Kaksar. After more than two months of intense combat in extreme terrain above 5,000 metres, every occupied position was restored to Indian control. On 14 July 1999, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared Operation Vijay a success. The nation honoured exceptional gallantry: four Param Vir Chakras, nine Maha Vir Chakras, 55 Vir Chakras, one Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal, six Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, eight Yudh Seva Medals, 83 Sena Medals and 24 Vayu Sena Medals. Heroes such as Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav, Captain Vikram Batra and Captain Vijay Thapar became enduring symbols of courage. The war became a turning point for India's defence ecosystem. The Department of Military Affairs was created under the Chief of Defence Staff to promote jointmanship. General Bipin Rawat became the first CDS in 2020; the post is currently held by General N.S. Raja Subramani.

CM Accuses Congress of Exploiting Youth for Politics

CHANDIGARH, JULY 25

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the Congress has no real issues left to raise and is therefore indulging in politics in the name of the youth. Terming such politics unfortunate, he said any attempt to jeopardise the future of young people for political gains would not be tolerated. He said that a party which remained in power for decades should first account for the unemployment, corruption and irregularities in recruitment that youth had to face during its tenure.

The Chief Minister was interacting with mediapersons after chairing the District Public Relations and Grievances Redressal Committee meeting in Gurugram on Saturday. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini alleged that during the Congress regime, govern-

Congress exploiting youth for political gains after failing them in power-CM Questions Congress over unemployment, corruption and recruitment irregularities during its tenure Centre and Haryana Government have taken historic decisions for youth, says Chief Minister



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini addressing the grievances of the people during the District Public Relations and Grievances Redressal Committee meeting, at Gurugram on July 25, 2026. Deputy

ment jobs were distributed through favouritism and several recruitment processes had to be stayed following judicial intervention. He said the Congress had played with the future of the youth during its tenure, while today the same party was indulging in politics in the name of young people.

Congress and leaders of the INDIA alliance have no substantive issue to take before the people and are therefore trying to mislead the youth, said the Chief Minister. Referring to the recent recruitment of Excise Inspectors in Punjab, he said serious allegations of irregularities had surfaced in the recruitment

process. Such incidents, he said, amounted to a grave injustice to the youth, and the Congress should first answer questions on those cases.

The Chief Minister also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi for according the highest priority to safeguarding the future of the country's youth and for taking stringent and far-sighted decisions through the Union Cabinet. He said that under the Prime Minister's leadership, both the Central Government and the Haryana Government are working with full commitment to secure a bright and promising future for young people.

Over the past 12 years, several historic initiatives have been taken to empower

youth, promote self-reliance and create greater employment opportunities, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini.

He questioned the Congress to also place before the people an account of the measures it had taken for the welfare of youth during its long years in power.

The Chief Minister said Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi has given a clear message that no individual or institution found compromising the future of young people would be spared.

Referring to the National Testing Agency (NTA), he said stringent action had also been taken against several officials. The government is clear that no compromise will be allowed on the future of the nation's youth.

'Don't Troll Him': Assam CM Backs Minister

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday defended Cabinet colleague Keshab Mahanta after videos of the minister's daughter participating in a protest over alleged NEET examination irregularities went viral, saying parents should not be judged by the political choices of their adult children.



independently verify the authenticity of the clips.

"Dibisa Mahanta, daughter of Assam Cabinet Minister Keshab Mahanta (AGP leader and minister in the BJP-led NDA Govt)"

Nobody trolls BJP better than their leader's daughters. https://t.co/b9q5a7gCHb pic.twitter.com/n3jSuRM-W19— Yug Yadav (@Yaduvanshi8999) July 25, 2026

Responding to the controversy, Sarma said Keshab Mahanta should not be criticised or trolled because of his daughter's participation in the protest.

'DON'T ATTACK HIM FOR HIS DAUGHTER'

"I don't think we should attack or troll Keshab Mahanta for the protest by his daughter."

She may not follow her father's political ideology," the Chief Minister said. Drawing a parallel with his own family, Sarma added, "Tomorrow when my son practises law, he may defend someone whom I may not like."

He stressed that once children become adults, their actions and political beliefs should not be linked to those of their parents.

At the same time, Sarma said he did not agree with the slogans allegedly raised by Dibisa during the protest. "When I meet her next time, I will definitely talk to her about it and try to make her understand that what she said was not right," he said.

The protest in Guwahati was organised to highlight alleged irregularities in the NEET examination and to demand the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Union Education Minister.

There was no immediate reaction from Keshab Mahanta over the controversy. According to PTI, attempts to contact the minister for comment were unsuccessful.

PM Strengthened Education: Rajasthan BJP

Jaipur, July 25: Rajasthan BJP chief Madan Rathore on Saturday said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central government has taken significant steps to strengthen the country's education infrastructure by expanding the network of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

(JNVs) and Central Universities. Citing a written reply by Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary in the Rajya Sabha to a question raised by him, Rathore said Rajasthan currently has 85 Kendriya Vidyalayas and 36 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. He added that the Centre has announced

the establishment of 12 new Kendriya Vidyalayas in the state over the past three years. According to Rathore, the Union Budget for 2026-27 has allocated Rs 10,129 crore for Kendriya Vidyalayas and Rs 6,025 crore for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country. He said that of the 85 new Ken-

driya Vidyalayas approved by the Central government in December 2024, Rajasthan was allotted nine schools, of which seven are already operational. Similarly, of the 57 Kendriya Vidyalayas approved in October 2025, Rajasthan received two schools, with one already functional.

Railways Intensify Restoration in Flood-Hit Tinsukia Division

MALIGAON, 25 JULY, 2026

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is carrying out extensive restoration works on a war footing in the flood-affected sections under Tinsukia Division to restore normal railway operations at the earliest. Restoration activities are progressing continuously round the clock with large-scale deployment of manpower and machinery at all affected locations. Between Simalguri and Lakwa (Km 427/7-11 and other affected locations), cess protection and formation strengthening works are underway. A ballast rake has been positioned at the site, while unloading of boulders from wagons is in progress to reinforce the affected railway formation. In the Simalguri-Namtali section (Km 416/6-10, 417/3-14, 415/4-6 and 418/4-6), restoration of the railway forma-



tion is continuing with simultaneous unloading of stone dust and boulders to facilitate early reopening of the section. Protection and strengthening works are also being carried out in the Amguri-Selenghat section (Km 392/2-394/2), where sandbags, bamboo piling and rail piling are being utilized to stabilize the affected areas. Mobilization and unloading of sandbags, rails

and boulders are continuing alongside these activities. In the Simalguri-Sibsagar Town section (Km 7/11-12 and 7/13-16), bamboo piling and cess protection works are in progress, while ballast is being continuously mobilized to reinforce the track formation and expedite restoration. Overall, more than 700 labourers along with multiple heavy machines, including

Poclains and JCBs, have been deployed across all affected locations to expedite restoration activities. Materials such as ballast, boulders, sandbags, stone dust and rails are being transported and utilized continuously to strengthen the damaged railway formation.

Senior railway officers of Tinsukia Division are closely monitoring the restoration works on a continuous basis, ensuring effective coordination, timely deployment of resources and adherence to safety standards. The restoration activities are being carried out round the clock with the objective of restoring train operations safely and at the earliest possible opportunity.

Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to completing the restoration work in the shortest possible time while ensuring the safety of railway infrastructure and passengers.

PM Calls Sarnath's UNESCO Recognition a Proud Moment

The ancient Buddhist site Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh has been inscribed on the Unesco World Heritage List, becoming India's 45th World Heritage Site during the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea.



India's ancient Buddhist site of Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh was on Saturday inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 48th session of the Unesco World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea. Unesco announced the decision in a post on X, saying, "New inscription on the Unesco World Heritage List: Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath, India."

The inscription makes Sarnath India's 45th site on the Unesco World Heritage List. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the recognition and described it as "a proud moment for every Indian."

A proud moment for every Indian! Delighted that Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh has been inscribed on the Unesco World Heritage List," PM Modi said in a post on X.

The Prime Minister said Sarnath has a deep con-

nection with Lord Buddha, whose timeless message of wisdom, compassion and harmony continues to inspire the world.

"This recognition celebrates India's profound civilisational and spiritual heritage. It will also inspire more people across the world to come to Sarnath and connect with the ideals of Lord Buddha," he said.

Located around 10 kilometres from Varanasi, Sarnath is one of the most significant pilgrimage sites for Buddhists across the world. It holds a unique place in history as the site where Gautam Buddha delivered his first sermon.

The decision to inscribe Sarnath on the World Heritage List was taken during the ongoing 48th session of the Unesco World Heritage

Committee in Busan, South Korea.

In August 2025, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat informed the Lok Sabha in a written reply that India had submitted a dossier titled "Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath" to the Unesco World Heritage Centre for the 2025-26 nomination cycle.

The World Heritage Committee is one of the two bodies that govern the Convention for the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also welcomed the development, saying, "Our cultural pride soars even higher today as Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh has been included in the Unesco World Heritage List."

Calling it an endorsement

of India's ancient heritage associated with Lord Buddha, Shah said the recognition would take the Buddha's luminous wisdom to more people and inspire them to embrace the ideals of peace and enlightenment for a better world.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's timeless civilisational heritage continues to receive global recognition.

"Sarnath's inscription on the Unesco World Heritage List is a proud moment for every Indian and a shining reflection of Uttar Pradesh's glorious spiritual and cultural legacy," he said, adding that Uttar Pradesh welcomes the world to experience this eternal heritage.

BRICS meeting for NSA's underscored urgency of stronger multilateral cooperation: Report

CAPE TOWN

The 16th BRICS Meeting of High Representatives for National Security (National Security Advisors' Meeting) in New Delhi underscored the urgency for stronger regional and multilateral cooperation to develop collective responses to emerging challenges, a report has stated.

"There is a growing need for stronger regional and multilateral cooperation to develop collective responses to challenges such as terrorism, infectious diseases, energy insecurity, cybercrime and climate-related disasters. The urgency of such cooperation was underscored at the 16th BRICS meeting of high representatives responsible for security matters," South African media outlet 'The Citizen' mentioned.

According to the report, the meeting witnessed calls from India and South Africa highlighting the need for deeper collaboration among member states to confront the shared



challenges. While addressing the meeting, India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval warned about the global security environment, which was becoming increasingly volatile, with military conflicts, economic pressures, geopolitical uncertainties and rapidly evolving technologies together threatening the stability of BRICS member states.

The Citizen highlighted NSA Doval's comments about disruptive technologies and cyberattacks transcending national borders, making conventional defence and security responses increasingly inadequate. NSA Doval had mentioned that the meeting was taking place at "very tumultuous time" and that international institutions were

struggling to respond effectively to increasingly complex challenges with multilateral cooperation itself being under strain.

The report detailed that national security was traditionally defined in terms of armed aggression and military conflict, but in the current era of globalisation with digital connectivity and rapid technolo-

gies, countries are confronting a far broader range of non-traditional security threats like cyberattacks, pandemics, terrorism and the misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

"Unlike conventional military threats, these emerging challenges are often interconnected, transnational and difficult to contain. Cybercrime, for example, can finance terrorist networks operating across borders, making it both a criminal and national security concern," The Citizen report noted.

Delegates also highlighted the protection of critical infrastructure, maritime security and key international energy routes as strategic priorities considering that global energy supplies are disrupted by tensions surrounding the conflict in the Middle East. The meeting also identified the growing threat posed by AI-driven disinformation campaigns as an area where enhanced BRICS cooperation could make a significant difference.

Macron Thanks Firefighters Amid Wildfires

PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday thanked firefighters and security forces for their efforts as the country is facing massive wildfires. "In these hours when the flames are severely testing our country, France reveals what it is: a united people, standing shoulder to shoulder. Thank you to our firefighters, our military personnel, the civil security forces, our gendarmes and police officers, as well as to the farmers and entrepreneurs, who through their commitment and courage, relentlessly combat the fires," Macron wrote on social media platform X.

According to the French President, all civil and military resources are mobilised, including civil security aerial resources, Canadair, Dash, water-bomber helicopters, and reinforcements from across France. He also thanked Romania, Croatia, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia for their "invaluable support". "This is Europe. In times of trial, it brings to life the solidarity that defines it," he noted.

Bangladesh's ICT under scrutiny over prolonged detention without charges

BERN

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has approved every arrest warrant request submitted by the prosecution since August 2024, without rejecting a single application. Its recent decision to issue arrest warrants against two journalists, on 'unfounded grounds', has raised concerns about the tribunal's functioning, a report has stated.

The broader pattern has drawn scrutiny, with dozens of individuals detained by the Tribunal for months without formal charges, while some have reportedly been arrested without any credible evidence.

Among the most notable cases are 75-year-old former Bangladesh civil aviation minister Faruk Khan and 80-year-old Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, a former Energy Advisor to the country's ex- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, both of whom have been detained without charges for 20 months, journalist David Bergman wrote in Switzerland-based news website 'Justice Info'.

"These prolonged pre-charge detentions reflect not only the ICT's rules on arrest but

also the Tribunal's practice of refusing bail. Unlike the Rome Statute, ICT rules of procedure set out no criteria to guide the Tribunal in determining whether bail should be granted or not – a significant due process gap in itself. Rule 9(6) simply states that every three months the Tribunal may review its 'order relating to the detention of the accused'. In practice, the Tribunal has not released a single detained person on bail," Bergman stated.

"Its most telling illustration is the Tribunal's treatment of Rule 9(5), which, in effect, requires the Tribunal to release a detained person who has spent a year in custody without charge – unless 'exceptional circumstances' exist, in which case the judges must record their reasons in writing. Yet, the Tribunal has not released a single person who has crossed that one-year threshold, nor has it put on record any 'exceptional circumstances' to justify not doing so, as the rules require," he added. Citing the case of Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, who had been detained for nearly a year and a half, Bergman said that when the former advisor formally applied for bail in April 2026.

Iraq: Explosive-laden drone shot down near US consulate in Erbil

BAGHDAD

A booby-trapped drone was shot down on Saturday over Erbil, the capital of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, a Kurdish security source said. The drone was intercepted in the afternoon by the air defence system at the US Consulate in Erbil, with no casualties reported, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Erbil has come under a series of drone attacks in recent days, with the US Consulate and the international coalition base near Erbil International Airport among the apparent targets. The incident came amid heightened tensions in the Middle East following recent exchanges of strikes between the United States and Iran. Five drones were shot down near Erbil International Airport in northern Iraq's Kurdistan region on Friday morning, while a sixth crashed in a nearby agricultural area, a local security source said.

The source told Xinhua that a total of six drones targeted Erbil. Five were shot down near the airport, while the sixth crashed, sparking a fire in crops and grass. Civil defence teams were dispatched to extinguish the blaze. Erbil has come under repeated drone attacks in recent days, with the US Consulate and the international coalition base near the airport among the apparent targets.

The Greatest Gift of Nature - Our Parents

(On the occasion of "Parents' Day" on 26 July)

Parents are the greatest gift of nature to all of us. Where would we be without our parents, the people who loved us even before we were born. There is nothing that comes close to taking their place in our lives. No substitute to our mother and father, who gave this wonderful life to us. Families are the building blocks of every nation. Parents are the only protective force that nurture and groom their children in the family.

Establishment of National Parents' Day

In 1994, Bill Clinton established the "National Parents' Day" on fourth Sunday of July annually i.e., on 26 July 2026, with an aim to uplifting, and supporting the role of parents



in the rearing of children. The role of parents is integral in the development of a child's life. The aim of "National Parents' Day" is to promote responsible parenting and encourage positive reinforcement by parents for children. This day is also to recognise and thank our parents for their sacrifices, and unparalleled bonding of love showered for our bright future. "Global or International Day of

Parents" is also observed on 01 June annually by UN member countries, serves as a reminder of the pivotal role played by parents in investing in nurturing their children.

Role of Parents

Parents play a vital role in the lives of children. From our birth, parents protect, teach, provide, preach, guide, save, and serve as role models. We

look to them for guidance throughout our lives. They lead us to be independent thinking individuals. The parenting of a child is a great art. It involves many challenges, and difficulties. They often spend sleepless nights and worry seem endless. On this auspicious day, we honour all our parents who do everything to raise and protect their children. Fathers' Day falls on the third Sunday

in June whereas Mothers' Day is observed on second Sunday of May annually.

Unconditional Love by Parents

National Parents' Day emphasises the key values such as unconditional love and support, moral and emotional guidance, foundation of education/culture/character, and promoting intergenerational understanding and respect.

This day is not just saying "thank you" - it's about recognising and empathising their sacrifices, love, and bondage they shower upon us. It's the day that commemorate the parenthood and appreciates all parents as well as their contribution to society. Parents are pillars of support for a child. The same child, when grown to adulthood, they must be the same pillars of support for our old parents.

Airstrikes Hit Houthis as Group Targets Saudi Energy Sites

SANAA

Airstrikes struck Houthi military sites in northern Yemen on Saturday, the state-run Yemen TV reported, as tensions further escalated following the group's attacks on Saudi-linked vessels in the Red Sea.

The strikes targeted missile and rocket launch platforms and weapons depots in Marib and al-Jawf provinces, killing several Houthi members, including missile specialists, the broadcaster said. There was no

immediate Houthi comment.

Also on Saturday, the Houthi group said it has carried out coordinated missile and drone strikes on Saudi energy facilities in Jizan and Yanbu regions in retaliation for overnight coalition airstrikes on Houthi-held areas in the Red Sea province of Hodeidah, Xinhua News Agency reported.

In a televised statement aired by Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV, military spokesperson Yahya Sarea claimed both operations "achieved their objec-



tives," without providing evidence. Saudi authorities did not immediately respond.

The latest escalation came after the Houthis announced a maritime ban on Saudi-linked shipping last week and claimed

attacks on two Saudi oil tankers on Thursday. On Friday, the Saudi-led coalition said it struck Houthi military sites in Hodeidah while avoiding civilian infrastructure, whereas Al-Masirah TV said the strikes hit several locations, including telecommunications facilities and Kamaran Island, where a woman was reportedly injured.

Yemen has been mired in conflict since late 2014, when the Houthis seized much of northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa, prompting

a Saudi-led coalition to intervene in 2015 in support of the internationally recognised government. Although a UN-mediated truce expired in 2022, a fragile de facto ceasefire has largely held. The latest escalation has raised fresh concerns over regional security and the safety of Red Sea shipping. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump warned on Thursday that Yemen's Houthi group and Iran would face "major military punishment" if the Houthis continue attacking ships.

Bangladesh: IED planted along Rath Yatra route in Dhaka to target Hindu community

DHAKA

In another disturbing incident targeting the Hindu community in Bangladesh, local police defused a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) near a metro rail station in Dhaka's Motijheel that had been planted along the route of a Rath Yatra procession, local media reported on Saturday.

According to police, the explosive was strategically placed to target the procession, but its early identification helped avert a major attack.

The incident occurred late Friday night, with Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Assistant Commissioner (Motijheel Zone) Hussain Muhammad Farabi stating that a "cocktail" was found inside an abandoned umbrella beneath Motijheel metro station, leading Bangladeshi media outlet bdnews24 reported.

Motijheel Police Sub-Inspector Mukta registered a case against unknown individuals under the country's Explosive Substances Act.

The case states that the ex-



plosive was planted as part of "a premeditated attempt to endanger public safety and create panic by detonating an explosive". Speaking to bdnews24, a bomb disposal official said that the IED contained approximately 1.5kg of sulphur, along with barbed wire and sharp pieces of metal.

"It was a pipe bomb. If someone had pressed the umbrella's button to open it, the circuit would have triggered an explosion. The metal fragments would then have acted as shrapnel, causing serious injuries to people nearby," he said.

During the operation to neutralise the device, a passerby

was injured by shrapnel. The victim, identified as 33-year-old Miraj Ahmed, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with an injury near his left eye. "I heard a loud explosion. A piece of shrapnel hit me below my left eye," Bangladesh's leading newspaper 'The Daily Star' quoted Ahmed as saying.

The incident comes amid growing concerns over attacks on minorities in Bangladesh, with such incidents continuing during the tenure of the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government and under the current Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) administration.

Probe Finds Unrelated Deaths in 'July Martyr' list

DHAKA

The official gazette published last year by Bangladesh's former Muhammad Yunus-led interim government listing those killed during the July 2024 protests has come under renewed scrutiny following allegations that it included hundreds of deaths unrelated to the quota movement.

The list potentially inflated the number of protest-related deaths and wrongly attributed responsibility to the former Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government, a report has stated.

Citing an investigation by a group of independent journalists and retired police officers (MARK. R&AUA), a recent report in 'Northeast News' noted that the "July Martyrs Gazette" was deliberately expanded to include hundreds of individuals whose deaths had no connection to the anti-quota protests or the political unrest that led to the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, 2024.

The report accessed by Northeast News cites the official definition of a "July mar-



tyr" issued jointly by Bangladesh's Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

It noted that the definition specifies that only individuals killed "as a result of attacks by the state, law enforcement agencies or the then govern-

ment" during the period beginning with the quota reform movement and ending with the August 5 mass uprising are "eligible for recognition" as July martyrs.

"Based on that definition, the investigation argues that the qualifying period effectively ended when Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina left the country on August 5, 2024. It acknowledges that individuals injured during that period who later died from those injuries could legitimately qualify. However, it contends that the gazette includes hundreds of people who died after August 5 from entirely unrelated causes," the report mentioned.

The investigative report alleges that following Hasina's departure and the Army Chief's announcement that the military had taken charge of maintaining law and order, co-ordinated attacks were carried out on police establishments across Bangladesh, Northeast News mentioned.

"Thousands of weapons and rounds of ammunition were looted from police lines and more than 500 police stations and outposts were attacked. During those incidents, police personnel, members of the Ansar force and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were allegedly attacked and killed," it mentioned.

"Subsequent investigations into those killings were halted through indemnity provisions. It argues that nearly 300 peo-

ple who died during the tenure of the interim government after August 5, 2024, for various unrelated reasons, were nevertheless included in the July Martyrs Gazette, thereby assigning responsibility for those deaths to the previous Awami League government," it further added.

According to the report, the MARK. R&AUA research team's investigation involved an extensive review of the gazette and concluded that several categories of unrelated deaths had been incorporated into the official list.

"The gazette allegedly includes individuals who died in road accidents, of electrocution, sudden heart attack, kidney failure, as a consequence of property disputes, mob assaults while allegedly attempting extortion; mob violence over allegations of religious offences, during attacks on prisons, self-inflicted gunfire while allegedly looting weapons and fires allegedly started while looting homes and businesses belonging to Awami League leaders," Northeast News detailed.



China: Over 340,000 relocated in Guangdong ahead of Typhoon Noul

GUANGZHOU

More than 340,000 people had been relocated in south China's Guangdong Province by 4 pm Saturday as Typhoon Noul approached the coast, the provincial flood, drought and typhoon control authorities said.

Typhoon Noul, the 12th typhoon of the year, is expected to make landfall along the coast between Shenzhen and Huilai in Guangdong between Saturday evening and Sunday morning, with an intensity ranging from typhoon to severe typhoon level, Xinhua News Agency reported.

China's State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters raised its emergency response for flood and typhoon control in Guangdong to Level III on Saturday.

A total of 19 cities and 135 county-level regions in Guangdong had activated emergency responses for strong winds or flooding by 4 p.m. Saturday. Shanwei and Huizhou, along with 10 county-level regions, launched the highest-level response, while 12 cities introduced full or partial shutdown measures.

Maritime authorities have guided 5,109 vessels in Guangdong's coastal waters to safe areas. Another 418 vessels were directed across jurisdictional boundaries to shelter in western Guangdong, Hainan Province and waters off northern Fujian Province.

Meanwhile, China's Ministry of Water Resources acti-

vated a Level-IV flood-control emergency response on Saturday in seven provincial-level regions. China has a four-tier flood-control emergency response system, with Level I being the most severe.

The seven regions are Fujian, Jiangxi, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong and Guangxi, covering large parts of eastern, central and southern China. Rivers at higher flood risk in these regions include some of the country's major waterways, such as the Pearl, Yangtze and Huaihe, according to the ministry.

To brace for potential flooding, the ministry has urged local water conservancy authorities to closely monitor weather changes, issue timely warnings, and make targeted use of flood-control infrastructure.

On the same day, the Ministry of Emergency Management activated a Level-IV emergency response for geological disasters in Jiangxi and Hunan, while maintaining a Level-IV response of the same type in Guangdong and Fujian.



Why has Diet Coke become costlier in India?

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has disrupted the supply of aluminium cans, forcing Coca-Cola to change the way it sources packaging for Diet Coke.

If you've recently noticed that a can of Diet Coke costs more than before, you're not imagining it. The popular soft drink has become more expensive in India, and the reason lies far beyond the country's borders. The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has disrupted the supply of aluminium cans, forcing Coca-Cola to change the way it sources packaging for Diet Coke. As a result, the company has introduced larger, costlier cans, leading to a price increase for consumers.

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT DISRUPTS SUPPLY CHAIN

According to Reuters, Coca-Cola has increased the price of Diet Coke in India by more than 10% after supply chain disruptions linked to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Two people familiar with the matter said the company has been forced to source larger aluminium cans from Southeast Asia as regular supplies remain affected. The strategy has not been publicly announced by the company.

WHY ALUMINIUM CANS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY

The disruptions are linked to the Strait of Hormuz, an important shipping route used to transport aluminium cans and related raw materials to India. Commercial shipping through the

route has been severely affected following the collapse of an interim truce in the Iran conflict. There are also concerns that the disruption could spread to other key sea routes. As supplies tightened, Coca-Cola had to look for alternative sources, which increased its costs.

BIGGER CAN, HIGHER PRICE

Diet Coke is sold mainly in aluminium cans in India, unlike many other countries where it is available in different packaging formats. Its most popular 300 ml can, priced at Rs 40, has become difficult to source. To deal with the shortage, Coca-Cola has started selling a 330 ml can for Rs 50. On a per millilitre basis, this works out to a price increase of around 13.6%. However, the company has not officially announced the pricing changes. Also, the report mentioned that at least one of Coca-Cola's Indian bottlers has also started offering Diet Coke in 200 ml glass bottles for a limited period. However, these bottles are priced higher than the canned version.

WHY ONLY DIET COKE IS AFFECTED

Diet Coke has been hit harder because it is sold mostly in aluminium cans in India. By comparison, Coke Zero is available in both plastic bottles and cans, meaning its supplies have not been affected in the same way. Apart from Diet Coke, most Coca-Cola and Pepsi drinks sold in India are packaged in plastic or glass bottles as well as cans, making them less vulnerable to the current shortage.



Advanced Unmanned Aerial Systems for India's Defence Sector...

FARNBOROUGH (UNITED KINGDOM), JULY 2026:

With the aim of further strengthening India's defence and internal security sectors, UK-based Infortecorp Solutions Limited and Aero Solutions UAV Limited have announced the formation of a joint venture. Through this partnership, the companies will provide advanced unmanned aerial systems and counter-drone technologies capable of detecting and neutralising hostile drones for the Indian market. At a time when India's defence, border security, and internal security requirements are expanding rapidly, this joint venture is expected to play a significant role. By combining Infortecorp's expertise in defence business development, strategic partnerships, and market experience with Aero Solutions UAV's advanced drone technology, world-class technological capabilities will become accessible to India's defence sector. 'Venom Interceptor' Drone Becomes the Main Attraction Through this joint venture, India will be introduced to the 'Venom Interceptor UAV', a specialised counter-drone system. The system has been specifically designed to rapidly detect,

pursue, and neutralise hostile or unauthorised drones. It is expected to play a crucial role in protecting high-security areas such as military bases, airports, government facilities, critical national infrastructure, and power plants.

Drone Solutions for Various Requirements

Along with the Venom Interceptor, the joint venture will also provide advanced unmanned aerial systems suitable for a wide range of applications, including surveillance, intelligence gathering, border and coastal security, maritime monitoring, strategic defence operations, infrastructure inspections, disaster management, relief operations, and environmental monitoring.

Strengthening Atmanirbhar Bharat

Through this partnership, the companies plan to undertake technology transfer, partnerships with local industries, manufacturing, system integration, training, maintenance, repairs, and spare-parts supply programmes in India. The companies stated that these initiatives will support the Government of India's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) programme and further enhance indigenous capabilities in the Indian defence sector.

MONEY MATTERS

Centre Unveils ₹69,725 Cr Maritime Package

NEW DELHI, JULY 25

A comprehensive Rs 69,725 crore package has been approved to strengthen domestic shipbuilding capacity, maritime financing and skilling as part of measures to revamp India's shipbuilding industry, the government has said. The package includes a Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme with an outlay of Rs 24,736 crore to address cost disadvantages of Indian shipyards compared to global yards, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, said in Lok Sabha. A Maritime Development Fund corpus of Rs 25,000 crore for providing long term financing support to shipbuilding and maritime sector comprising a Maritime Investment Fund of Rs 20,000



crore and an Interest Incentivisation Fund of Rs 5,000 crore is a key component of the package. The government also approved a Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) with Rs 19,989 crore to expand output capacity to 4.5 million gross tonnage annually through greenfield clusters and brownfield expansion. "These targets have been

set to position India as a competitive global shipbuilding force in line with the vision contained in Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 documents," the statement from Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said.

Policy reforms have also been undertaken to revamp the shipbuilding industry including implementation of classification of large vessels as infrastructure and demand aggregation.

Infrastructure status was notified for Indian-flagged commercial vessels of 10,000 Gross Tonnage (GT) and above on September 19, 2025, and for vessels of 1,500 GT and above when constructed in India.

As part of demand aggregation, a fleet acquisition plan of over 400 vessels has been prepared which provides long term order visibility to the Indian shipyards.

The government has accorded in-principle approval for the development of three greenfield shipbuilding clusters at Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu under Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS).

Don't Believe the Goebbels-Style Propaganda Against the Real Estate Sector

HYDERABAD:

State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that certain people are deliberately spreading "Goebbels-style propaganda" claiming that the real estate sector, particularly in Hyderabad, has collapsed. He clarified that there is no truth to these claims. As the minister overseeing the Stamps and Registration Department, he said the government has clear data and evidence to support this and urged people not to believe such misinformation.

Speaking at an event in Hyderabad on Saturday, the minister said that under the People's Government over the past two and a half years, the real estate sector has grown by around 15-20%, while flat sales have increased by nearly 40%. He added that compared to the previous ten years, the residential market has witnessed significant growth during the last two and a half years. He cited the increase in the number of property registration documents recorded by the Stamps and Registration Department as evidence. He alleged that some individuals are intentionally spreading false propaganda that the real estate sector has declined in

Nearly 40% growth in real estate over the last two and a half years
Tenders for the Musi River Beautification Project to be invited soon
Priority for both real estate development and housing for the poor
Statement by State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy



an attempt to malign the government, and appealed to the public not to pay attention to such campaigns. The minister said that Hyderabad became a model city largely due to the vision and initiatives of the Congress chief ministers during the united Andhra Pradesh era (2004-2014). He noted that projects such as the Outer Ring Road (ORR), the international airport, and the IT sector were developed with long-term planning, contributing to the city's all-round growth. As a result, Hyderabad now attracts attention not only across India but globally. He also said that during a recent visit to Davos with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, many industrialists expressed interest in investing in Hyderabad, making it an increasingly attrac-

tive investment destination. He stated that the Chief Minister has prepared a planned roadmap for Hyderabad's development. The ₹7,000-crore Musi River Beautification Project is set to begin soon, with tenders for the first phase covering 28 kilometres expected to be invited within the next week to ten days. He further announced that the second phase of the Hyderabad Metro expansion, covering 76 kilometres at an estimated cost of ₹24,000 crore, including the Old City and surrounding areas, will also commence soon. In addition, proposals are being prepared to construct radial roads connecting the proposed Regional Ring Road (RRR) with the Outer Ring Road (ORR). The minister appealed to repre-

sentatives of the real estate sector to cooperate in further developing Hyderabad into one of the world's finest cities. He urged developers to deliver flats to customers on time and earn public trust. He also said that the government has introduced the Bhu Bharati Act to ensure land security and ownership confidence. Minor software-related issues in its implementation will be resolved within 15-20 days and the system will be made fully accessible to the public. He emphasized that the government's focus is not limited to the real estate sector but also includes providing housing for the poor. Under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, the government has decided to construct one lakh houses in the first phase, with additional phases to follow. He said efforts are underway to acquire 2-3 lakh square feet of land for housing projects. Responding to requests from the real estate industry, the government will also try to introduce a fast-track approval system. Khammam MP Raghurama Reddy and several other dignitaries attended the event.

CBDT Showcases Tax Service Improvements

NEW DELHI, JULY 25

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Ravi Agarwal has highlighted progress in faster return processing, grievance redressal and litigation reduction. At the 167th anniversary of Income Tax Day celebrations here, Agrawal recalled the priorities set out by Union Finance Min-

ister Nirmala Sitharaman during the previous Income Tax Day celebrations and the expectations articulated at the 'PRARAMBH programme' earlier this year, and outlined the Department's progress over the past year in translating those directions into measurable outcomes. He spoke about the Department's sustained efforts towards reducing litigation, faster

disposal of appeals and enhancing tax certainty through Advance Pricing Agreements. Agarwal noted the achievements in the areas of expeditious return processing, appeal-effect orders and refunds, and strengthening grievance redressal. According to an official statement, he further highlighted the Department's achievements in expanding taxpayer outreach

through initiatives such as PRARAMBH and Samvaad. The CBDT chairman also underscored the Department's continued focus on leveraging technology through initiatives such as PAN 2.0, TTBA 2.0, IEC 3.0, Kar Saathi and the SAKSHAM NUDGE framework to simplify compliance, improve taxpayer experience and strengthen voluntary compliance.

India Launches Knee Preservation Implant

28-year-old doctor successfully undergoes advanced joint preservation surgery at Medicovert Hospitals, Financial District

HYDERABAD, JULY 25, 2026

In a significant advancement in knee joint preservation surgery, an indigenously developed High Tibial Osteotomy (HTO) implant has been successfully used in a young patient at Medicovert Hospitals, Financial District, Hyderabad, offering a promising Made-in-India solution for patients who will benefit from preserving their natural knee.

The procedure was performed by Dr. Raghuvver Reddy, Senior Joint Preservation & Sports Injury Surgeon, who has over 25 years of experience and is also one of the principal designers of the indigenous HTO implant developed by Sironix.

The implant was used in a 28-year-old medical doctor suffering from cartilage dam-

age and knee malalignment. He underwent High Tibial Osteotomy combined with Autologous Chondrocyte Implantation (ACI) at Medicovert Hospitals, Financial District, and is recovering well following the procedure.

"NOT EVERY PAINFUL KNEE NEEDS REPLACEMENT"

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Raghuvver Reddy said, "Not every painful knee needs replacement. Joint replacement is an excellent treatment for advanced arthritis. However, in appropriately selected patients below 55 years of age with early to moderate arthritis, active individuals, early diagnosis and the right intervention can help preserve the patient's natural knee and potentially delay the need for joint replacement." Knee damage is not restricted to older people.



Obesity, bow-legged deformity (abnormal knee alignment), Sports injuries with cartilage damage, meniscal injuries and ligament tears can lead to early deterioration of the knee even among younger individuals. Joint preservation surgery focuses on identifying and treating these underlying problems before the joint damage becomes irreversible. Procedures such as High Tibial Osteotomy, cartilage restoration, meniscus preservation and ligament re-

construction can help preserve the natural knee in appropriately selected patients.

WHAT IS HIGH TIBIAL OSTEOOTOMY?

High Tibial Osteotomy is a joint preservation procedure in which the upper part of the tibia, or shin bone, is precisely realigned to redistribute body weight away from the damaged portion of the knee towards healthier cartilage. This helps reduce stress on the damaged area, improve function and

AU Small Finance Bank Q1 net profit falls 4 pc sequentially

NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AU Small Finance Bank on Saturday reported a 4.3 per cent sequential decline in its net profit for the first quarter (Q1) of FY27, according to the bank's filing. However, on a year-on-year basis, the bank's net profit rose 37 per cent, supported by strong growth in net interest income (NII). The bank's net profit stood at Rs 795.95 crore (Rs 79,595.29 lakh) in the April-June quarter, compared with Rs 831.87 crore (Rs 83,186.95 lakh) in the preceding January-March quarter.

On a year-on-year basis, net profit increased from Rs 581 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Net interest income (NII), the difference between interest earned and interest expended, rose 31.9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2,696 crore during the quarter from Rs 2,044 crore a year earlier.

Operating profit grew 9.4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,435 crore in the reporting quarter, compared with Rs 1,312 crore in Q1 FY26.

The bank's provisions declined 30.4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 371 crore from Rs 533 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal,



reflecting lower credit costs.

On the asset quality front, gross non-performing assets (GNPA) stood at 2.10 per cent as of June 30, compared with 2.03 per cent at the end of the March quarter. Net non-performing assets (NNPA) also edged up to 0.76 per cent from 0.74 per cent sequentially. Shares of AU Small Finance Bank settled at Rs 1,002.25 on the NSE on Friday. The stock has touched a 52-week high of Rs 1,090.40 and a 52-week low of Rs 682.50. The bank's shares have underperformed the broader market in recent weeks. The stock has declined 2.68 per cent over the past week, 6.54 per cent in the last two weeks, 6.11 per cent over one month and 5.95 per cent over the past three months.

In comparison, BSE Sensex fell 1.95 per cent over the past two weeks and 1.21 per cent over one month, indicating the bank's shares underperformed the benchmark over these periods.



SpaceX conducts starship test flight even as shares slide

NEW DELHI, JULY 25

US aerospace company SpaceX launched its Starship vehicle in a test flight to validate technology central to CEO Elon Musk's ambitions for Starlink expansion, as the company's stock continues to slide. The rocket's Super Heavy booster detached from the Starship spacecraft nearly two minutes after the launch, and made a controlled splashdown in the Gulf. This was the second flight of the Starship and Super Heavy V3 vehicles and the first Starship flight to deploy the next generation Starlink V3 satellites. After the flight, SpaceX indicated that landing was not perfect as the booster "attempted to reignite its engines for the landing burn," but only a subset successfully ignited before the "hard splashdown." SpaceX informed that the upper stage of the rocket

made a "soft splashdown" in the Indian Ocean, "coming to rest intact in the Indian Ocean and providing critical views of an intact heat shield for the first time." The Super Heavy booster lifted off from the company's Starbase facility in South Texas at 5:51 pm local US time on Friday. The booster ignited 33 Raptor engines and propelled the vehicle toward near-orbital speeds before separating and splashing down in the Gulf of Mexico. The company chose to refrain from attempting a mid-air catch of the booster on this mission. The vehicle also reignited a single Raptor engine in an in-space demonstration of a core capability for future orbital missions, the company said. This technology is crucial for Musk's lunar missions and the setting up of large-scale space infrastructure including the Starlink communications network.



Tulsi Drops: Do They Really Work?

Benefits, Research, Limitations and Safety Explained

Seasonal allergies become a common concern for millions of people every year, especially during the monsoon season when changing weather conditions create an ideal environment for allergens to thrive. Increased humidity, fluctuating temperatures, mould growth and higher concentrations of airborne pollen often trigger allergic reactions that leave people struggling with persistent sneezing, a blocked or runny nose, itchy eyes and throat irritation. As these symptoms interfere with daily life, many individuals turn to natural remedies in search of relief. Among the most popular traditional options are tulsi drops, concentrated extracts made from the leaves of holy basil (*Ocimum sanctum* or *Ocimum tenuiflorum*), a plant that has occupied an important place in Ayurveda for thousands of years. Tulsi has long

been celebrated as a medicinal herb believed to strengthen immunity, improve respiratory health and help the body cope with stress. In recent years, growing interest in herbal medicine has prompted researchers to investigate whether these traditional claims have scientific backing. While laboratory studies and some clinical research suggest that tulsi possesses anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and immune-modulating properties, experts caution that current evidence is still limited when it comes to treating seasonal allergies directly. Tulsi may offer supportive relief for some people, but it should not be viewed as a replacement for medically proven allergy treatments. Understanding what tulsi drops can realistically do—and what they cannot—is essential before incorporating them into an allergy management routine.



Why Seasonal Allergies Become Worse During the Monsoon

Seasonal allergies occur when the immune system mistakenly identifies harmless substances in the environment as dangerous invaders. In response, the body releases chemicals such as histamine, which trigger inflammation and produce the familiar symptoms associated with allergic rhinitis. During the monsoon season, several environmental changes contribute to a spike in allergic reactions. Increased rainfall encourages the growth of mould and fungi, both indoors and outdoors. Damp conditions also create an ideal habitat for dust mites, while certain plants release pollen that remains suspended in humid air. Poor ventilation inside homes further increases exposure to allergens, especially when moisture accumulates in carpets, curtains and bedding. These conditions make monsoon one of the most challenging seasons for individuals prone to allergies. Symptoms often include repeated sneezing, persistent nasal congestion, a runny nose, post-nasal drip, itchy or watery eyes, throat irritation, coughing and occasional fatigue due to disturbed sleep. Although these symptoms are generally not life-threatening, they can significantly reduce quality of life by affecting concentration, productivity and overall comfort.

What Exactly Are Tulsi Drops?

Tulsi drops are concentrated liquid extracts prepared from the leaves of the holy basil plant. Unlike fresh tulsi leaves consumed directly or brewed into herbal tea, the drops contain concentrated amounts of the plant's active compounds. Depending on the manufacturer, they may be produced using water or alcohol extraction methods to preserve the herb's phy-

tochemicals. For centuries, Ayurveda has described tulsi as a "Rasayana," a rejuvenating herb believed to promote vitality, strengthen immunity and maintain respiratory health. It has traditionally been used to manage coughs, colds, sore throats, digestive disturbances and stress-related conditions. Modern scientific research has identified several naturally occurring compounds that may contribute to tulsi's medicinal properties. Among the most studied are eugenol, rosmarinic acid, flavonoids and various antioxidants. Eugenol is recognised for its anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving properties and is also found in cloves. Rosmarinic acid has attracted attention because of its antioxidant activity and its potential ability to influence allergic responses. Tulsi also contains several flavonoids that help protect cells from oxidative stress caused by environmental pollutants and inflammation. These compounds form the scientific basis behind many traditional claims associated with tulsi, although researchers continue to investigate how effectively they work in humans.

How Seasonal Allergies Affect the Immune System

To understand how tulsi may help, it is important to first understand what happens during an allergic reaction. When pollen, mould spores or dust mites enter the nose or airways, the immune system of an allergic person overreacts. Special immune cells known as mast cells release histamine and other inflammatory chemicals. Histamine causes blood vessels to expand and leak fluid into surrounding tissues, leading to swelling inside the nasal passages. This inflammatory process results in sneezing, nasal blockage, excessive mucus production and itchy eyes.

While antihistamines work by blocking the effects of histamine, researchers believe tulsi may influence several inflammatory pathways instead of acting directly as an antihistamine. This distinction explains why tulsi may provide supportive benefits for some people but cannot completely eliminate allergy symptoms.

What Scientific Research Says About Tulsi

Interest in tulsi has grown considerably over the past two decades. Laboratory experiments have consistently shown that holy basil contains compounds capable of reducing inflammation and protecting cells against oxidative damage. Research published in the *Journal of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine* suggests that tulsi demonstrates immunomodulatory properties. Rather than simply suppressing immune activity, it appears to help regulate immune responses. This has led scientists to explore whether tulsi may

reduce excessive inflammatory reactions associated with respiratory conditions. According to Dr Marc Cohen, MD, PhD, whose work has focused extensively on integrative medicine and Ayurveda, tulsi functions as both an adaptogen and an immunomodulator. He explains that during seasonal respiratory conditions, tulsi may help clear excess mucus, stabilise mast cells responsible for histamine release and support a more balanced immune response rather than merely masking symptoms. While these observations are encouraging, experts emphasise that much of the available evidence comes from laboratory studies, animal research or small human trials. Large-scale clinical studies specifically evaluating tulsi drops for seasonal allergic rhinitis remain limited. As a result, current medical evidence cannot conclusively state that tulsi drops are an effective standalone treatment for seasonal allergies.

Tulsi's Role in Supporting Respiratory Health

One of tulsi's strongest traditional uses has been in promoting respiratory wellness. Ayurvedic practitioners have historically recommended tulsi for relieving cough, reducing phlegm, soothing sore throats and supporting easier breathing. Modern research provides some support for these traditional applications. Studies involving herbal formulations containing holy basil have observed improvements in bronchial asthma symptoms and certain measures of lung function. Researchers believe tulsi's anti-inflammatory properties may help reduce irritation within the respiratory tract, potentially making breathing more comfortable during mild respiratory conditions. However, respiratory support should not be confused with treating allergic disease itself. While tulsi may contribute to overall respiratory comfort, it does not remove allergens or stop the im-

mune system from recognising them. Therefore, its benefits are best viewed as supportive rather than curative.

Antioxidants and Their Importance During Allergy Season

Environmental allergens not only stimulate immune responses but also increase oxidative stress within airway tissues. Oxidative stress occurs when harmful molecules known as free radicals accumulate faster than the body's natural antioxidant defences can neutralise them. This process contributes to inflammation and tissue irritation. Tulsi is naturally rich in antioxidants, including flavonoids and polyphenols, which help neutralise these free radicals. By reducing oxidative stress, tulsi may support healthier respiratory tissues and improve the body's resilience during allergy season. Although antioxidants alone cannot prevent allergies, maintaining healthy cells may contribute to better overall respiratory function.

What Tulsi Drops Can Realistically Do

Despite the enthusiasm surrounding natural remedies, it is important to maintain realistic expectations. Tulsi drops may provide gentle support by soothing throat irritation, promoting respiratory comfort and helping maintain normal immune function during seasonal changes. Some individuals also report feeling generally healthier when using tulsi regularly as part of a balanced lifestyle. However, these benefits vary considerably from person to person. Factors such as genetics, allergy severity, existing medical conditions and overall health influence how an individual responds to herbal supplements. For mild seasonal discomfort, tulsi may complement other healthy habits. For moderate or se-

vere allergies, however, conventional medical treatment remains the most reliable option.

What Tulsi Drops Cannot Do

Equally important is understanding the limitations of tulsi. Current scientific evidence does not support claims that tulsi drops can cure seasonal allergies. They cannot permanently stop allergic reactions or eliminate sensitivity to pollen, mould or dust mites. Tulsi also cannot replace prescription antihistamines, corticosteroid nasal sprays or other physician-recommended allergy medications. These treatments have undergone extensive clinical testing and remain the standard of care for allergic rhinitis. Furthermore, tulsi should never be relied upon during severe allergic emergencies such as anaphylaxis, a potentially life-threatening reaction requiring immediate medical attention. Using herbal remedies in place of emergency treatment can delay lifesaving care.

Who May Benefit from Tulsi Drops?

Tulsi drops may be considered by adults experiencing mild seasonal respiratory discomfort who are interested in incorporating traditional Ayurvedic practices into their wellness routine. Individuals looking to support overall immunity or maintain respiratory health during changing seasons may also find tulsi beneficial when used responsibly alongside healthy lifestyle practices. However, healthcare professionals recommend consulting a doctor before starting any herbal supplement, particularly for people taking prescription medicines or living with chronic medical conditions. Medical guidance is especially important because herbal products can interact with conventional medications.





Manush Shah, Anna Hursey fire U Mumba into final with 8-3 win over Kolkata

PANAJI (GOA)

Captain Manush Shah and Anna Hursey starred as defending champions U Mumba TT booked their place in the final of the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7 with a commanding 8-3 victory over HVR Kolkata ThunderBlades in the second semifinal at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Taleigao near Panaji on Saturday.

The pair combined to deliver an unbeaten performance in the Mixed Doubles, setting up a title clash against unbeaten league leaders Dempo Goa Challengers.

Hursey contested six games across Women's Singles and Mixed Doubles, winning five, while captain Manush remained flawless, winning all five games he played across his two matches. The result brings the season full circle, with the final set to be a repeat of the tournament opener be-



tween Goa and U Mumba. Staged under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), UTT Season 7 features 42 players from around the world, including 14 Olympians, while continuing to strengthen the Indian table tennis ecosystem through elite competition and year-round development

initiatives. Kolkata made the brighter start as Romanian international Eduard Ionescu edged Lilian Bardet in a hard-fought three-game contest.

Ionescu claimed the opening two games 11-9 and 11-10 before Bardet pulled one back, handing the ThunderBlades an early 2-1 advantage.

Hursey, however, quickly restored parity for the defending champions with a composed victory over Ayhika Mukherjee. The Welshwoman took the opening two games before Ayhika claimed the third, leaving the tie level at 3-3 heading into the pivotal Mixed Doubles.

From there, U Mumba

seized complete control. Manush and Hursey overwhelmed Ankur Bhattacharjee and Ayhika in straight games for their fifth consecutive win, conceding just 14 points across the final two games to hand their side a decisive 6-3 lead. Needing only two more games to seal qualification, Manush produced another captain's performance against Ankur. The Indian international won 11-7 and 11-5 to complete an unbeaten evening, sending the defending champions into a second successive UTT final, where they will meet Dempo Goa Challengers in a clash between two former champions.

Manush was named the Indian Player of the Tie, while Hursey claimed the ChatGPT Match IQ Player and the Foreign Player of the Tie award. Bardet completed an awards sweep for U Mumba by collecting the Bisleri Shot of the Tie honour.



Kishan, Tilak help India seal the series with 90-run thrashing of Zimbabwe

HARARE

Blistering half-centuries from wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan and vice-captain Tilak Varma set up India's dominant 90-run victory over Zimbabwe in the second T20I at the Harare Sports Club on Saturday and sealed an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Kishan's explosive 81 off 44 balls and Varma's unbeaten 60 off 29 deliveries set the foundation for India's imposing total of 219/5 after being inserted to bat first. The formidable target proved far too steep for Zimbabwe, as they were bowled out for 129 in 17.5 overs.

The emphatic triumph also meant Shreyas Iyer got his first series win as India's T20I captain. Batting all-rounder Abhishek Sharma, who bowls left-arm spin, starred with the ball by taking 3-17 as the Indian attack comfortably defended the score despite losing fast bowler Prince Yadav to an early hamstring injury.

In Kishan's knock, 46 runs came from mid-wicket and long-on regions, as he employed the pull shot to perfection. Varma, on the other hand, provided the perfect late flourish – 16 of his runs came off the cut shot, to ensure India crossed the 210-run mark.

Both batters frequently shuffled across their crease to align with deliveries outside the off stump, allowing them to pull and sweep the ball at will across the outfield. For Zimbabwe,

it was a day to forget with the ball as everyone returned with an economy rate of above eight and strayed too full in their lengths.

After India were pushed to bat first, Abhishek Sharma struck back-to-back boundaries in the first over off Sikandar Raza to get India off to a brisk start before Blessing Muzarabani turned the tide in the second over by removing him for eight after the opener spliced a back-of-a-length delivery straight to backward point.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, fresh off hitting his first T20I fifty, attempted to counter-attack by launching Richard Ngarava for a six and three boundaries in a 19-run third over, with the pull shot fetching him great rewards. But Ngarava got his revenge on the final ball as he had Sooryavanshi caught off his own bowling for 20.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer stabilised the innings alongside Kishan, but Brian Bennett broke the 42-run partnership in the 10th over when Iyer mistimed a cut shot to backward point and departed for 25. Kishan then took control with his measured shot selection to reach his half-century in 33 balls before launching a stunning assault on the Zimbabwean bowling attack. Joined by Varma, the duo added 94 runs for the fourth wicket. Kishan's fiery knock came to an end in the 18th over, when he miscued to deep point off Nyamhuri after striking nine fours and two

sixes. Varma then picked up the momentum by reaching his fifty in 23 balls, even as Rinku Singh chipped in with a quick-fire 12 before falling to Evans, and Shivam Dube finished the innings with a four off the penultimate ball to push India past the 210-mark.

Chasing 220, Brian Bennett hit six boundaries – with the scoop shot being the standout. But the scoop shot brought his downfall when he mistimed one off Thakur and gave a simple catch to wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan to fall for 32 off 19 balls.

Prince made an instant impact on his first ball of the fifth over – removing Ben Curran for one as the opener's mis-hit pull off a hard length was caught by third man. Zimbabwe's slide continued as Dion Myers chopped onto his stumps off Ravi Bishnoi in the final over of power-play.

Skipper Sikandar Raza fell for a three-ball duck when his attempt at a wild swing at a length ball from Prince resulted in a thick edge being caught behind by Kishan. But just as Prince was about to bowl his third delivery, he pulled up mid-run-up with a left hamstring injury and walked off the field, with Shivam Dube completing the remaining over.

Dube eventually struck in the ninth over when Westley Madhevere gave a simple catch to mid-on, while Tilak Varma's brilliant game continued when he had Ryan Burl holing out to long-on.

Bengal: Kolkata to get modern archery academy

KOLKATA

The foundation stone for a state-of-the-art archery academy was laid at the Gholshapur Railway Colony in Kolkata by Eastern Railway (ER) General Manager Milind Deouskar on Saturday.

Gholshapur also has a stadium, a sports complex and an Olympic-size swimming pool. The archery academy is being considered a significant step towards promoting sports and nurturing future champions.

ER has had many famous archers, including Arjuna Awardee Dola Banerjee, Padma Shree Bombayla Devi and Rahul Banerjee as its employees. The academy will emerge as a modern training centre that will provide quality coaching and world-class infrastructure for railway employees, their families and budding sportspersons.

The foundation stone was laid in the presence of Devender Kumar, President,

Eastern Railway Sports Association (ERSA) and Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, the Secretary of ERSA, Principal Heads of Departments, senior railway officers, renowned coaches, distinguished sportspersons and members of the railway sports fraternity. The ceremony commenced with the unveiling of the foundation stone and the academy's name plaque, followed by a traditional conut-breaking ceremony symbolising an auspicious beginning. Deouskar also took the ceremonial first shot, marking the launch of a new chapter in ER's journey towards sporting excellence.

Addressing the gathering, the General Manager said the academy reflects Eastern Railway's commitment to identifying and nurturing sporting talent from an early age. He expressed confidence that it would emerge as a centre of excellence, providing scientific coaching, modern prac-



tice facilities and professional guidance to help promising archers compete successfully at district, state, national and international levels.

Deouskar noted that archery is much more than a competitive sport. It develops concentration, discipline, patience and self-confidence while improving physical fitness, balance, coordination and mental well-being. He added that as a safe, inclusive and non-contact sport suitable for people of all ages, archery

encourages healthy lifestyles, emotional resilience and strong character, making it an ideal sport for children and young adults.

Arjuna Awardee Mangal Singh Champia and Dronacharya and Arjuna Awardee Ali Qamar, whose achievements continue to inspire generations of aspiring sportspersons, were also present during the foundation stone laying ceremony.

Shibram Majhi, CPRO, ER, said the Archery Academy

represents another milestone in ER's sustained efforts to promote sports as an instrument of youth empowerment and holistic development. He added that equipped with modern infrastructure and expert coaching, the academy will provide a structured platform for aspiring archers to realise their full potential while encouraging greater participation in sports among railway employees, their families and the local community.

Generali Open: Halys topples Bublik in Kitzbühel for maiden ATP Tour title

KITZBÜHEL (AUSTRIA)

French player Quentin Halys capped his 14-year journey as a professional by winning his maiden ATP Tour title by beating Alexander Bublik in the final of the Generali Open in Kitzbühel in Austria on Saturday. Halys produced a stunning all-around display to down top seed and 2025 champion Bublik 6-4, 7-6(6) and clinched his first Tour trophy at the clay ATP 250 tournament in Kitzbühel.

Halys, a former junior World No. 3 who earned his first ATP Ranking point in 2012 when he was just 15, fired 17 aces past World No. 11 Bublik to seal an emotional championship-match victory in the Austrian Alps. "It's tough not to think about my family, because since I was a kid the goal was to win an ATP title and today the dream came true," the 29-year-old Halys said at the trophy ceremony. "So thanks to my parents, my grandparents and everybody who made this possible."

Halys made a great start and continued in the same vein in Saturday's champion-



ship match. The Frenchman began with four consecutive aces to claim the opening game and barely looked back on serve from then on: The Frenchman completed his win having won 41 of 55 points on serve, according to ATP Stats.

"It's just crazy. I'm so happy," Halys said in his on-court interview. "I think I played an amazing match today. Sascha is such an amazing player, so I knew I had to play an amazing match to win, and that's what I did, so I'm so happy. The crowd was crazy, and I hope everybody enjoyed it as much as I did today." Halys' only previous tour-level final came in 2024

in Gstaad, the same event where he and Bublik contested their first ATP head-to-head meeting just nine days ago. Halys upset the Kazakhstani in three sets on that occasion, but he did not need a deciding set on Saturday after he held firm in the second-set tie-break: The Frenchman struck a clean forehand winner to save a set point at 5/6 before converting his first championship point after Bublik netted a drop shot.

"I think winning a first ATP title is going to mean a lot," Bublik said to Halys at the trophy ceremony. "I remember my first one. I was chasing it for maybe five or six finals, and you did it in the second one, so big congrats to you. Enjoy. It's always going to be a special one." Halys is the first Frenchman to triumph at the Kitzbühel event in the Open Era, with his countrymen going 0-6 in previous final appearances. The big-serving right-hander will on Monday climb 32 spots to No. 51 in the ATP Rankings, just five spots shy of his career high of No. 46, as a result of his exploits this week in the Austrian Alps.



Income Tax Department Holds Walkathon in Hyderabad



Promotes Fitness and Water Conservation

HYDERABAD

The Income Tax Department, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, organised a Walkathon at Sanjeevaiah Park, Hyderabad, on Saturday to promote health, fitness and responsible citizenship. International badminton champion and Padma Shri awardee Kidambi Srikanth attended as the Chief Guest and flagged off the event along with Shri Suresh Battini, IRS, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The programme also created awareness about the Jal Shakti – Catch the Rain Campaign, encouraging rainwater harvesting under the theme, "Kar ka Yogdaan – Rashtira Nirman; Jal ka Samrakshan – Bhavishya Nirman."

Indian Épée Fencers Achieve Historic Worlds Finish

HONG KONG

Indian fencing achieved its best-ever performance on the global stage as Épée fencers Taniksha Khatri and Prachi Lohan concluded their individual campaigns at the Senior World Fencing Championships 2026 in Hong Kong.

Both athletes became the first Indian women's Épée fencers to qualify for the Main Table of 64 (Direct Elimination Round) at a Senior World Championships, competing in a field of over 180 athletes at the Asia World Expo.

In the final standings for Women's Individual Épée, Taniksha Khatri placed 43rd overall, registering India's highest-ever individual rank in the event at a Senior World Championships. Her teammate Prachi Lohan finished 58th, giving India two



fencers in the top 60. Rounding out the Indian squad in the same event, Yashkeerat Kaur Hayer ranked 143rd, and Mitva Jesangbhai Chaudhari ranked 150th.

Expressing his support for the athletes, Rajeev Mehta, Secretary Gen-

eral of the Fencing Confederation of Asia and the Fencing Association of India, said: "I am immensely proud and delighted to witness this historic achievement by Taniksha Khatri and Prachi Lohan.

Their qualification for the Main Ta-

Golf: Jeev and Jyoti make the cut in Senior Open

GLENEAGLES (SCOTLAND)

Jeev Milkha Singh, who was tied 12th after the first round, made the cut at the ISPS HANDA Senior Open after seeming to be in danger at times. Jeev shot 8-over 78 in tough conditions at the Gleneagles Hotel after being bogey free 67 in the first round.

At 5-over, he was tied at 69th as the Top-70 and ties made the weekend rounds. Also making the cut was Jyoti Randhawa, who, after a 72, added 73 to be 5-over in the same T-69th place. It was a day when nobody went bogey-free, with wind adding to the firm and fast conditions; the King's Course was a much tougher proposition than it had been on Thursday. Cameron Percy will take a three-shot lead into the weekend of the ISPS HANDA Senior Open after a brilliant back nine of 33 in challenging weather conditions.



Anahat makes history, becomes World Junior squash champion

NIGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Anahat Singh made history on Saturday, becoming the first Indian to be crowned World Junior squash champion when she won the women's title in the World Squash Junior Individual Championships at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario, Canada.

World No 20 and top seed Anahat, who won a bronze medal by winning the semifinal in the competition last year, defeated Egyptian second seed Ruqayya Salem 11-3, 11-7, 11-9 in the women's final to claim the biggest title of her career so far.

Anahat also became the first non-Egyptian player to win the World Junior Squash Championship title since Amanda Sobhy in 2010. By winning the title on Saturday, she broke the 15-year title-winning streak of Egyptian players, which started in 2011.

On Friday night, Anahat Singh became the first Indian in 21 years to reach the final of the World Squash Junior Championships, defeating Egypt's Barb Sameh in four

games. She continued her brilliant season by defeating another Egyptian in the summit clash.

"I'm really happy. I played Barb a few months ago at the British Junior Open, and it was a close match like this, so I knew I'd have to play really well," Anahat said after her semifinal win. "I didn't play my best yesterday, and I knew I had to come out today and show what I can do on court. I've played in four World Juniors and lost in the quarters and semis, so reaching the final has made my parents and coaches really happy, but the tournament's not over yet."

In the men's competition, Egypt's top seed Mohamed Zakaria continued his pursuit of a third World Junior title. He defeated compatriot Selfeldin Refaay in straight games, reaching his fourth consecutive final.

Zakaria will face fellow Egyptian and second seed Adam Hawal, who advanced when Marwan Assal retired injured during the third game of their semifinal. Hawal had already built a 2-0 lead before Assal had to withdraw.

Mani Sharma's Music Steals the Show



Mani Sharma is one of the most celebrated music composers in Telugu cinema. Over the years, he has delivered countless chart-busters and memorable background scores that have elevated several blockbuster films. However, in recent years, the legendary composer has not enjoyed the same level of success and has been pushed to the sidelines. Now, Chennai Love Story has brought Mani Sharma back into the limelight. The Kiran Abbavaram and Gouri Priya film has opened to a positive response, and a major reason behind its success is the music and background score composed by Mani Sharma. His work, especially in the first half, has received appreciation from audiences and critics alike. The songs have connected well, while the background score has elevated key moments in the film. Interestingly, his last major musical success was Ismart Shankar. Since then, he has not had many high-profile hits to showcase his talent. At such a time, producers Sai Rajesh and SKN placed their faith in the veteran composer and extracted a solid album from him. The success of Chennai Love Story once again proves that legends never lose their magic. Sometimes, all they need is the right project to bring out their best. It will now be interesting to see how Mani Sharma chooses his future projects following this soft comeback.



The makers of the youthful entertainer Ameer Log have locked August 21st for the film's worldwide release. The release date poster features the lead actors MC Hari, Manoj, Vedha Jalandharr and Sasidhar leaping joyfully against a scenic backdrop of blue skies and crashing waves. Along with revealing the release date, they have also unveiled the lyrical

'Srinivasa Mangapuram' Gets U/A Clearance

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has now cleared director Ajay Bhupathi's eagerly awaited upcoming film 'Srinivasa Mangapuram', featuring Mahesh Babu's nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni in the lead, for release with an U/A certificate. The news of the Censor Board clearing the film for release comes in the wake of the announcement that the film is to hit screens worldwide on July 30 this year. Taking to its social media timelines, Chandamama Kathalu Pictures, which is one of the production houses producing this film, announced, "The Intense Love Story of the Season is CENSORED with U/A. #SrinivasaMangapuram GRAND RELEASE IN THEATRES ON JULY 30th. An @dirajaybhupathi Film." Starring opposite Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni is Rasha Thadani, the daughter of Bollywood star Raveena Tandon, who makes her Telugu cinema debut with this film. The film is set in the temple town of Tirupati and revolves around the characters of Vasu Babu and Manga- friends who turn lovers and live life with infectious joy until an unexpected conflict disrupts their paradise. Refusing to leave the town without Manga, Vasu Babu chooses to fight for his love, no matter the cost. Sources claim that Ajay Bhupathi, known for his intense and uncompromising storytelling, has presented a youthful love story enriched with impactful action and dramatic highs. The film has triggered huge interest among fans and film buffs for a number of reasons. The film has been directed by Ajay Bhupathi, who earned critical acclaim for his raw and immersive storytelling in the superhit films 'RX 100' and 'Mangalavaram'. The fact that Ajay Bhupathi is helming this film has got a number of fans interested in it. The film also marks the big-screen debut of Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, who carries forward the legacy of Superstars Krishna and Mahesh Babu. That apart, well known actor and producer Mohan Babu will be seen playing a character called Venkatappaya Naidu in the film. He plays the antagonist in the film. Presented by noted producer Ashwini Dutt and produced by P. Kiran under the banner of Chandamama Kathalu, the film is being mounted with strong creative vision and high production values. The film boasts an impressive technical team. Two-time National Award winner G. V. Prakash Kumar is composing the music for the film. The film has cinematography by Jayakrishna Gummadi and editing by Madhav Kumar Gullapalli. Production design for the film has been overseen by Sahi Suresh while the action sequences in the film have been choreographed by Real Sathish.



Ameer Log Finds A Slot For Release

video of Awwal Dawath song. Already a super hit, Awwal Dawath gets an even bigger boost with its entertaining lyrical video. Smaran Sai's upbeat composition is rightly complemented by Rahul Sipligunj. Manoj Kumar Juloori's catchy lyrics, along with Anee Master's lively choreography make it even more engaging. Produced by Madhavi Reddy Soma under the Awwal Number Productions banner, Ameer Log is directed by Ramana Reddy Soma, with Manohar Reddy Manchuri as co-producer. Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media is releasing the film in the Telugu states.

DC Brings Confidence On Anirudh for NTR's God of War

Anirudh Ravichander has once again proved why he is considered one of the most versatile music composers in Indian cinema. The recently released track, Namaste, from Lokesh Kanagaraj's upcoming film DC has become a hot topic among music lovers and especially NTR fans. Ever since the song was released, social media has been filled with praise for Anirudh's creativity and ability to mix spiritual elements with contemporary sounds. Many fans feel that the composer has delivered something fresh while maintaining the emotional depth of the film. Until now, a section of NTR fans had doubts about how Anirudh would handle the mythological backdrop of NTR and Trivikram's ambitious project, God of War. Mythological films demand a completely different musical approach, and some wondered whether Anirudh's modern style would suit the genre. However, Namaste has changed that perception. The song showcases Anirudh's ability to blend tradition and modern sounds with ease. It serves as a reminder to all the critics that he can adapt to any genre when required. With DC raising expectations through its music, NTR fans are now more confident than ever that Anirudh can create a powerful and memorable soundtrack for NTR and Trivikram's much-awaited God of War.



Gowri Priya Dedicates SUCCESS TO MOM



Gowri Priya experienced one of the most special moments of her acting career with the success of Chennai Love Story. While celebrating the film's achievement at the success meet, the young actress delivered an emotional speech that touched everyone present. For most actors, the first people they want to share their success with are their parents. But for Gowri Priya, the occasion also brought back the pain of missing her mother. She said that although her mother is no longer physically with her, she firmly believes that she continues to watch over her from above and blesses every milestone in her life. The actress shared that many people on the film sets cared for her like a mother, offering support and encouragement whenever she needed it. After the film's success, several people told her how happy her mother would have been to witness the moment. However, Gowri Priya said she never feels that her mother is

truly gone, as she believes she is always by her side, watching every step of her journey. Dedication the success of Chennai Love Story entirely to her mother, Gowri Priya said that the values and upbringing she received from her remain the greatest strength in her life. She also expressed heartfelt gratitude to her father, acknowledging his unwavering support throughout her journey and crediting her family's love and encouragement for helping her reach this stage. The actress also thanked the film's writer and director for believing in her and giving her such a meaningful opportunity. She fondly recalled working with co-star Kiran Abbavaram, saying the entire team treated her with warmth, respect, and kindness throughout the shoot. As a Telugu actress, Gowri Priya said earning appreciation from audiences through a strong story and a meaningful role made the success even more special. She added that this achievement would always remind her of her mother's love and sacrifices rather than being remembered as just another milestone in her career. Her heartfelt speech quickly went viral on social media, with fans praising her courage and offering messages of love and support. The emotional moment has become one of the biggest highlights of the Chennai Love Story success celebrations.

Suriya's Voice Elevates VAS Wedding Song

Suriya's upcoming film Vishwanath & Sons is scheduled for a grand theatrical release across the globe on August 14th. Slated for the Independence Day weekend, the movie is expected to attract family audiences with its entertaining and emotional storyline. Director Venky Atluri, who is riding high on the success of Lucky Baskhar and Vaathi, aims to deliver another memorable entertainer. Suriya is fresh off the success of Karuppu and ready to deliver a heartwarming entertainer. After the blockbuster first song, makers dropped another vibrant song titled The Wedding Song. Designed around the vibrant atmosphere of a traditional wedding, the song combines colourful visuals, energetic performances, and feel-good music to create one of the most enjoyable celebration tracks of the season. What makes this release truly special is Suriya singing in Telugu, adding an emotional layer for his fans. Hearing the star perform the song in his own voice creates a unique connection with the audience, making the celebrations feel even more personal. His vocals carry sincerity and enthusiasm, making this musical outing a memorable milestone in his illustrious career.



Ashika's Next Film Becomes Crucial

Actress Ashika Ranganath recently caught attention online after sharing her take on Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey. She said the film reminded her of themes from the Mahabharata, particularly the transition from the Dwapara Yuga to Kali Yuga described in the Indian epic. Her comment struck a chord with fans, especially as many others online had already been drawing parallels between Nolan's film and Indian mythology, comparing characters like Athena to Lord Krishna as a guiding, non-fighting force. Ashika's fashion choices are just as talked about as her opinions. She has a soft spot for whites, often switching between ethereal saree looks with statement jhumkas and flowy pallus, and easy, effortless outfits like oversized white shirts for a relaxed, off-duty vibe. Whether dressed up or dressed down, she manages to keep her white looks fresh and never repetitive. On the work front, this year Ashika appeared in Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignayapathi, which unfortunately failed to click with audiences and flopped at the box office. Despite the setback, fans continue to root for her next project.

